

KYOTO

GRAPHIE

international
photography festival



Introduction to Photography

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026

Kids Competition



ΚΙΔΣ Competition

ΚΥΟΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΕ 2026

Introduction to Photography

KYOTOGRAPHIE SCHOOL COMPETITION 2026

2026 Theme: **EDGE**

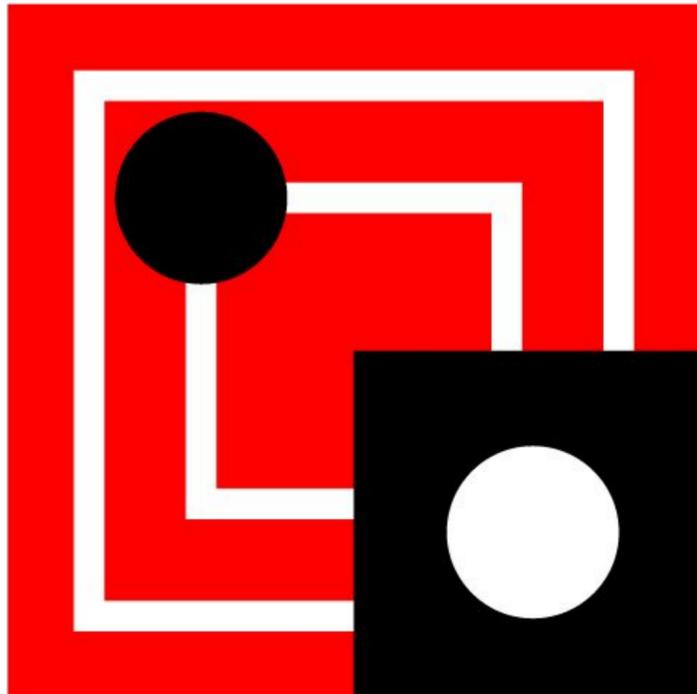
In 2026, the festival theme is "**EDGE**". It holds several meanings, like the line where an object or area ends, or the outer or furthest point of something.

The exact meaning will be defined later on this year!



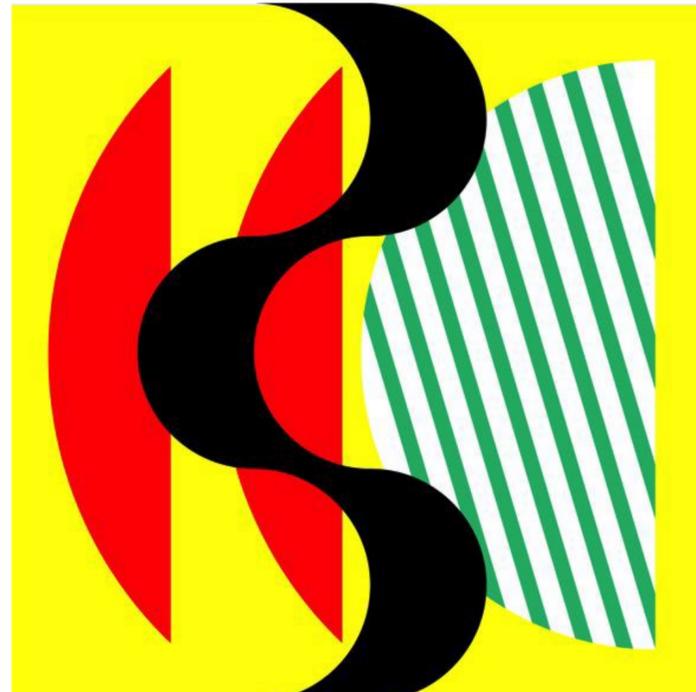
PART 1 (25 min)

**Composition &
Perspective**



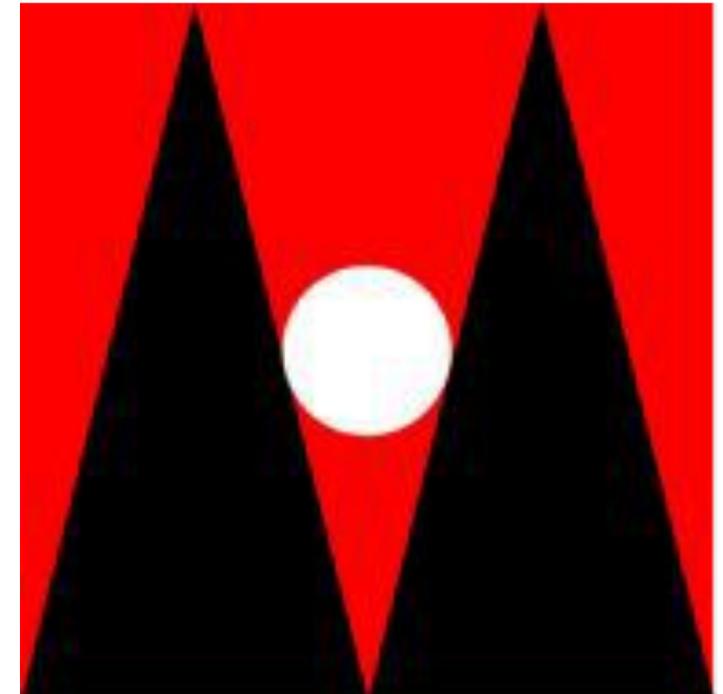
PART 2 (20 min)

**Light, Lines &
Shapes, Colors**



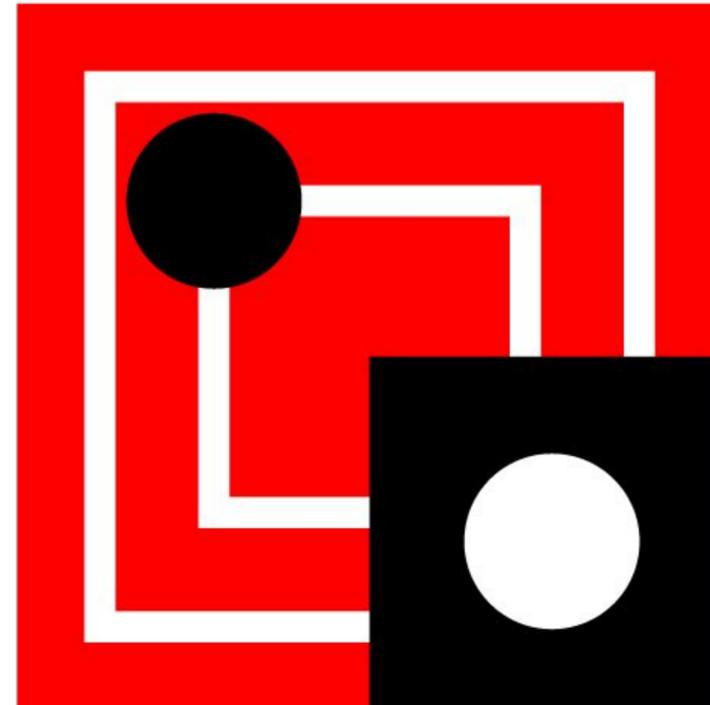
PART 3 (25 min)

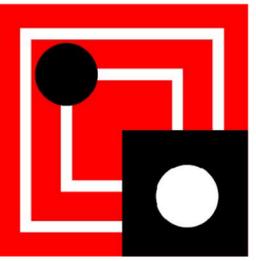
**Theme &
Title**



PART 1

Composition & Perspective



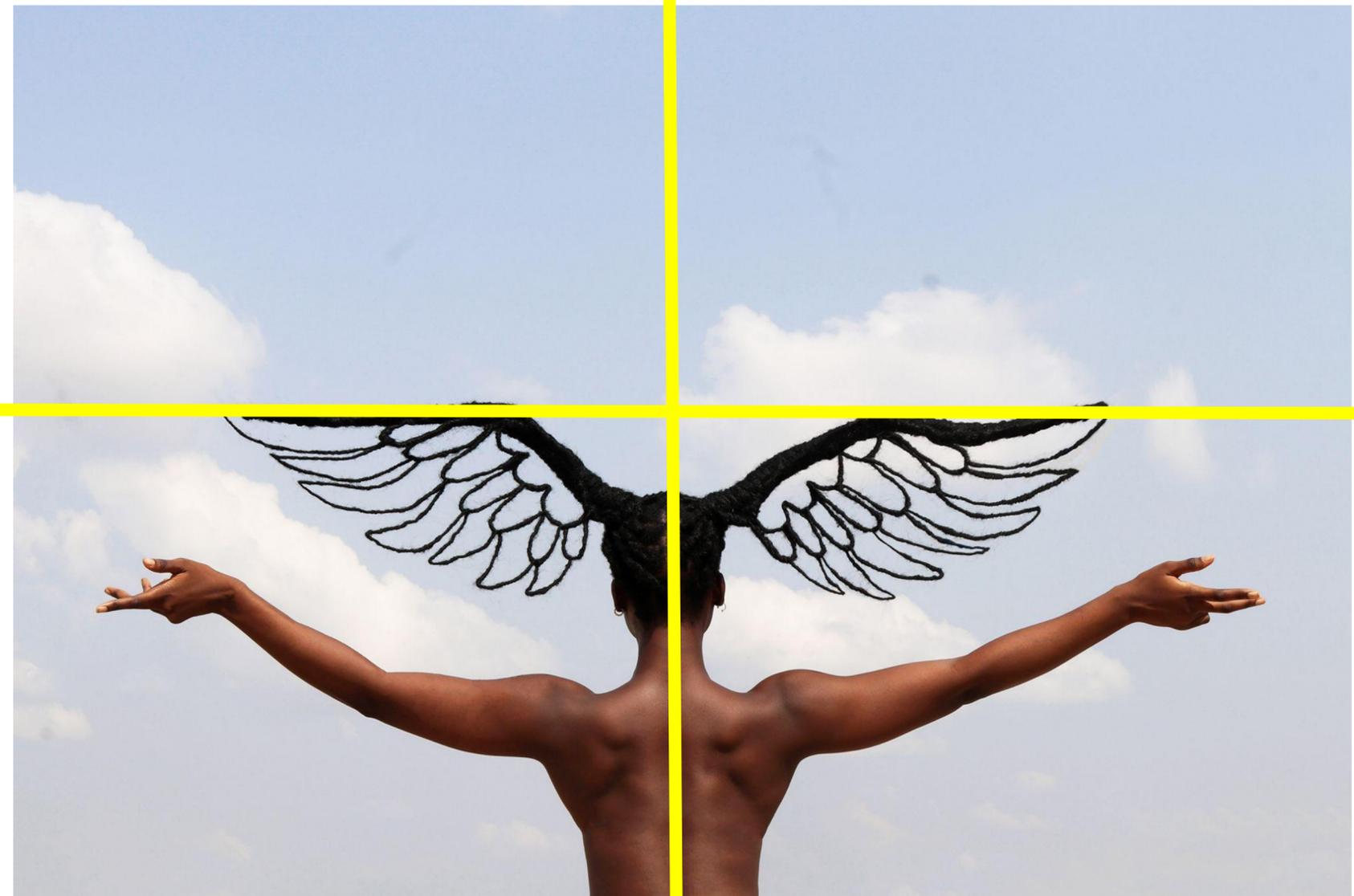


1. Composition

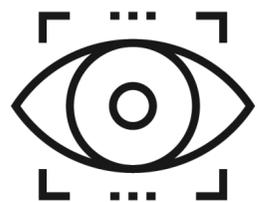
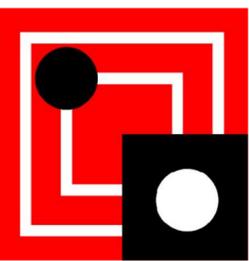
Composition: The way subjects (objects and people) are arranged within a photo.

Subject: The subject is the **main element** that occupies the image. It appears first in the image. There can be more than one in a picture.

 **What is the *main subject* in your photo and **where** will you place it?**



©Laetitia Ky

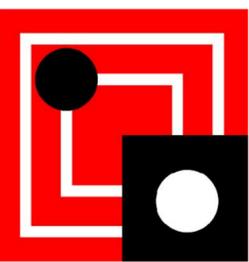


What is the main subject?

Where is it positioned?



© Pierre-Elie de Pibrac, KYOTOGRAPHIE 2020



What is the main subject?

Where is it positioned?

Romuald Hazoumè, "Aladé" 2016 © Romuald Hazoumè. Courtesy October Gallery, London.



© Ariko Inaoka
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2023

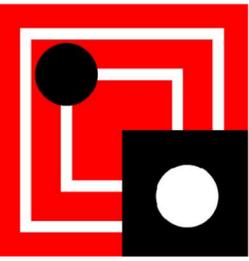


What is the main subject?

Where is it positioned?

Centered: the subject is placed in the middle of the image.

Off-centered: the subject is placed to the side or in a corner (not at the centre).

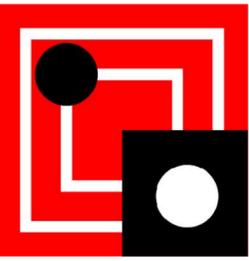


2. Close-up or Long Shot?

- **Close-up**: The subject is **large**, filling the frame.
- **Long shot**: The subject is **far away**, capturing a wide view.

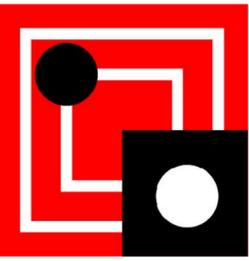


Im Wald © Erwin Olaf KYOTOGRAPHIE 2021



Close-up or Long Shot?

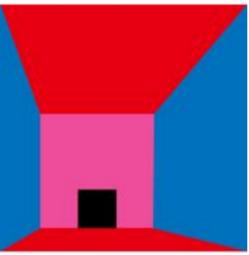
Artificial beach in Ocean Dome,
Miyazaki, Japan, 1996 © Martin
Parr/Magnum,
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2025



**Close-up
or Long Shot?**

Chichén Itzá, Mexico, 2002 © Martin Parr/Magnum Photos

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2025

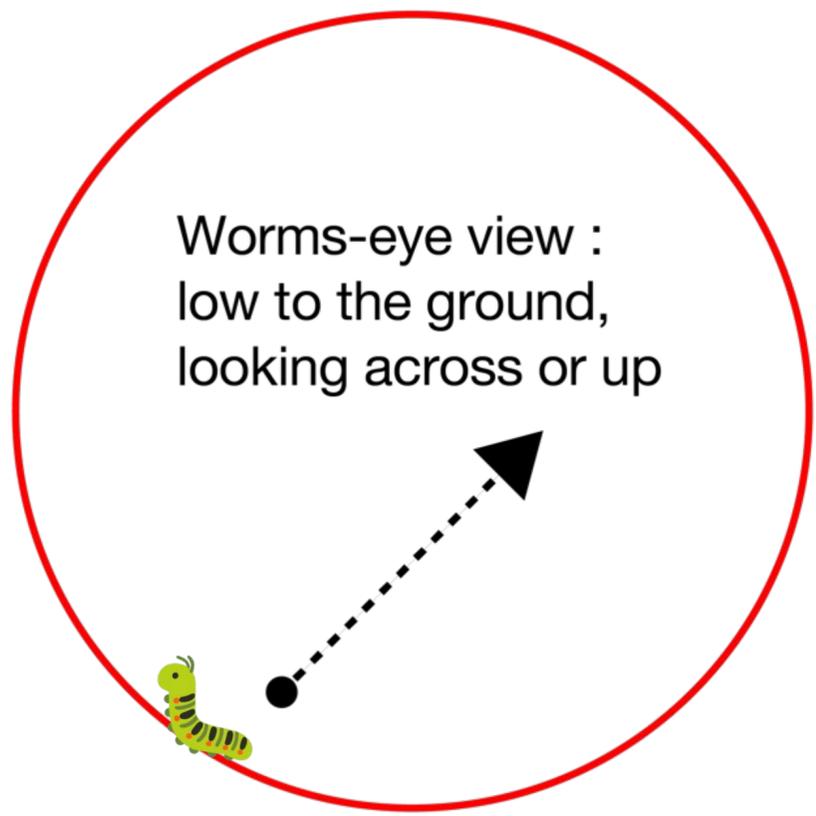
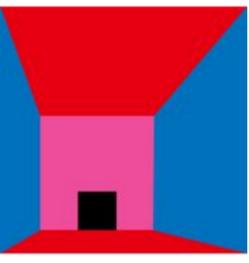


3. Choosing Your Viewpoint

Photographers change their position to find the best perspective.

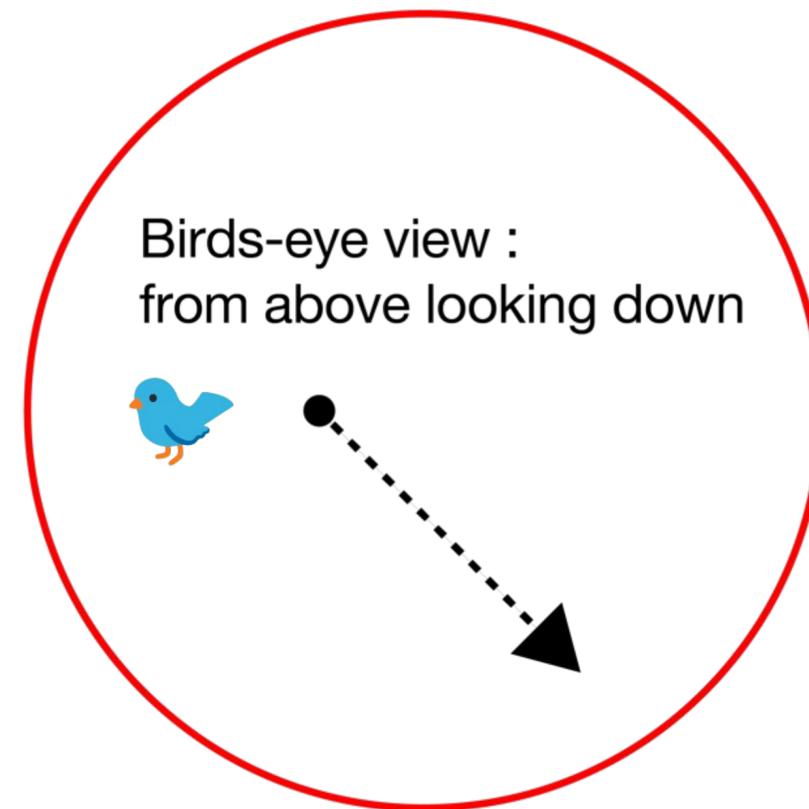
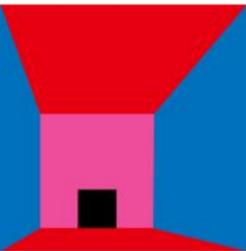


Wing Shya, In the mood
for love, 2000.
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2020

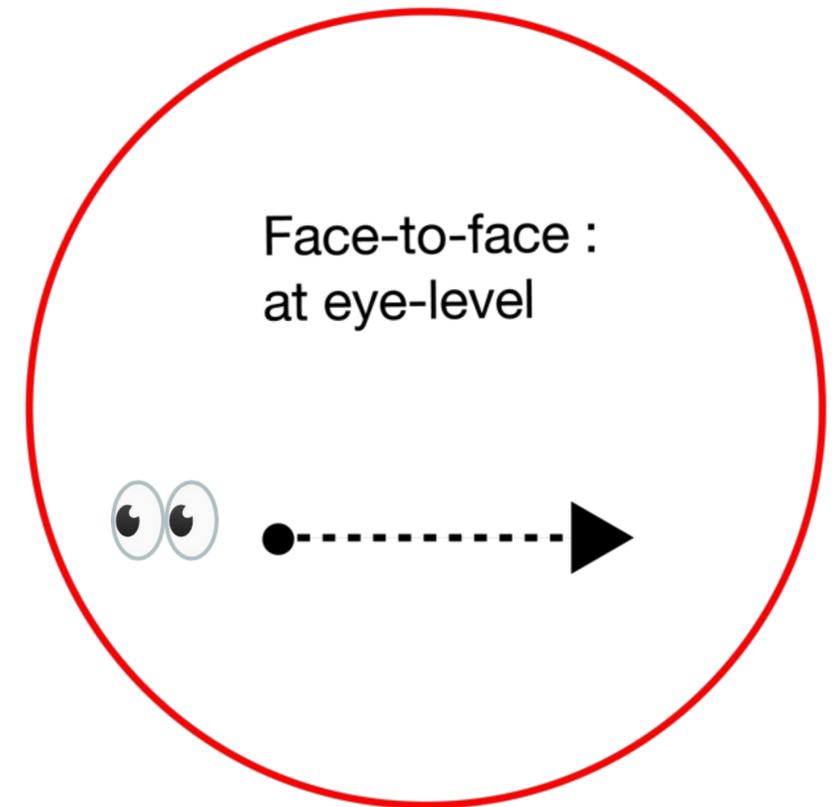
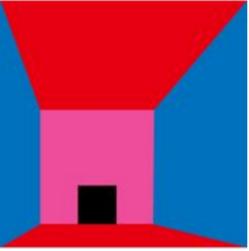


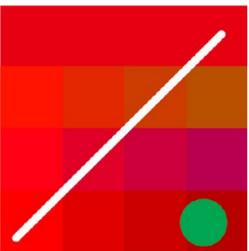
Nuestra Señora de las Iguanas Juchitán, Oaxaca,

México, 1979 ©Graciela Iturbide



© Adam Rouhana
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2025

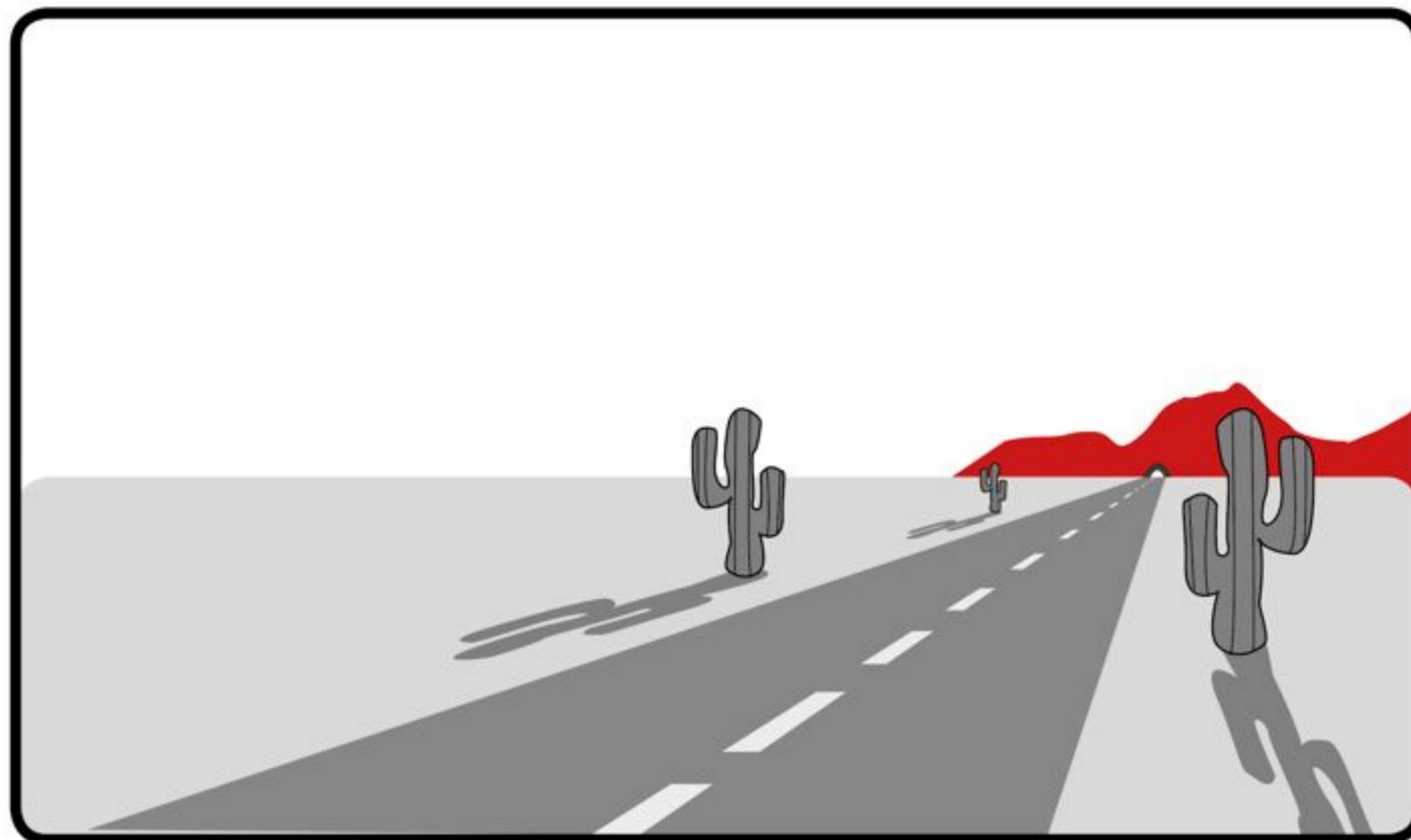




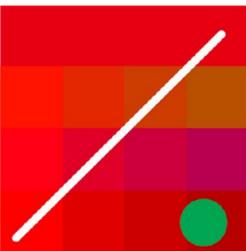
4. Where Do Your Eyes Go?

Photographers use **natural lines** in photos to guide viewers' eyes across the image.

Let's see where the lines are leading! Often, they meet somewhere...



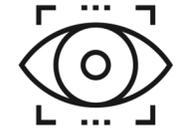
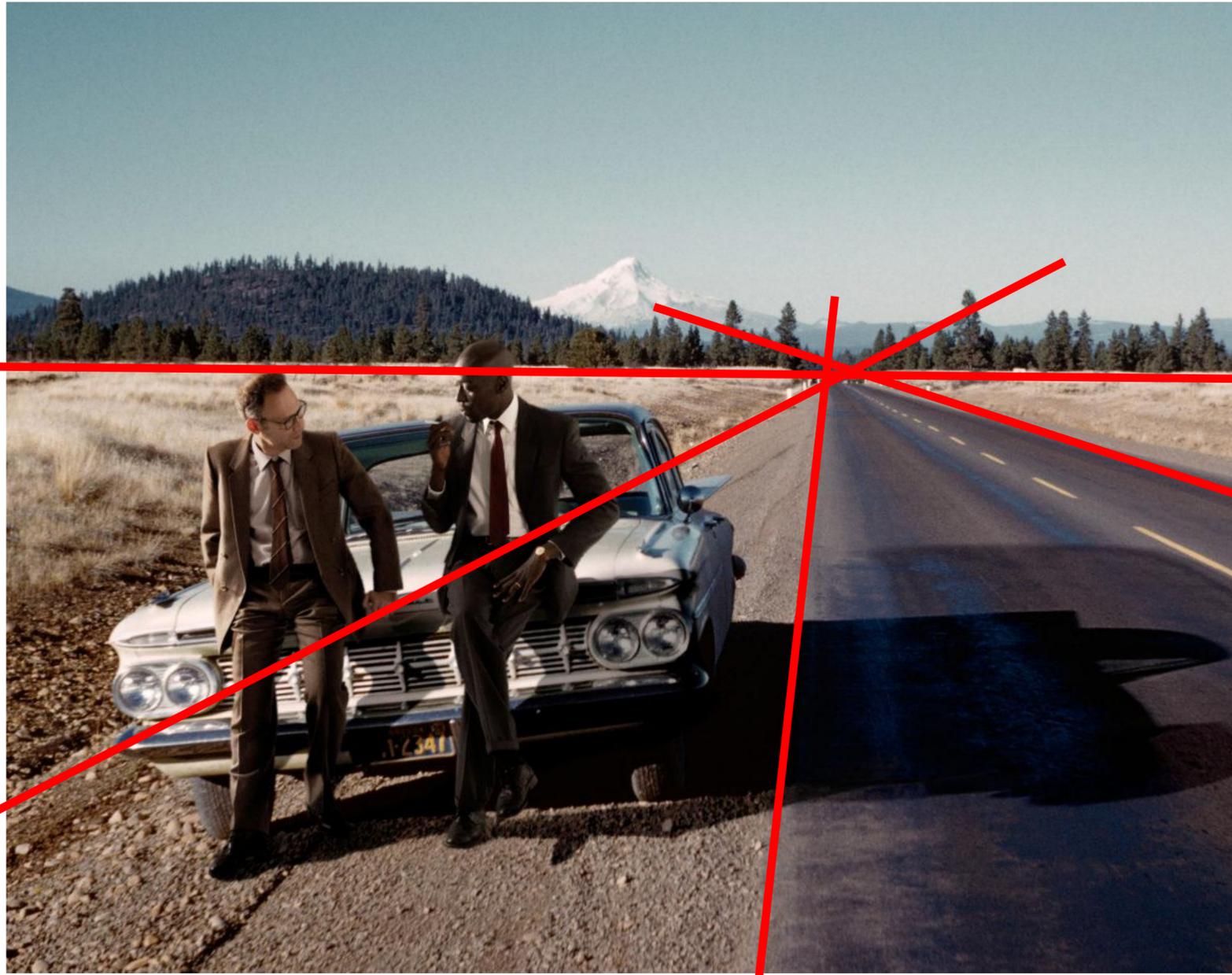
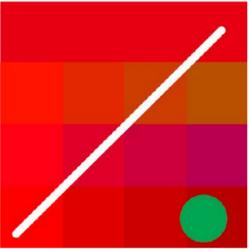
- **Vanishing point**: The point where lines meet, drawing viewers' eyes into the photo, enhancing depth.



**Find the lines in the
photograph!**

Where do the lines meet?

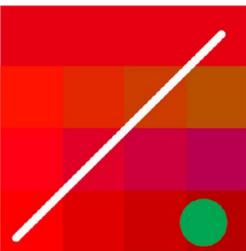
Being There_52-V1, 2024, The Anonymous Project © Lee Shulman & Omar
Victor Diop



Find the lines in the photograph!

Where do the lines meet?

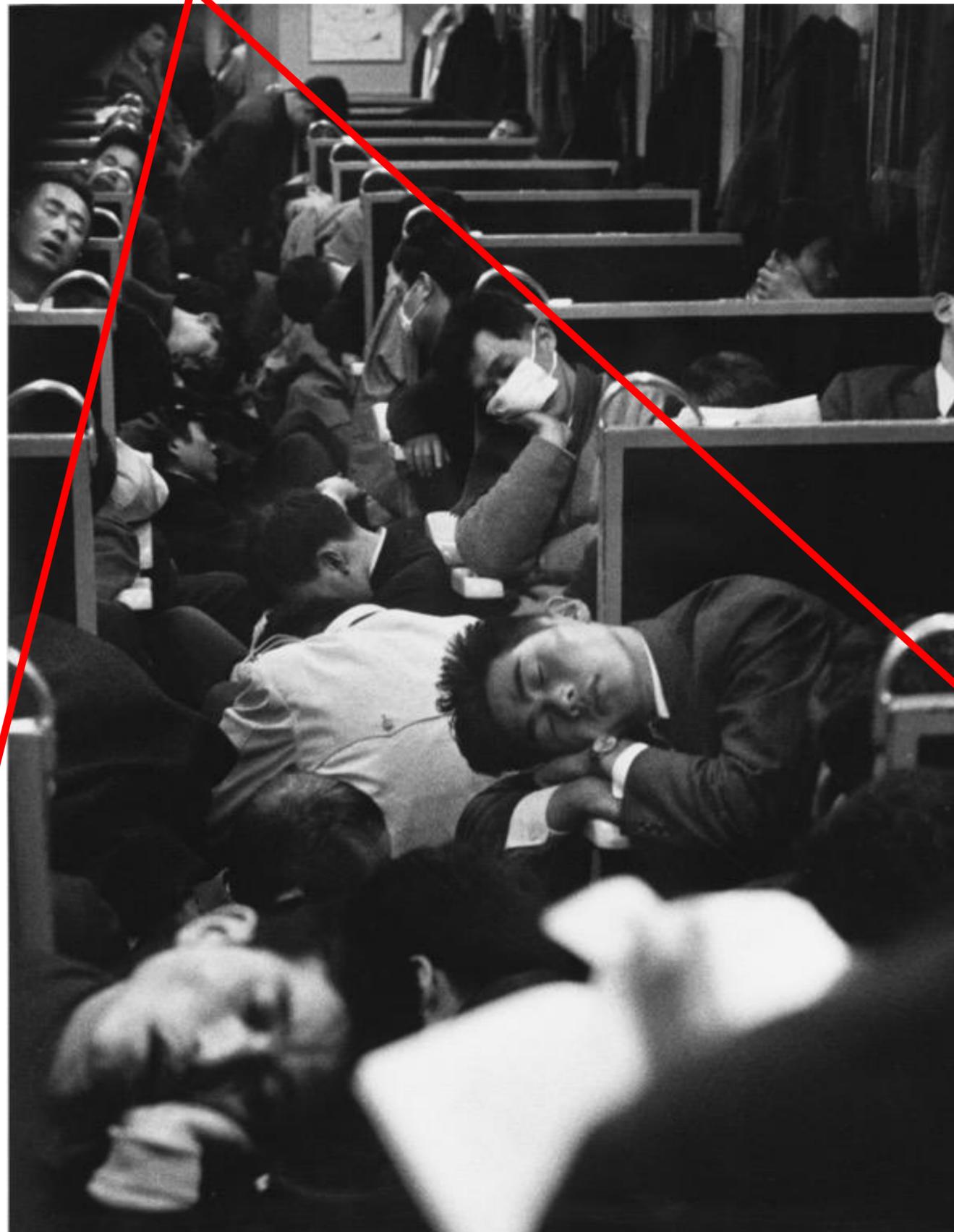
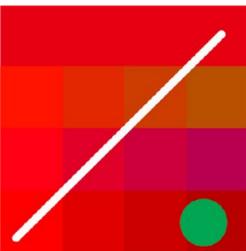
Being There_52-V1, 2024, The Anonymous Project © Lee Shulman & Omar Victor Diop



**How about in this
photograph?**

Where do the lines meet?

Early morning train in Japan, 1964
© Nicolas Bouvier
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013

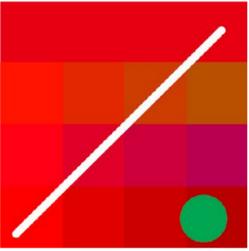


How about in this photograph?

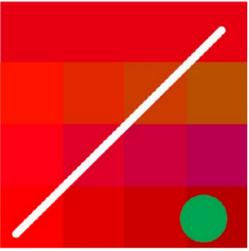
Where do the lines meet?

In this picture, the vanishing point is almost outside the picture!

Early morning train in Japan, 1964
© Nicolas Bouvier
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2013



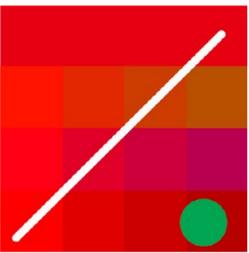
**What about this
photograph?
Where is the
vanishing point?**



Vanishing point

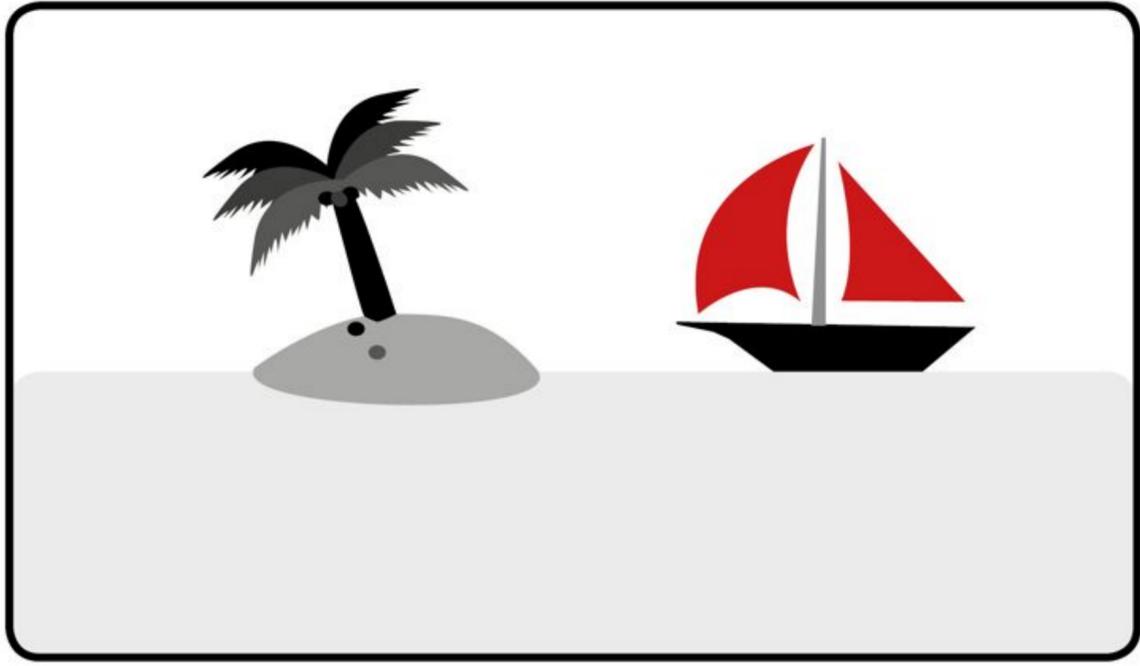


**What about this
photograph?
Where is the
vanishing point?**

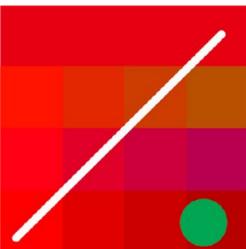


5. Horizon Lines

Horizon Line: The line in a photo where the ground and the sky touch!
Where is the horizon line? Is it straight or slanted?

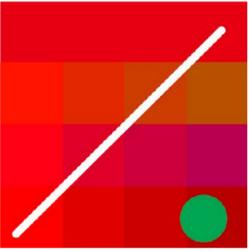


Changing from a **straight** to a **slanted** horizon line dramatically changes a photo's feeling.



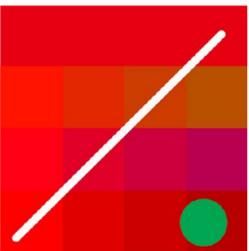
**Is the horizon line
straight or slanted?**

Qian Haifen, January 27, 2015, from
Arxan to Baicheng, Train NO.4346 © Qian
Haifen, KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016



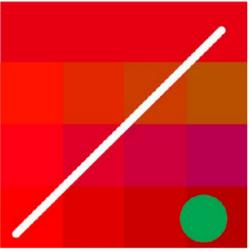
**Is the horizon line
straight or slanted?**

Qian Haifen, January 27, 2015, from
Arxan to Baicheng, Train NO.4346 © Qian
Haifen, KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016



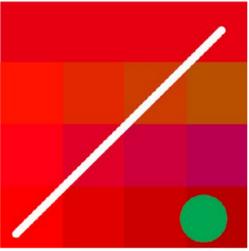
**Is the horizon
line straight or
slanted?**

Being There_20, 2024, The Anonymous Project © Lee Shulman & Omar Victor Diop

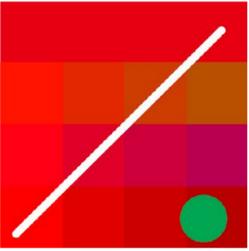


**Is the horizon
line straight or
slanted?**

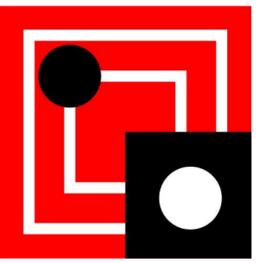
Being There_20, 2024, The Anonymous Project © Lee Shulman & Omar Victor Diop



**Is the horizon line
straight or
slanted?**



**Is the horizon line
straight or
slanted?**



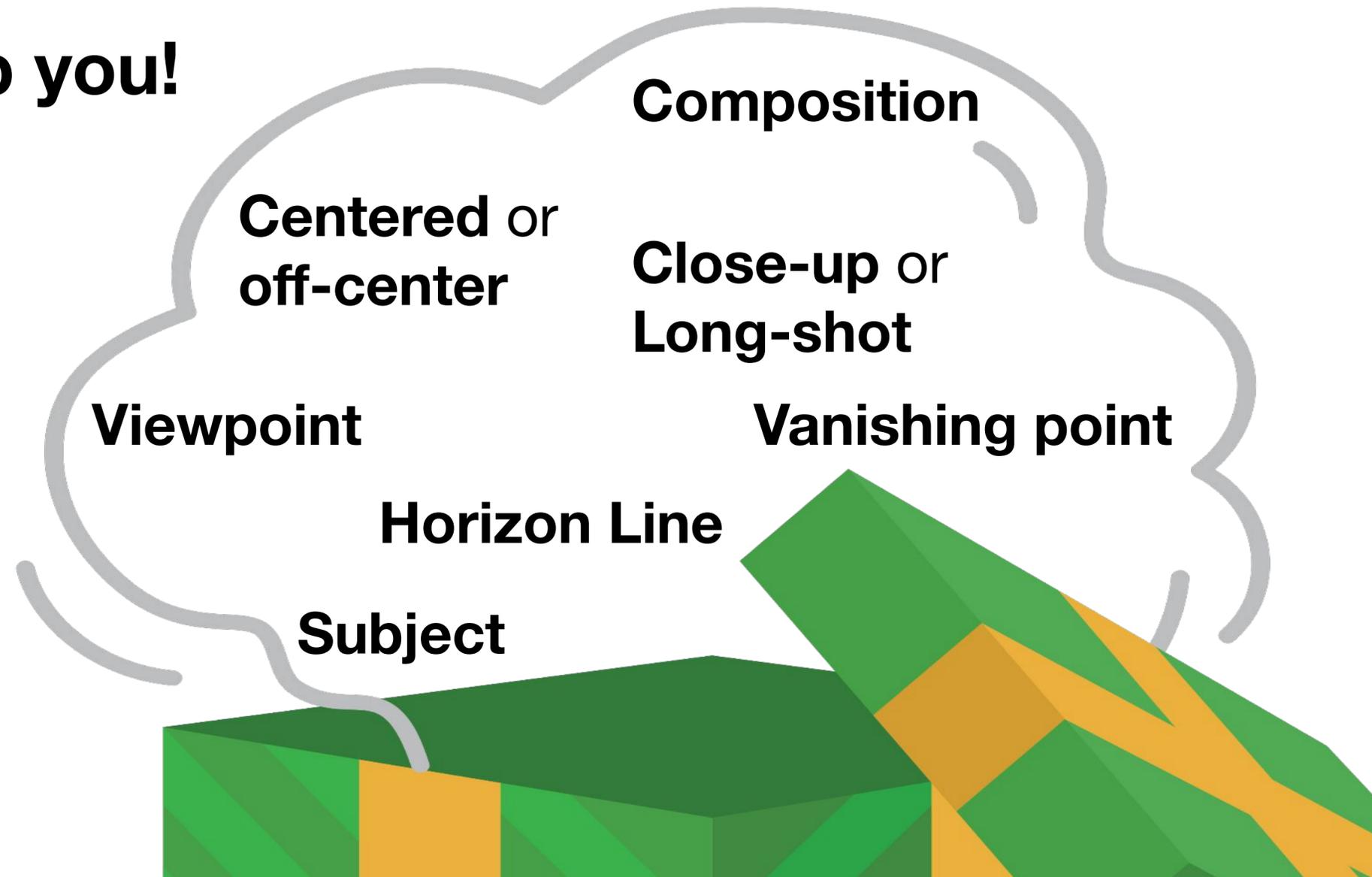
Now it's your turn!

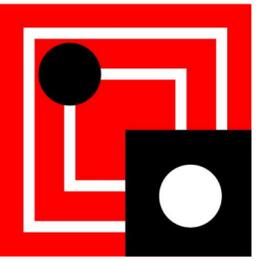
Choose a **subject** (an object or person)

Take 8 photos placing the subject in **different positions**

Can you take a **close-up**? How about a **long-shot**?

Use the word-box to help you!





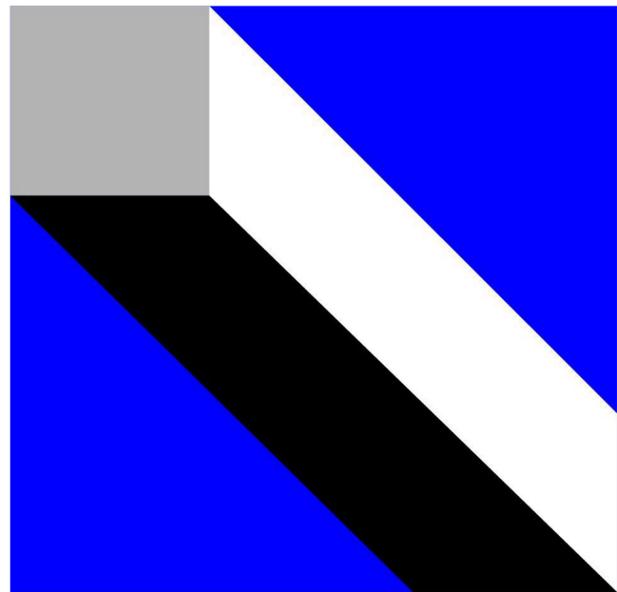
Let's discuss!



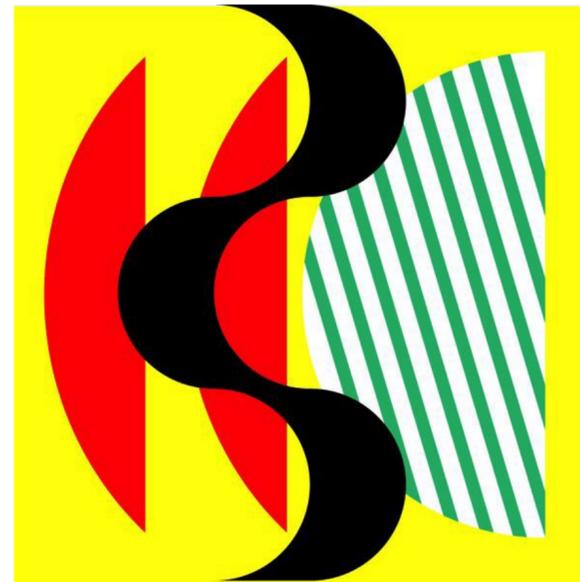
- What pictures do you find interesting?
- Is this a close-up or a long-shot? Is the horizon line straight or slanted?

Let's all form a group and talk about the photos you took!

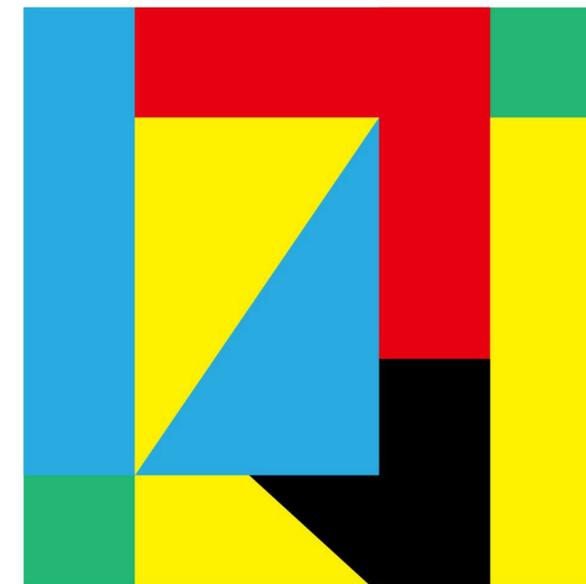
PART 2 (20 min)



Light

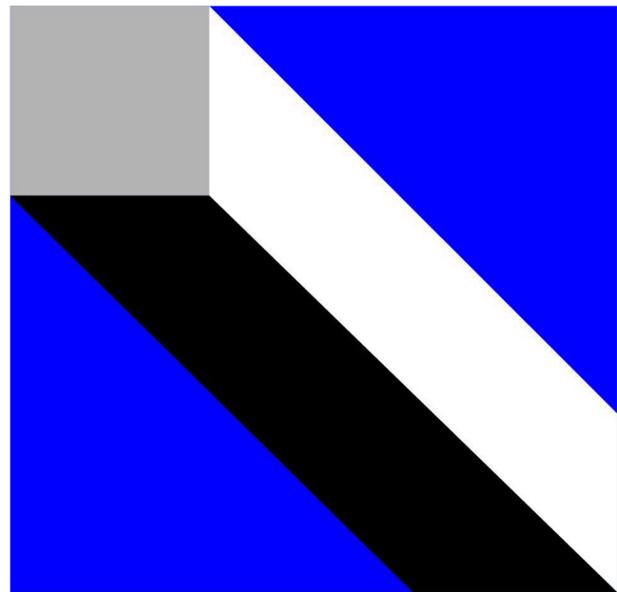


Lines and
Shapes

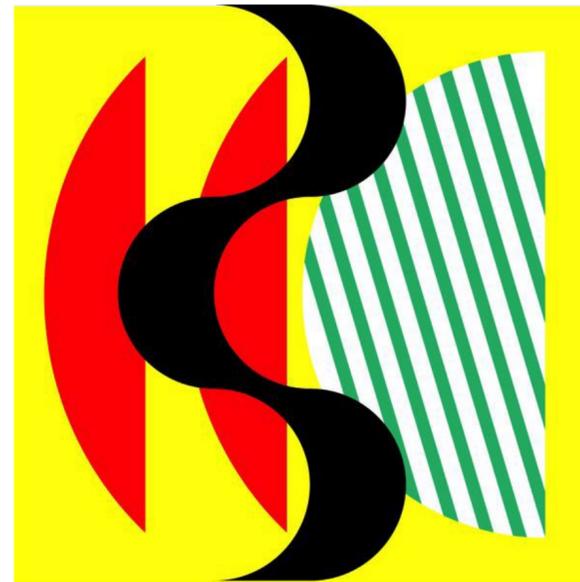


Colors

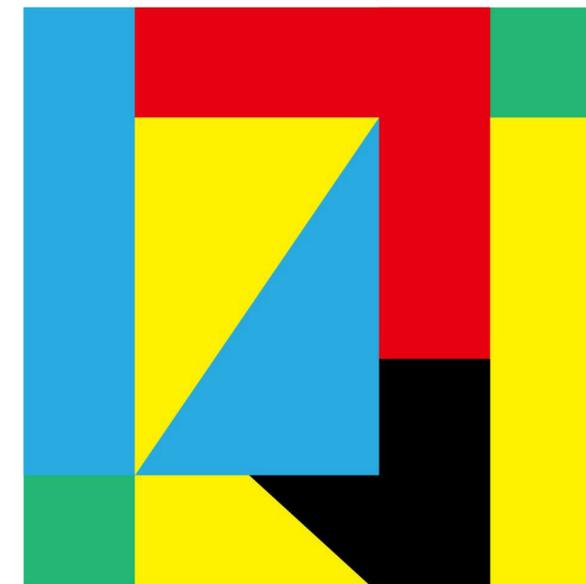
**Light, lines & shapes, and colors are the 'ingredients' photographers use when creating a photograph.
We can use them to create different meanings and feelings!**



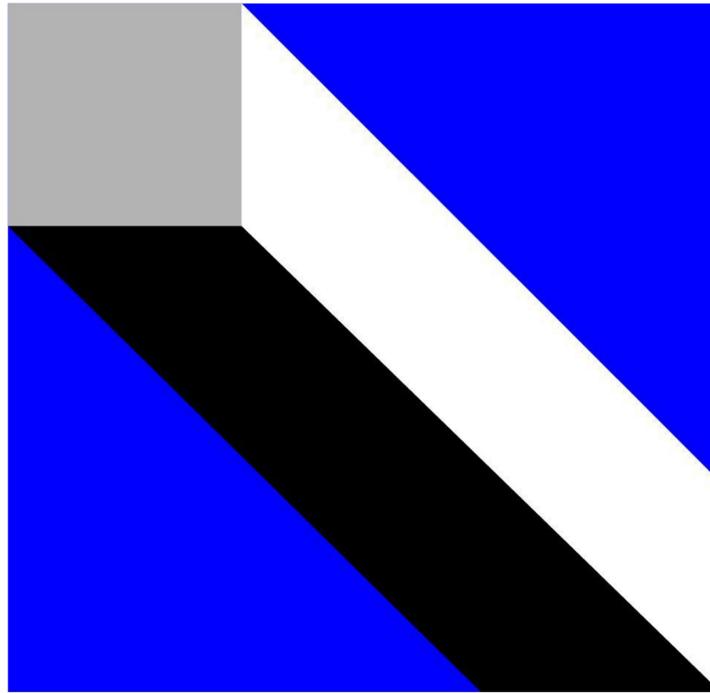
Light



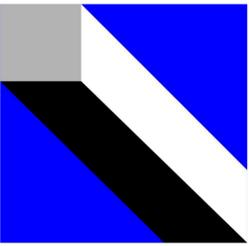
**Lines and
Shapes**



Colors



Light



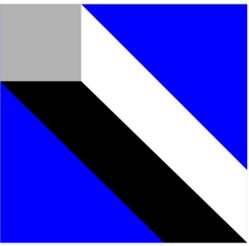
1. The Importance of Light

Light is very important in photography. Just like in painting, light helps us see **shapes, textures, and feelings**. With light, you can make some parts **bright** and others **dark**, or create **soft** or **strong** shadows. Light can even change the colors in your photo!

Before you take a picture, look around and see where the light is coming from.



©Mao Ishikawa, Red Flower, KYOTOGRAPHIE 2025



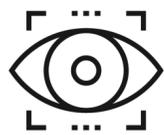
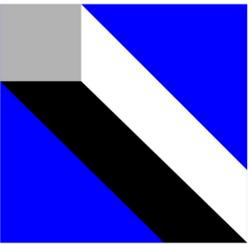
Let's look at the light in this photograph.

Where do you think is it coming from?

How does it make you feel?



©Coco Capitán

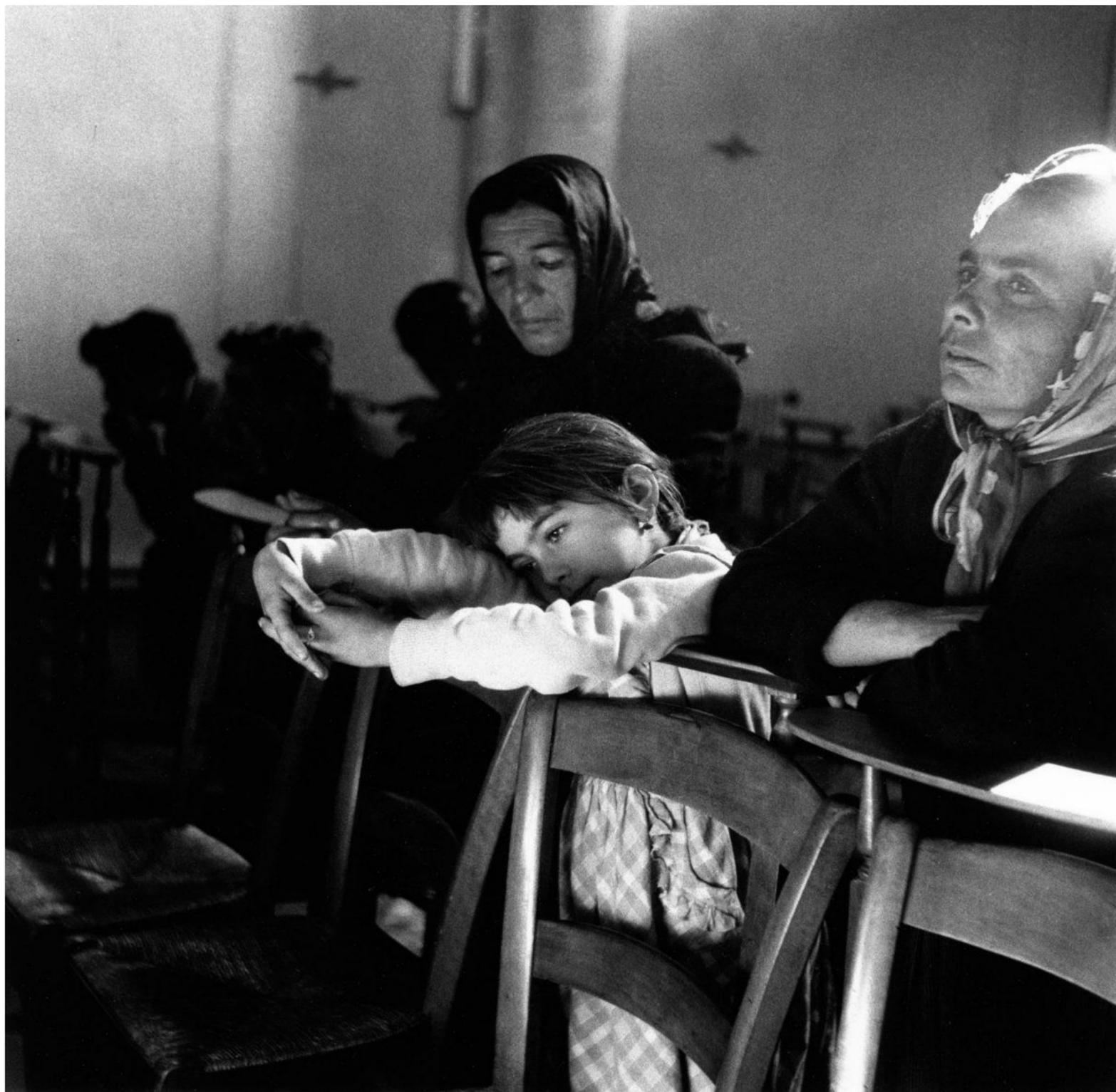
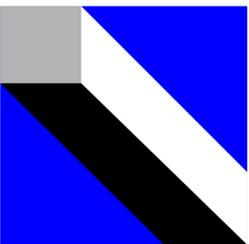


**Let's look at the light
in this photograph.**

**Where do you think
is it coming from?**



Tryadhva, ©Eriko Koga
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016

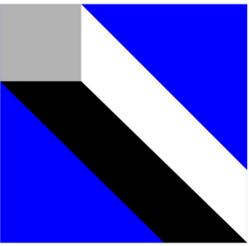


**Let's look at the light
in this photograph.**

**Where do you think
is it coming from?**

**What mood does it
give the picture?**

Little gypsy girl in the Chapel, Canned 1958 © Atelier Lucien Clergue

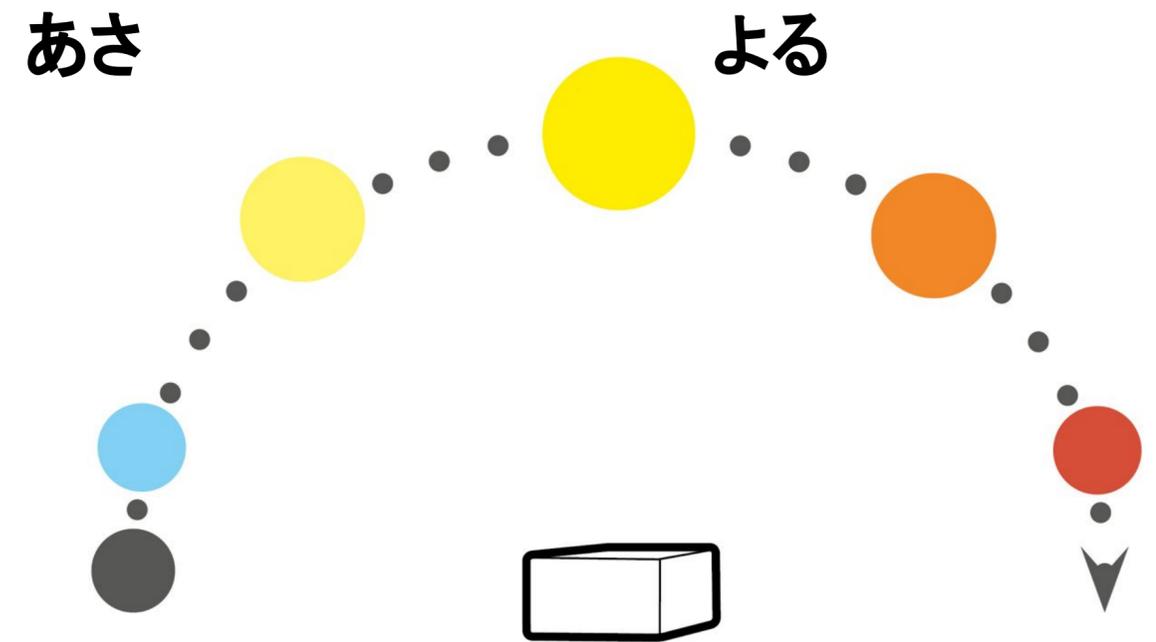


The Color of Light

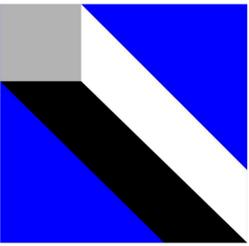
Light can have lots of different colors! In the morning it looks a little blue, at lunchtime it looks yellow, and in the evening it can turn orange or red.



ZAIDO ©Yukari Chikura



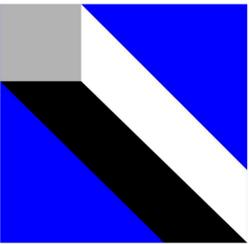
Light can come from the sun, which is natural, or from lamps and bulbs, which is artificial.



**What kind of colors do
you see?**



© Ariko Inaoka
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2023

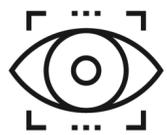
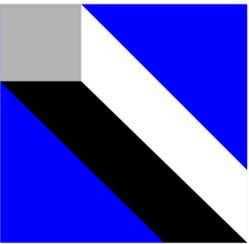


**Look carefully, there is
no sun!**

**So, where is the light
coming from?**



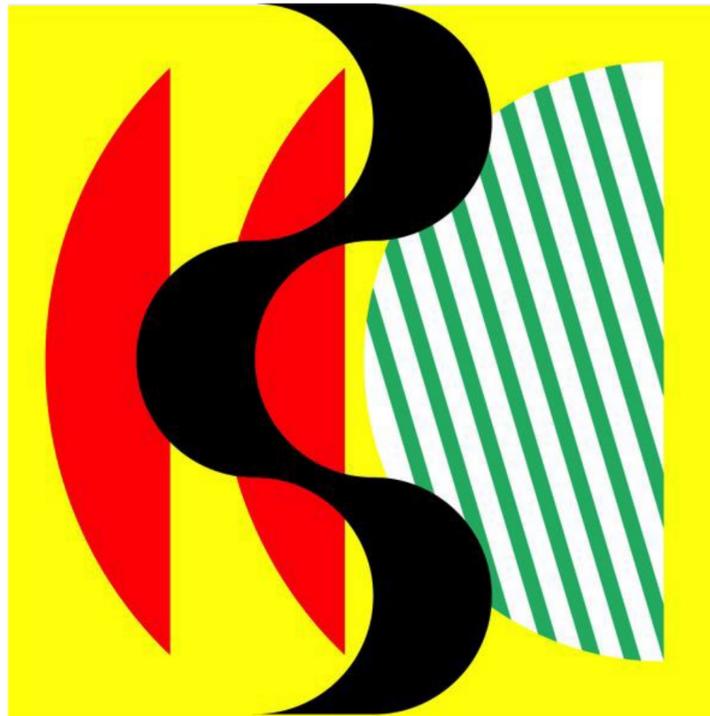
©Wing Shya, In the mood for love, 2000. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2020



**Where is the
light coming
from in this
photo?
Does it feel
warm? Cold?**



© Yuka Takasu
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2022



Shapes and Lines



2. The Importance of Lines and Shapes

Lines and shapes are important in photos because they make them look fun and nice. Using them the right way can make your pictures feel balanced and interesting!



ANTARCTICA. 2017. NASA Ice Bridge flight surveying climate change in Antarctica.
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2019



Silk Drying 2, Kyoto, Japan 1951 © Werner Bischof /Magnum Photos KYOTOGRAPHIE 2014



© Atsushi Fukushima
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2020



Let's find the lines and shapes!

**What kind of lines
and shapes do you
see?**

**How does this
photo make you
feel?**



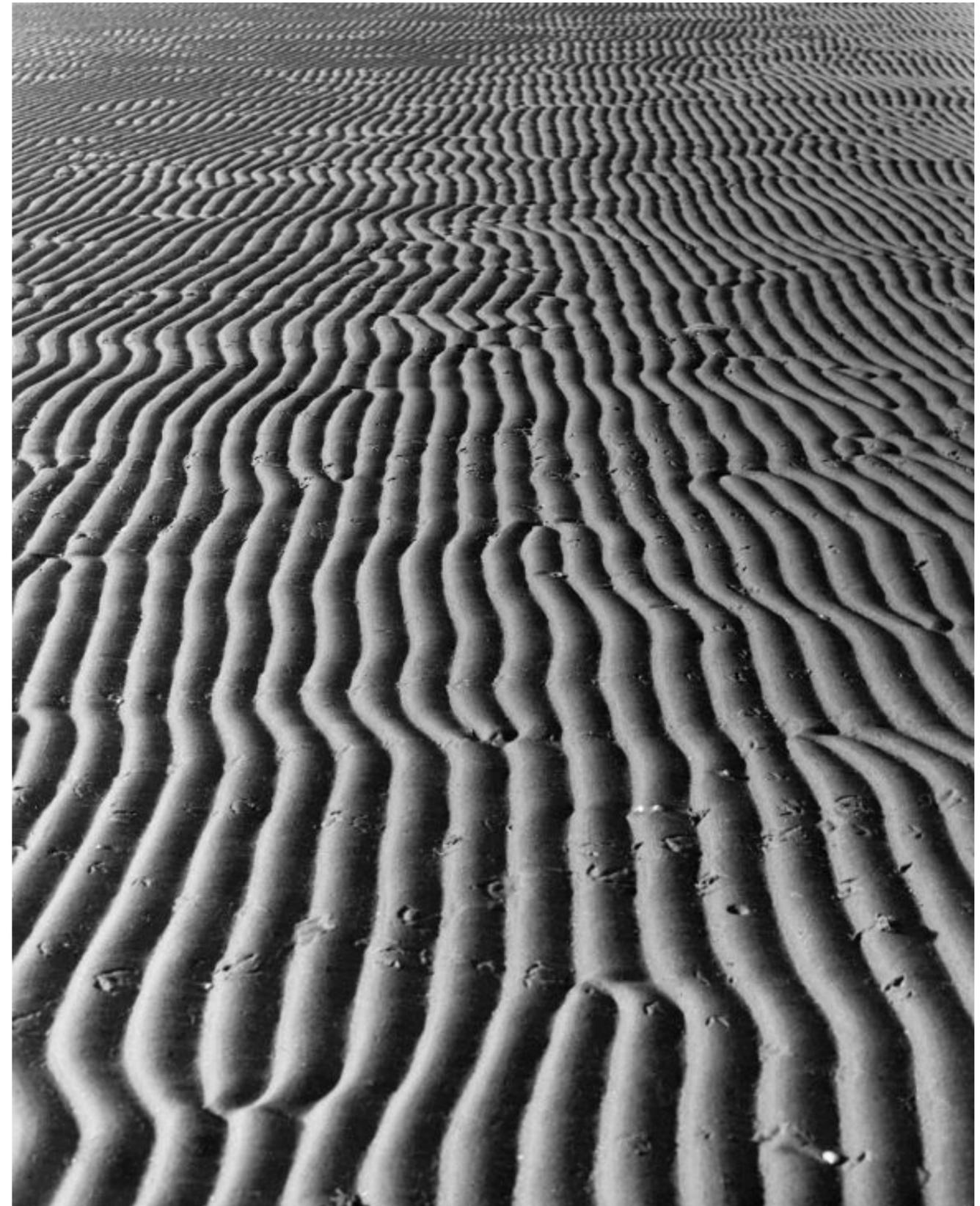
© Eric Poitevin



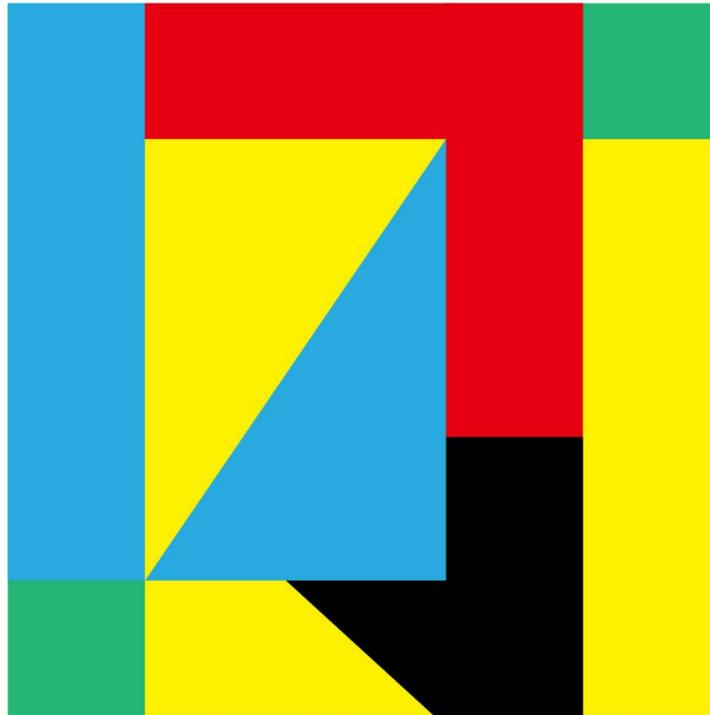
Let's find the lines and shapes!

This photograph shows a repeated pattern.

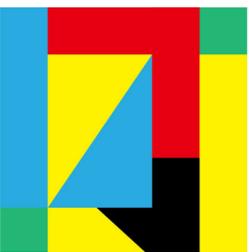
It looks like it goes on forever!



The Forms of Nature, ©Alfred Ehrhardt, KYOTOGRAPHIE 2019



Color



3. The Importance of Color

Colors and **contrast** make photos exciting! Bright colors grab your attention, and opposite colors like **blue and orange** or **red and green** make pictures pop. Colors can show what is important. Even in **black-and-white** photos, the **difference between light and dark** makes them look special!



Bester 1, Mayotte 2015 © Zanele Muholi
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017



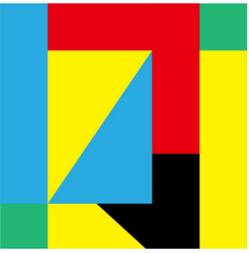
Rice, Miyazaki Izumi, 2016
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



Photography by TOILETPAPER: Maurizio Cattelan and Pierpaolo Ferrari.
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017



Dad, 2016. © René Pena
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©Laetitia Ky

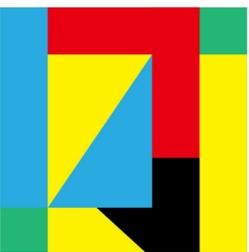


What colors can you see?

Note the strong contrasts between the colors!

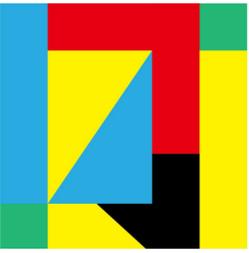
Does it feel warm and welcoming?

Cold and mysterious?



What colors can you see?

There is a very strong
difference between the colors!



What colors do you see?

Notice the difference between the bright milk and the dark shadows/skin.

Milk, from the series Lexicon, 2006

© Viviane Sassen and Stevenson

(Johannesburg / Cape Town /
Amsterdam)

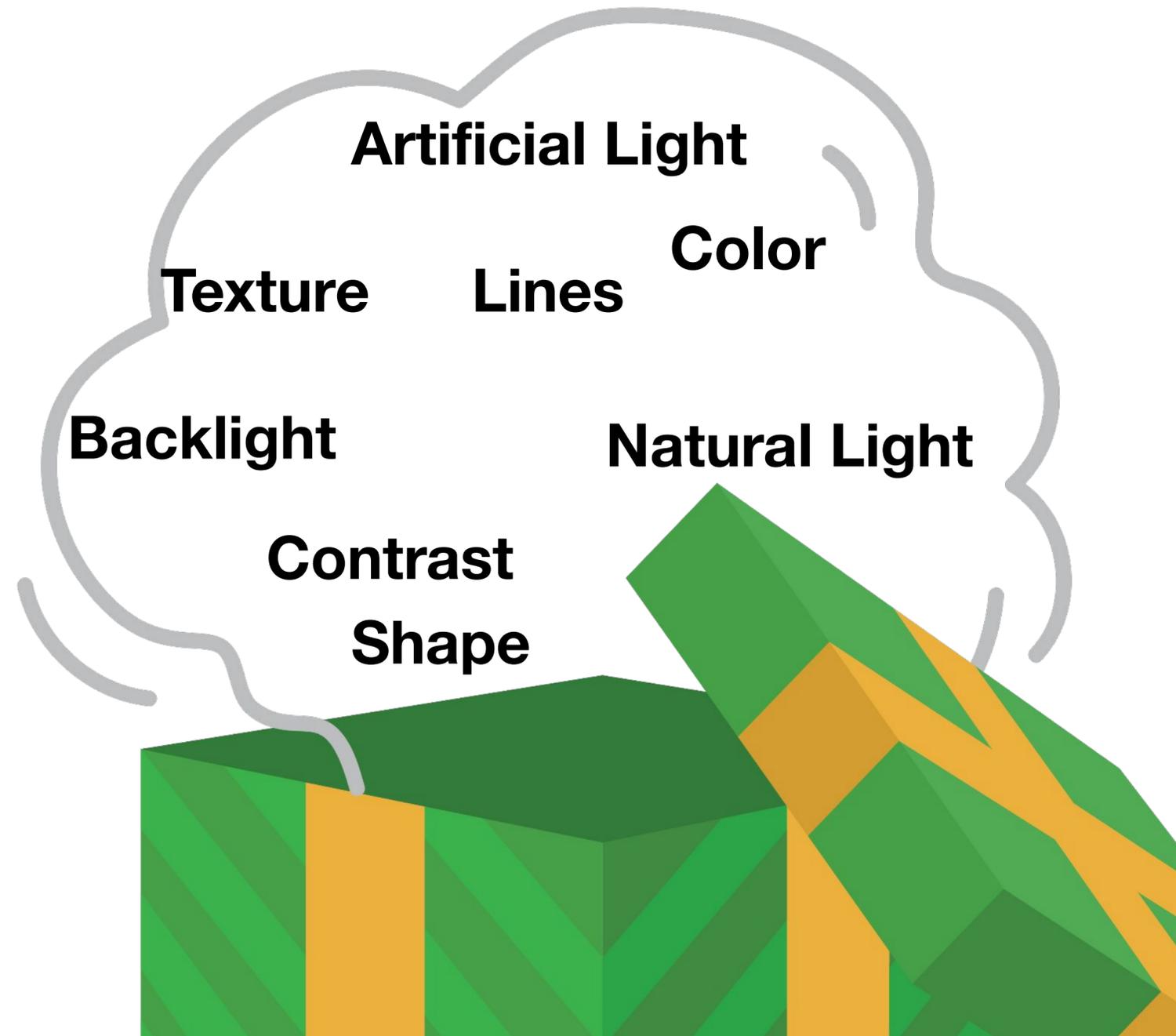


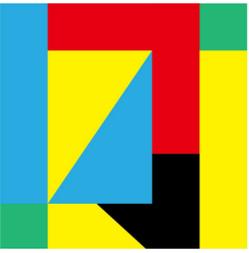
Now it's your turn!

Choose a **subject** (an object or person).

Take 8 photos playing with **light, lines, shapes and colors.**

Use the word-box to help you!





Let's discuss!

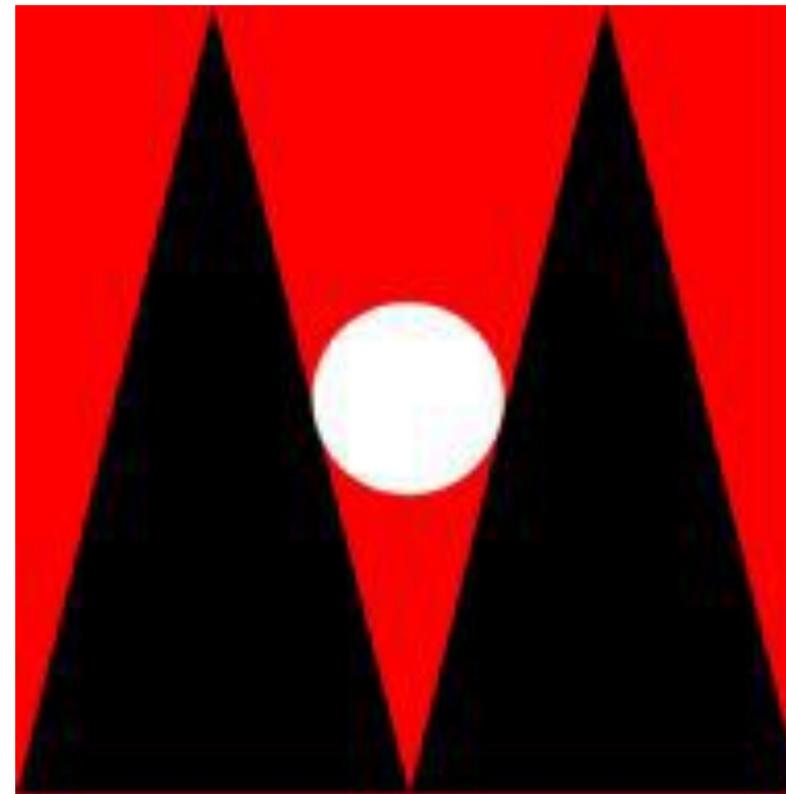


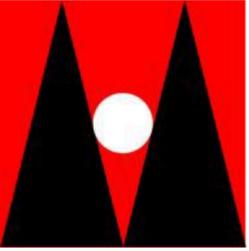
Let's all form a group and talk about the photos you took!

- What are the most striking pictures in your opinion?
- Can you name one technique that has been used? (ex. *Black and White, bright colors etc.*)
- How does your picture make you feel?

PART 3 (25 min)

Theme & Title





1. What is the Theme?

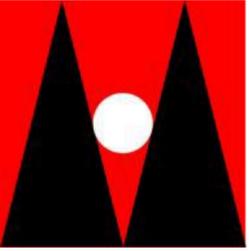
Theme:

A theme is the main idea or feeling in your photo. It is what your pictures are trying to show or tell to the person who is looking at them.

What are some themes we could try to capture? *(e.g. Nature, love, happiness)*

Title

A title is the name you give your photo. It helps people understand **what your picture is about** or **how it makes you feel**.

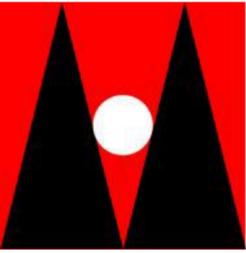


2. How do we find the theme?

Look at the pictures' **subject** or **small details**. To find the theme of a photograph, look at **what is happening** in the picture and **how it makes you feel**.

Ask yourself: **What is this photo trying to show or tell me?**

The following pictures are ordered in sets of 3. Each set shares one same subject through three different pictures.



Let's look at these 3 photos. What is similar? What is different?



What do you think is the theme?

What title could you give these photos?



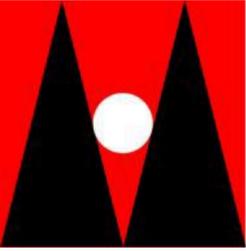
Série Primates, 2015 ,La Vallée des Singes, Romagne, France
© Isabel Muñoz KYOTOGRAPHIE
2017



Tryadhvan © Eriko Koga *KYOTOGRAPHIE* 2016



"Falling Leaves" © Akihito Yoshida 2017



Série Primates, 2015 ,La Vallée des Singes, Romagne, France
© Isabel Muñoz KYOTOGRAPHIE 2017



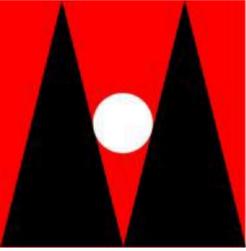
What is the subject?
What colors do you see?
Where is the light?



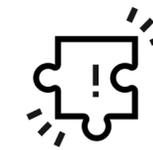
Tryadhvan © Eriko Koga *KYOTOGRAPHIE* 2016



What colors do you see?
What is the Subject?
What do you feel?



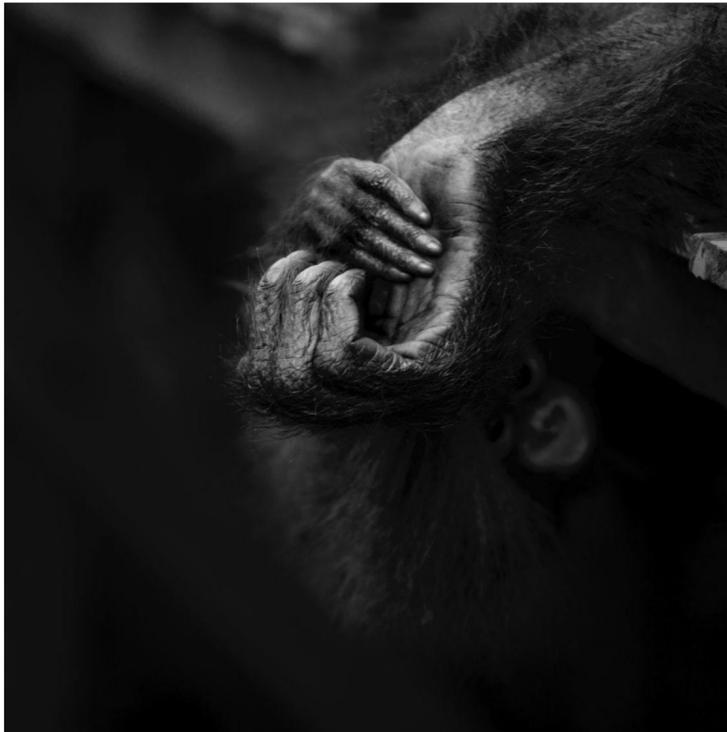
Falling Leaves, ©Yoshida Akihito, KYOTOGRAPIE 2017



What colors do you see?
How many Subjects are there?
Do you think they look close?



The subject of these 3 pictures is “LOVE”.
The **focus** is hands held together.
All the pictures are in **Black and White**, creating intimacy.



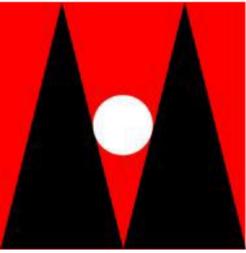
Série Primates, 2015 ,La Vallée des
Singes, Romagne, France
© Isabel Muñoz KYOTOGRAPHIE
2017



Tryadhvan © Eriko Koga *KYOTOGRAPHIE* 2016



"Falling Leaves" © Akihito Yoshida 2017



Let's look at these 3 photos. What is similar? What is different?



What do you think is the theme?

What title could you give these photos?



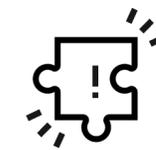
Atsushi Fukushima, Bento is ready. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2020



ryadhvan © Eriko Koga KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016

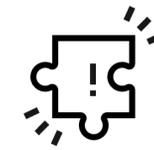
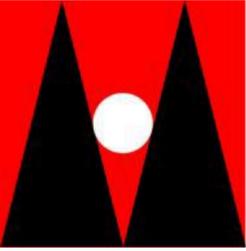


Rice, Miyazaki Izumi, 2016
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



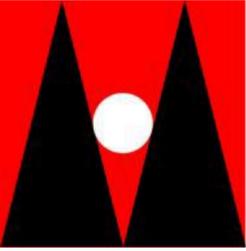
What do you see?
Is it different Subjects?
The same Subject
repeated?
What do you feel?

「弁当 is ready」福島あつし
Atsushi Fukushima、Bento is ready. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2020



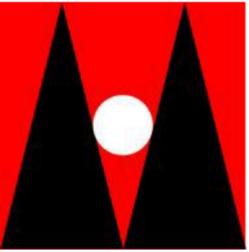
Let's have a look at how the light is used in this picture.

Where does it go?
What is the Subject?



What do you see?
Can you read the kanji on the
Subject's cheek?

Rice, Miyazaki Izumi, 2016
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



The common subject of these three pictures is “**RICE**”.

They all have a completely different approach.

One looks like a publicity, one is holy, one seems captured for a fashion magazine of some sort!



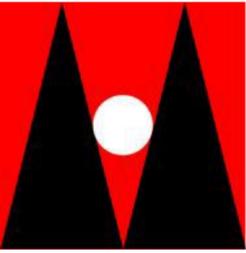
Atsushi Fukushima, Bento is ready. KYOTOGRAPHIE 2020



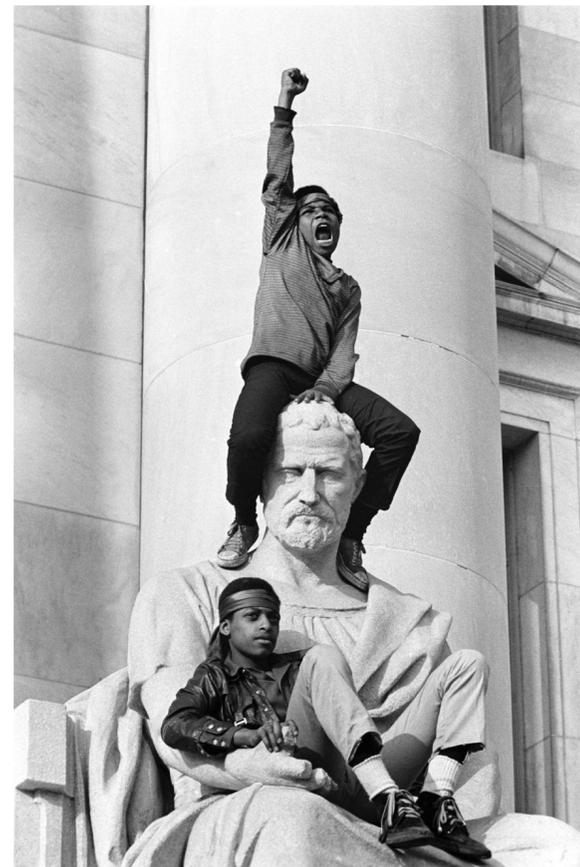
ryadhvan © Eriko Koga KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016



Rice, Miyazaki Izumi, 2016
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



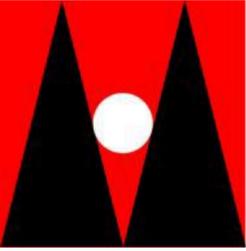
May 23, place Saint-Michel, Paris, France
© Claude Raimond-Dityvon KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



Stephen Shames,
Demonstration in front of the New
Haven County Courthouse during
Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins trial,
May 1st 1970 © Stephen Shames /
Steven Kasher Gallery.
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



Sanrizuka, Narita airport protest movement © Kikujiro Fukushima
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016

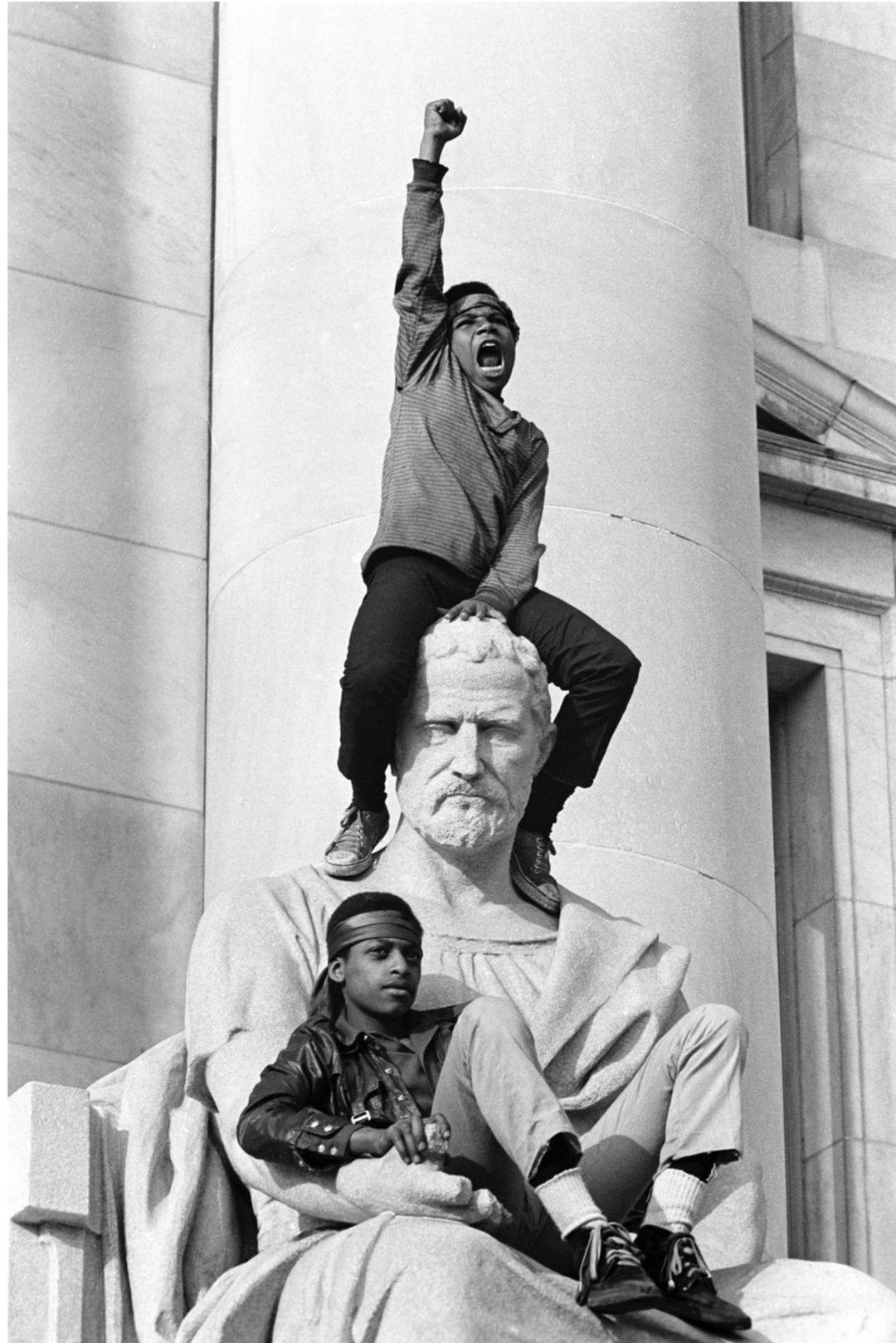


「5月23日、サン＝ミシェル」クロード・ディティヴオン
May 23, place Saint-Michel, Paris, France
© Claude Raimond-Dityvon KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



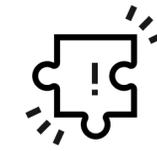
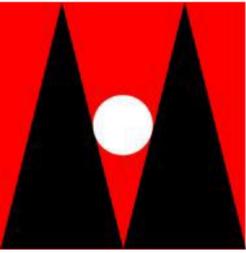
What is the Subject?
Can you identify two?

What are they doing?



How many Subjects are there?
In what position are they?
What Colors do you see?

「ニュー・ヘイブン・カントリー裁判所前にてデモ活動
ボビー・シールとエリカ・ヒューギンズの裁判中」、
1970年 5月1日
ステファン・シェイムス
Stephen Shames,
Demonstration in front of the New Haven County
Courthouse during Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins
trial, May 1st 1970 © Stephen Shames / Steven
Kasher Gallery.
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



What do you see?
How do you feel about this
picture?

「三里塚闘争」福島菊次郎

Sanrizuka, Narita airport protest movement

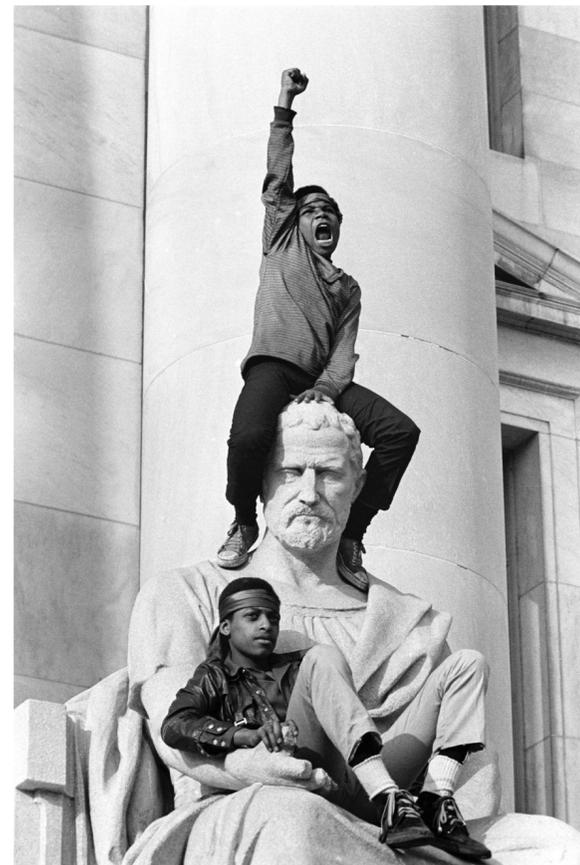
© Kikujiro Fukushima KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016



The subject of these three pictures is “**DEMONSTRATION**”
We can see that all the people depicted have the same pose.
They look defensive and offensive at the same time.



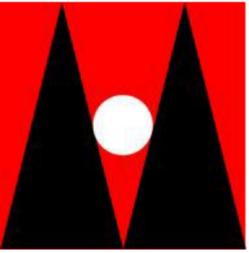
May 23, place Saint-Michel, Paris, France
© Claude Raimond-Dityvon KYOTOGRAPHIE 2018



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Demonstration in front of the New
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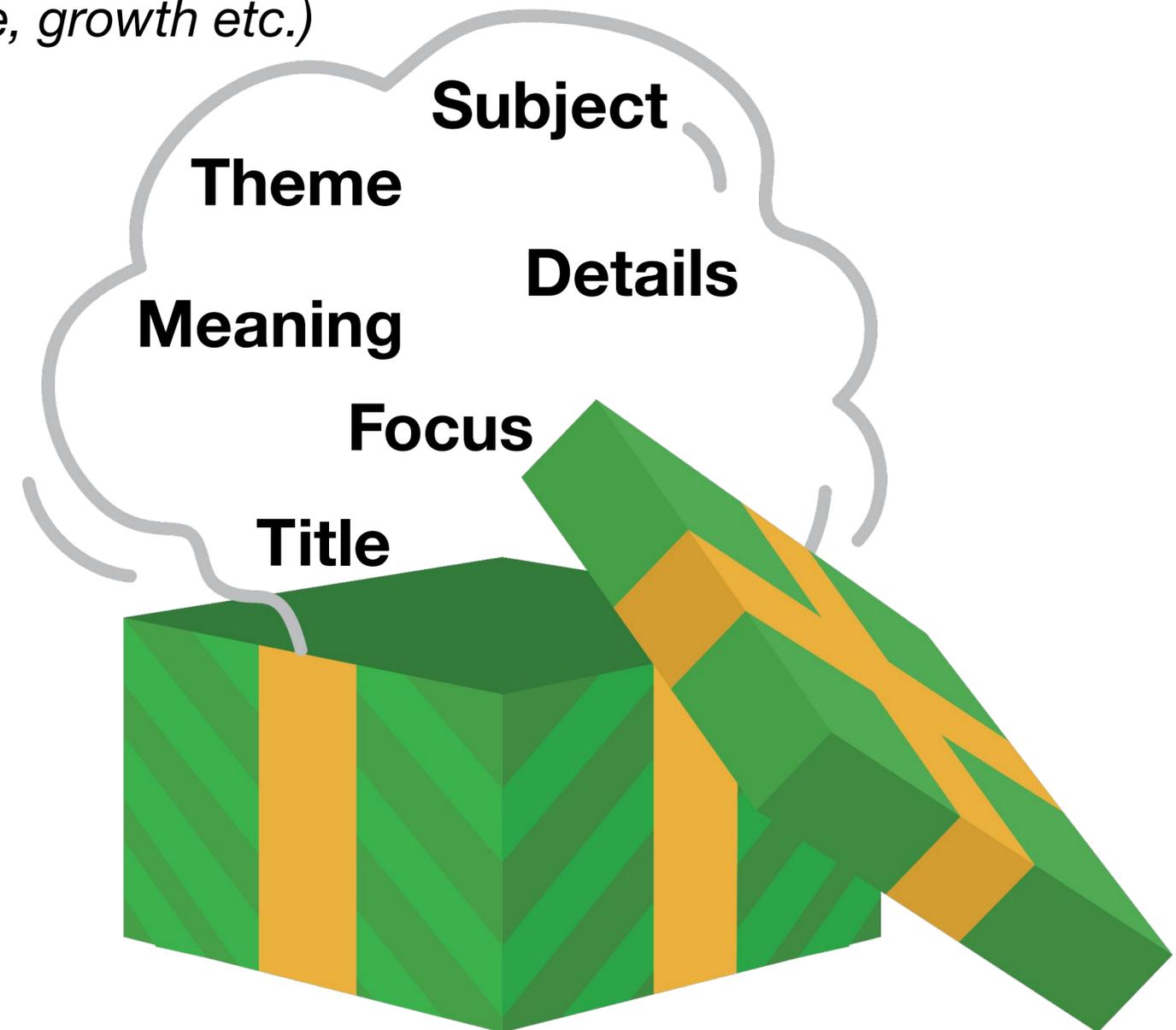
Sanrizuka, Narita airport protest movement © Kikujiro Fukushima
KYOTOGRAPHIE 2016

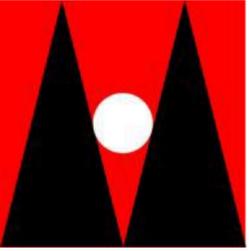


Let's pick a theme!

Pick one theme. By changing either the subject, or the place or angle of the picture, capture 3 pictures for 1 theme, just like what we just saw.
(Ex. family, food, somewhere outside or inside, nature, growth etc.)

Pick one title for each picture you took.





Let's discuss the pictures we took!



- What is the Theme of the picture?
- What makes you think that when looking at the picture?
- Is the title useful to understand the picture's meaning?

Let's form one group and discuss the pictures that you took.

KYOTO

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international
photography festival

Thank you and let's enjoy
photography together!

Kids Competition and Kids Exhibition
April 18th to May 17th, 2026!