

# Composition



*"There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs."*

*- Ansel Adams*

# Think!



- ☞ Taking the time to think before taking a photograph will increase it's aesthetics (beauty).



# Composition



- ❧ The arrangement of elements in a work of art.
- ❧ All works of art have an order determined by the artist.
- ❧ Composition creates a hierarchy within the work, which tells the viewer the relative importance of the imagery and elements included.

# Elements of Art



*The building blocks*

# Elements of Art 1



- ❧ These are the building blocks artists use to create their compositions.
- ❧ They are a set of techniques that describe ways of presenting artwork.
- ❧ The **elements** are
  - ❧ line
  - ❧ shape
  - ❧ form
  - ❧ color
  - ❧ value
  - ❧ texture
  - ❧ space

# Line



- ☞ Line is the path of a moving point.
- ☞ Lines define the edges of shapes and forms.
- ☞ **Curvature** may be a result of the arrangement of several objects, or part of a background.
- ☞ Curvature can lead the viewer's eye towards or away from an element.
- ☞ It is said there is no line in nature: what appears to be a line is only a difference in color.

# Line 2



∞ There are three types of lines:

1. **Actual line:** The form of line drawn by pen, pencil, or other implement. It may be straight or curved.
2. **Implied line:** These are not actual lines that you can see in the picture area, they are 'implied' and are made up by the way objects are placed in the picture area. Sometimes actual items or objects do make lines such as, railroad tracks. They push the eye along the artwork (e.g., a dotted line on road).
3. **Psychic line:** This form of line has no physical value; it is a psychologically created line (e.g., when pointing to something, the eye travels from the hand to that object as if on a line.)

# Line 3



These lines can actually create a response in various ways:

## Vertical Lines

- It denotes Dignity, Height, Strength, and Grandeur.
- We find vertical lines in trees, tall buildings, fences, people standing up, mountains, etc.
- A tall building shows height, strength, dignity and grandeur.
- Trees show height and strength.





# Line 4



These lines can actually create a response in various ways:

## ☞ Horizontal Lines

- ☞ Denotes Repose, Calm, Tranquility and Peacefulness.
- ☞ Such as a person lying in the grass sleeping, flowers in a field, the flatness of a desert scene or lake.
- ☞ You can make your photograph illicit these feelings if you look for them in the picture area and use them in your photographs.



# Line 5



These lines can actually create a response in various ways:

## ☞ Diagonal Lines

- ☞ Gives the sensation of Force, Energy and Motion
- ☞ As seen in trees bent by the wind, a runner at the starting line or the slope of a mountain as it climbs into the sky.
- ☞ By knowing this you can create Force, Energy and Motion with your camera easily by tilting the camera to make objects appear to be in a diagonal line.
- ☞ A dignified church steeple when photographed at a slant will change to a forceful arrow pointing towards the sky and show motion.



# Line 6



These lines can actually create a response in various ways:

## ☞ Curve Lines

- ☞ Here is a line of great beauty and charm.
- ☞ The curve in a river or a pathway through a flower garden.



# Line 7



These lines can actually create a response in various ways:

## ☞ “S” Curve Lines

- ☞ This line goes further than just a plain ‘curved line.
- ☞ It is called the ‘Line Of Beauty’.
- ☞ It is Elastic, Variable and combines Charm and Strength.
- ☞ It has Perfect Grace and Perfect Balance.
- ☞ You have seen this ‘S’ Curve hundreds of times in drawings and paintings and other works of art.
- ☞ The double curve of a river makes an ‘S’ curve.
- ☞ A path, row of trees or bushes that curve one way and then the other way create the ‘S’ curve.

# Line 8



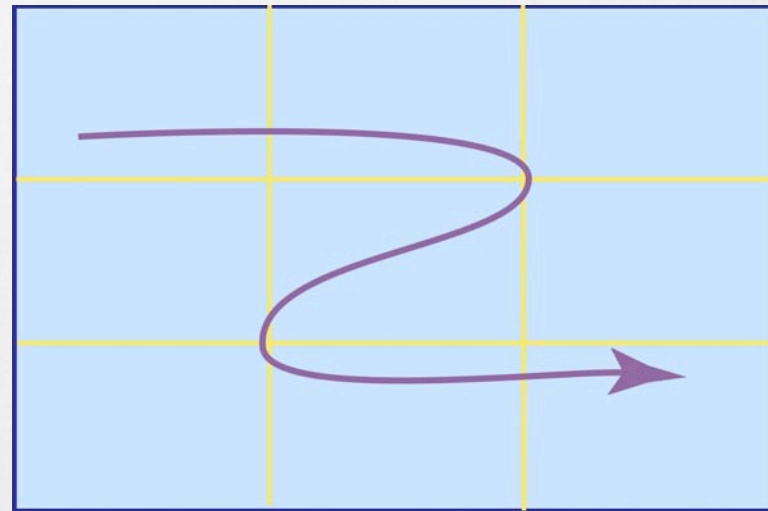
∞ S-line



# Line 9



☞ Reverse S-line



# Line 10



∞ Reverse S-line



# Shape 1



- ☞ Every element in the scene has a distinct shape, which can be simple or irregular.
- ☞ The two-dimensional representation of an object or idea as a collection of dots and lines.
- ☞ Shape is an area enclosed by “line.”
- ☞ Shape can be made up or real.



# Shape 2



- ❧ Shapes can be:
  - ❧ Organic or Curvilinear shapes
    - ❧ Only curved lines are found in nature.
    - ❧ Have a natural look and a flowing and **curving** appearance.
    - ❧ Examples of organic shapes include the shapes of leaves, plants, and animals.



# Shape 3



- ❧ Shapes can be:
  - ❧ Geometric or Rectilinear shapes
    - ❧ Unlike organic shapes, most rectilinear shapes are **angular**.
    - ❧ The only exceptions are oval and circular shapes.
    - ❧ Most geometric shapes are manmade, though honeycombs and crystals are also considered to be geometric even though they are made in nature.



# Shape 4



- ❧ Unusual shapes have a way of attracting attention away from simpler ones.
- ❧ This needs to be taken into account depending on which objects you want the viewer to be drawn to.
- ❧ Some shapes complement each other, while some are a distraction.
- ❧ A recurring shape within a scene can create a **pattern**.

# Shape 5



∞ Pattern



# Form 1



- ❧ Form is the **three-dimensional** counterpart to shape.
- ❧ Forms occupy space or give the illusion that they occupy the space.
- ❧ There are two types of form:
  - ❧ **Illusionary form** is created through the use of concepts such as perspective in order to show form on a two-dimensional work (like photographs).
  - ❧ **Real form** is the form seen in sculpture and other three-dimensional art.

# Form 2



☞ Illusionary form



# Color 1



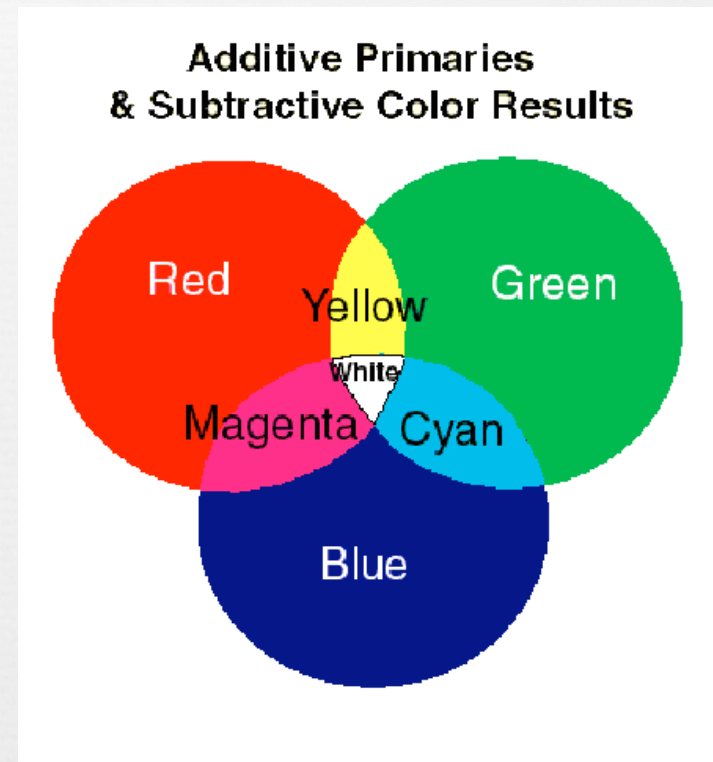
- ❧ Color is the most expressive element of art and is seen by the way light reflects off a surface.
- ❧ Some colors work better with others, vivid colors attract attention away from lighter ones.
- ❧ Again - depending on what you want the viewer to be drawn to, you must take these effects into account.

# Color 2



Primary colors are used to create secondary and intermediate colors.

- Red
- Yellow
- Blue





# Color 3



☞ Secondary colors are made by mixing two primary colors together. The secondary colors are:

1. Orange - made by mixing red and yellow
2. Green - made by mixing blue and yellow
3. Violet - made by mixing blue and red

# Color 4



- ☞ Intermediate or Tertiary colors are made by mixing a secondary and a primary color together.
- ☞ Some examples are blue-green and red-violet.

# Color 5



## ☞ Warm, Cool and Neutral colors

- ☞ Warm colors are the different shades of red, yellow and orange, and are called so because they convey the feeling of warmth.
- ☞ Cool colors are shades of blue, green and violet, conveying a feeling of coolness and quiet.
- ☞ Neutral colors are also called the earth tones, and are the colors of black, white and gray.
  - ☞ At times brown, beige and tan are also considered as neutral colors.
  - ☞ These colors can be made by either mixing the complimentary colors, all of the primaries, or mixing black and white.

# Color 6



- ❧ Complementary colors are colors that are on the opposite sides on the color wheel.
- ❧ They contrast each other and make each other appear brighter, adding energy to an artwork.
- ❧ The complementary colors are:
  - ❧ Red and Green
  - ❧ Yellow and Violet
  - ❧ Blue and Orange

# Color 7



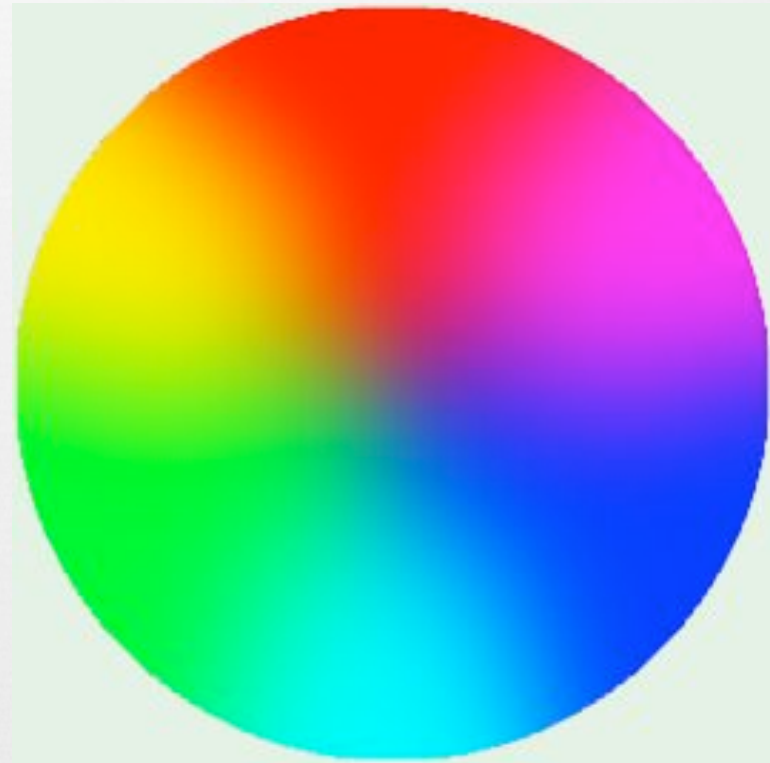
☞ Color Wheel Labeled



# Color 8



☞ Color Wheel Blended



# Value or Tone 1



- ❧ **Value** is the lightness or darkness of a surface.
- ❧ It is often referred to when shading but value is also important in the study of color.
- ❧ Sometimes combined with color, value describes the lightness tint or darkness shade of a color.
- ❧ In color photography, pay attention to different shades of the same colors.
- ❧ In black-and-white photography, different colors may be rendered in a similar way depending on their tone.

# Value or Tone 2



- ❧ Value is often the single most important element in paintings and drawings and allows the perception of forms.
- ❧ In other words, it is value and the changing values in pictures that cause the perception of not just shapes, but implied three-dimensional forms.
- ❧ Tone is also a product of how an element is lit and its reflective qualities.
- ❧ In photography it is the way shadow and light illuminates the subject.
- ❧ The eye always goes toward **highlights** and brightest colors.



# Value or Tone 3



- ❧ The Value of colors are
  - ❧ Intensity
  - ❧ Brightness
  - ❧ Luminance Factor.
  
- ❧ Colors are said to have Strong or Weak Values.
  - ❧ They can be Warm or Cold, Advancing or Receding.
  - ❧ The 'longer wavelengths' from Red to Yellow are usually described as Strong, Warm, Advancing colors
  - ❧ The 'shorter wavelengths', the Greens and Blues may be described as Weak, Cold and Receding colors.
  
- ❧ Pastel colors are Quiet and Moody while Bright colors are Strong and Active.
  
- ❧ However, certain colors 'react' very strongly with each other to give "Strong Contrasts" and to many people these will become 'Discords' rather than 'Harmonies'.

# Value or Tone 4



- ☞ Strong
- ☞ Active
- ☞ Advancing
- ☞ Warm



# Value or Tone 5



- ☞ Where does the eye go?
- ☞ Where is the negative space?



# Value or Tone 6



- ☞ Strong
- ☞ Active
- ☞ Advancing
- ☞ Warm



# Value or Tone 7



- Weak
- Receding
- Cool



# Texture 1



- ☞ Texture can be either real or perceived.
- ☞ **Tactile texture** is how an artwork actually feels (does not happen in photography).
- ☞ **Implied texture** is how an artwork appears to feel (photography).
- ☞ Sometimes tone can create texture.

# Texture 2



- ☞ Texture can be interesting to the eye or make it difficult to notice other elements.
- ☞ Different textures may blend into each other or enhance each other.



# Texture 3



☞ Course verses fine





# Texture 4



☞ Hard verses soft



# Texture 5



☞ Hard verses soft



# Space 1



- ❧ The use of space and room in a piece of art.
  - ❧ Positive space is the space taken up by objects (surface).
  - ❧ Negative space is the distance between objects (whitespace).
- ❧ Nothing exists without it.
- ❧ Space can be thought of as the distance or area around, between, above, below or within places.
- ❧ In art, space can be described as either two dimensional or three dimensional.

# Space 2



- ❧ The space in two dimensional artworks such as photographs (flat space) is essentially limited to height and width.
  - ❧ While there is no actual depth or distance in such works, artists have created techniques to create the illusion of depth or distance on these flat surfaces.
- ❧ Another way to think about space is size.
- ❧ An artist uses space by using large size to make things appear near and of greater importance, and small size to make things appear far away or less important.

# Space 3



- ❧ The following represents some of those techniques demonstrating space:
  - ❧ **Linear perspective:** distant objects are rendered proportionately smaller than closer ones. The determining factors of this space depends upon the **horizon line** and **vanishing points**.
  - ❧ **Atmospheric perspective:** distant objects and spaces have less detail and intensity than closer objects. For example, the use of bluer colors for distant shapes can suggest space between the viewer and the shapes.
  - ❧ **Object Placement:** distant shapes are higher and closer shapes are lower in the picture plane.
  - ❧ **Overlapping of objects:** suggest space.

# Space 4



- ❧ Which is bigger and more predominant?
- ❧ What is being emphasized?



# Space 5



- ☞ Which is bigger and more predominant?
- ☞ What is being emphasized?



# Space 6



- ☞ Which is bigger and more predominant?
- ☞ What is being emphasized?

