

# 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

# Principles of Art & Design



*Things to consider when creating.*

# Principles of Art & Design

## 1



- ☞ Elements of art are combined with the principles of art in the production of art.
- ☞ The principles of art are the set of rules or guidelines of art that are to be considered when considering the impact of a piece of artwork.
- ☞ They are combined with the elements of art in the production of art

# Principles of Art & Design

## 1



- ❧ These are the principles of art:
  - ❧ Balance
  - ❧ Contrast
  - ❧ Emphasis, Movement
  - ❧ Pattern & Repetition (Rhythm)
  - ❧ Proportion
  - ❧ Unity/Harmony
  - ❧ Variety



# Balance 1



- ❧ Balance is arranging elements so that no one part of a work overpowers, or seems heavier than any other part.
- ❧ Two different kinds of balance
  - ❧ **Symmetrical (or formal) balance** is when both sides of an artwork, if split down the middle, appear to be the same. The human body is an example of symmetrical balance.
  - ❧ **Asymmetrical balance** is when sides appear unsymmetrical, uneven, unbalanced, disproportionate, unequal, or irregular.

# Balance Symmetry 1



- ❧ Symmetrical compositions convey a sense of stability.
- ❧ The shape of the artwork itself is also symmetrical—a vertical line bisecting the image would create two equal halves that are mirror images<sup>10</sup> of one another.

# Balance Symmetry 2



☞ Notice how the left and right side mimic each other.

# Balance

## Symmetry 3



☞ Notice how the left and right side mimic each other.

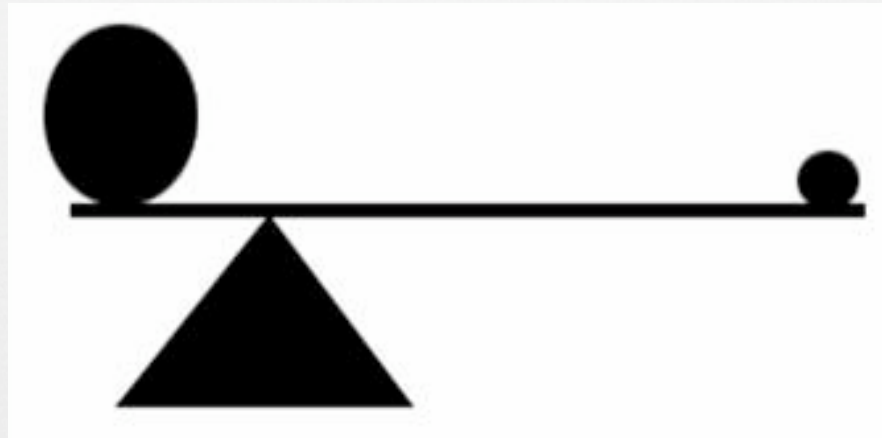
# Balance Symmetry 4



☞ Notice how the left and right side mimic each other.

# Balance

## Asymmetry 1



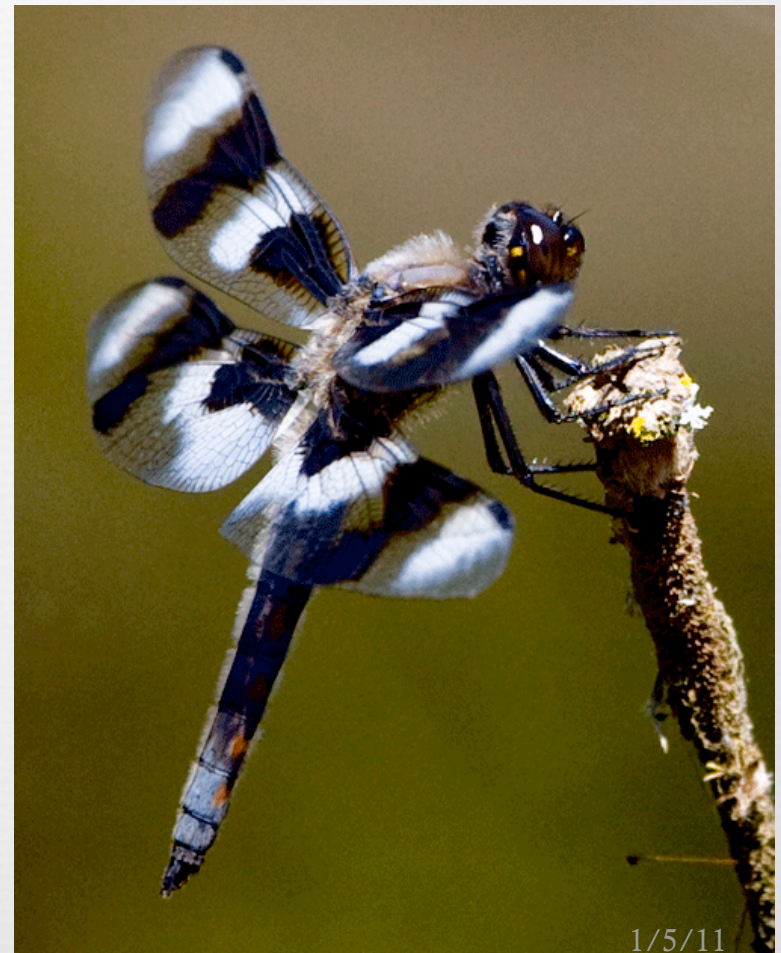
- Asymmetrical compositions often convey a sense of movement since the elements of the composition are unbalanced.

# Balance

## Asymmetry 2



- ☞ Notice that the left and right sides do not mimic each other.



# Balance

## Asymmetry 2



- ∞ In this example geometric forms were used to create a composition that is unbalanced.





# Contrast 1



- ☞ Contrast shows the difference and diversity in an artwork by combining elements to create interest.



# Contrast 2



- ☞ Contrast is to provide an artwork with something interesting to break the repetitions.



# Contrast 3



- ☞ Size difference and color creates contrast



# Contrast 4



- ∞ Size difference and color creates contrast
- ∞ Different texture
- ∞ Organic verses inorganic



# Emphasis or Movement 1



- ☞ Action, or alternatively, the path the viewer's eye follows throughout an artwork.
- ☞ Movement is caused by using elements under the rules of the principles in art to give the feeling of action and to guide the viewer's eyes throughout the artwork.

# Emphasis or Movement 2



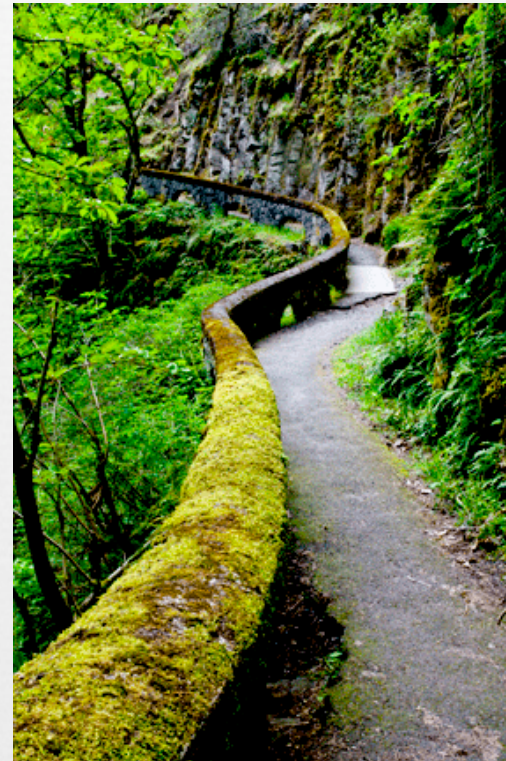
- ☞ Eye moves through photo from lower left to center right.



# Emphasis or Movement 3



- ☞ Eye moves through photo from bottom to top.



# Pattern & Rhythm or Repetition 1



- ☞ Pattern and rhythm (also known as repetition) is showing consistency with colors or lines.





# Pattern & Rhythm or Repetition 2



- It is indicating movement by the repetition of elements.



# Pattern & Rhythm or Repetition 3



- ☞ Rhythm can make an artwork seem active.
- ☞ Boards and their shadows, repeating lines



# Pattern & Rhythm or Repetition 3



∞ Repeating valves



# Pattern & Rhythm or Repetition 4



- ☞ Repeating web lines and drops



# Pattern & Rhythm or Repetition 5



☞ Repeating florets



# Proportion or Scale



- ❧ Proportion or scale describes the relative sizes and locations of objects in the artwork.
- ❧ It refers to the relationships of the size of objects in a body of work.
- ❧ Proportion gives a sense of size seen as a relationship of objects, such as smallness or largeness.
- ❧ Example: a person standing next to a tree.

# Proportion or Scale



∞ Note foreground placement



# Proportion or Scale



- ∞ Note foreground placement of rocks





# Unity or Harmony



- ☞ The quality of wholeness or oneness achieved through the effective use of the elements and principles of art.
- ☞ The arrangement of elements and principles to create a feeling of completeness.

# Unity or Harmony



# Variety or Alternation 1



- ❧ This is the quality or state of having different forms or types.
- ❧ The differences giving a design visual and conceptual interest:
  - ❧ Contrast
  - ❧ Emphasis
  - ❧ Difference in
    - ❧ Size
    - ❧ Color

# Variety or Alternation 2



## Contrast

- ☞ Strong linear forms punctuated with a circular form.
- ☞ Difference in texture and color.



# Variety or Alternation 3



- ∞ Contrast
- ∞ Organic form with geometric form
- ∞ Difference in texture and color.



# Emphasis or Focal Point 1



- ❧ Emphasis (also called focal point) is where the focus is concentrated through design principles or meaning.
- ❧ To do this one develop points of interest to pull the viewer's eye to important parts of the body of the work.
- ❧ It is to make one part of an artwork dominant over the other parts.
- ❧ It makes an element or object in a work stand out.
- ❧ To use emphasis in an artwork is to attract the viewer's eyes to a place of special importance in an artwork.
- ❧ Photographers often use selective focus (depth-of-field) to do this.

# Emphasis or Focal Point 2



- ☞ Notice center leaves are only thing in focus.



# Emphasis or Focal Point 3



- ☞ Notice the flower is the only thing in focus and in the foreground.





# Note About Terms



- ☞ Different sources will use different terms when describing composition.
- ☞ Some sources use terms with similar meaning while others add their own terms and descriptors.