

Introduction

Photography Talks

- Presentation this afternoon is the first of at least two photo talks
 - Today is all about “Composition”
 - What Makes A Great Photograph
 - Next month will talk about iPhone photography
 - The “Composition” guides **ALL** apply to iPhone photography and the guides form a foundation for the next talk
 - Will use the iPhone talk to review the “Composition” guides we heard today

What Makes A Great Photograph

What Makes A Great Photo - Outline

- Award Winning Photographs
- How Judges Evaluate Photographs
- Key Composition “Guides”
- What’s Next
- Photo Tips

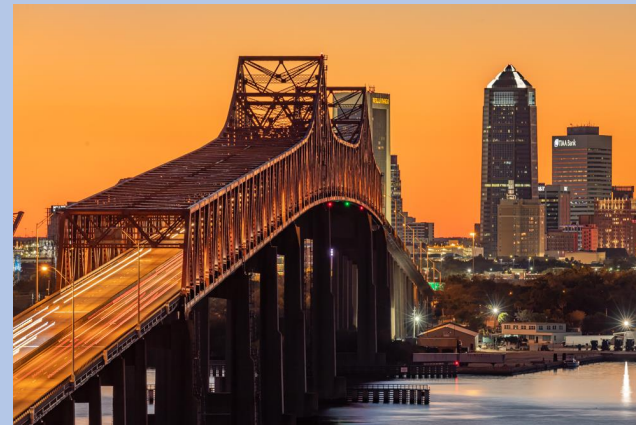
Pulitzer Winning Photographs



Contest Winning Photographs



Special Photographs



How Judges Evaluate Pics

- Each photo receives a numerical rating (1-20 in Florida Camera Club Council's Competitions)
- Specific Factors
 - Overall Impact (WOW Factor)
 - Composition of Elements
 - Technical Aspects of Photo



Judging Criteria Details

Overall Impact

- WOW factor
- Evokes emotion
- Returns to subject again
- Makes a statement
- Tells a story

Composition

- Presentation in the frame
- Take viewer into subject
- Well done cropping
- Effective use of color/tone
- Create dimension & depth

Technical

- Focus
- Exposure
- Lighting
- Noise & dust spots
- Horizon not straight
- Loss of detail (too light or too dark)

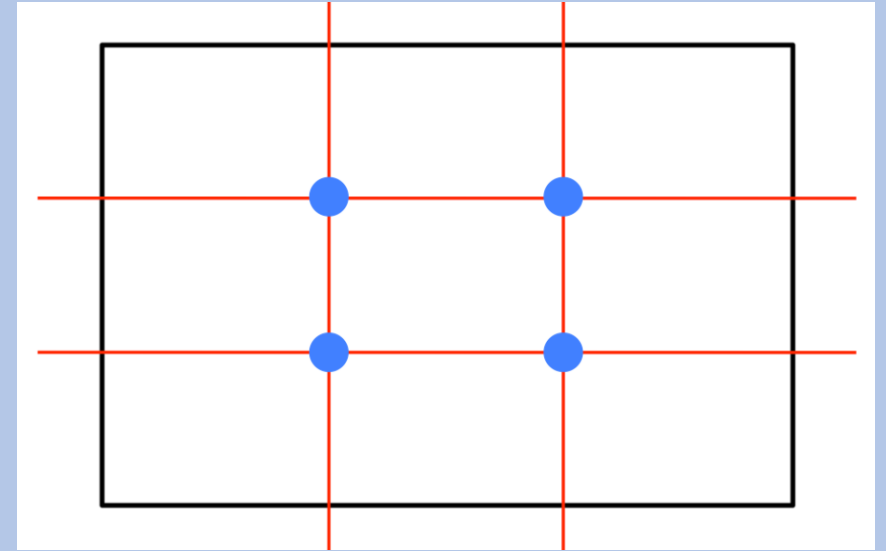
Composition Key Elements

- Subject placement
- Take observer to subject
- Highlighting subject
- Rule of Odds
- Balance



Subject Placement

- Rule of Thirds
 - Place main object on one of POWER lines
 - iPhone camera settings
 - Turn on “Grid”
 - Keep in mind 3 sections of photo (Depth)
 - Foreground
 - Middle
 - Background
 - Never have horizon in center
 - If sky is lousy have land take up 2/3 of photo
 - If sky is great have sky take up 2/3 of photo



Take Observer to Subject

Leading Lines

- Take the observer to the subject & around the photograph
- Lines are a part of the image
- Create a sense of depth



Highlighting the Subject - Cropping

Best way to isolate and focus on the subject is to properly crop the photograph

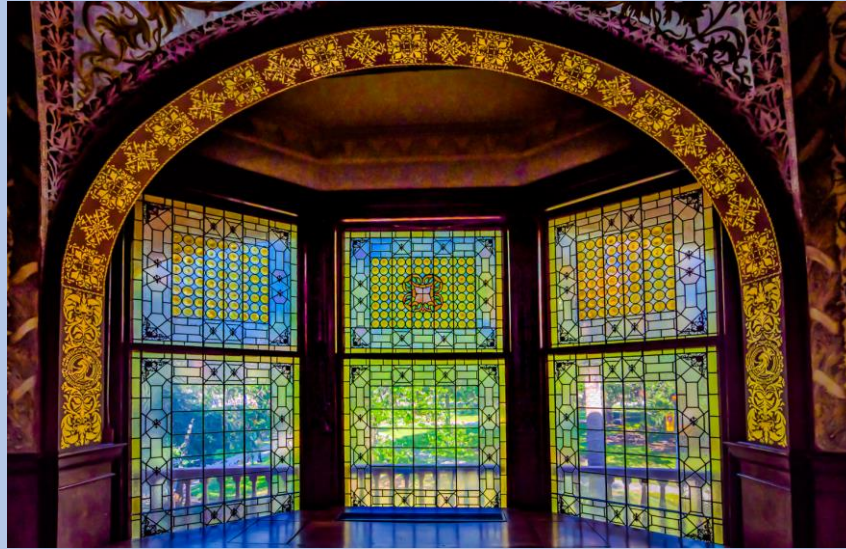
Every photo course that I took the instructor stated that most photographers **do not** crop enough of the photograph

Make sure everything in the photograph belongs



Highlighting the Subject - Framing

Use objects in photograph to “frame” the main subject.



Rule of Odds

- When including a group of items in the photograph
- An odd number produces
 - More interesting
 - More visually pleasing composition



Balance in a Photograph

- Photo elements achieve equal visual weight across the image.
- Types of Balance
 - Symmetrical Balance (formal)
 - Asymmetrical Balance (informal)
 - Color
 - Tonal
 - Conceptual

Symmetrical Balance in a Photograph Formal



One side is mirror image of the other side

Asymmetrical Balance in a Photograph

Informal



Follows the rule of thirds

Color Balance in a Photograph



Overriding bright colors are balanced by the toned-down colors making up the rest of image

Tonal Balance in a Photograph



Usually B&W; the dark tones are subdued by overall lighter tones of remainder of photograph

Conceptual Balance in a Photograph



More of a subconscious look at opposite thoughts (images) in a photograph

Now Let's Take A Second Look

Some Photos We Looked at Previously



2001 Winner in Breaking News Photography: Alan Diaz Associated Press, for his photograph of armed U.S. federal agents entering the Cuban-born home of a young boy, Gonzalo, from his relative's Miami home.



2006 Winner in Feature Photography: Todd Heister, of the Associated Press, for his powerful photograph of a man looking at a casket for a Cuban-born man who returns from Iraq in a casket.



Review

- Looked at award winning photographs
- Looked at judging criteria
- Discussed & showed key composition techniques
- Came back to look at photos again in a new light
- Now what

What's Next ?

- Much depends on your feedback and interest
- Plan another photo talk next month on 100% iPhone shooting
- Maybe month after that we can go on a simple photo outing to practice
- After that it is up to you
- Possible future topics
 - Exposure (depth of field, triangle, gray card, exposure compensation, white balance)
 - Mirrorless cameras (new technology, how does it work, advantages)
 - Software (Lightroom, Photoshop, Aurora HDR, Topaz, Photo Pills, etc.) Examples
 - Equipment (lens, tripods, backup photos, backpacks, travel)
 - Travel Photographs (Greece, Alaska, Cuba, Oregon Coast, Italy, etc.) (No Tech stuff just pics)
 - Etc

Some Photo Taking Tips

- Don't rush into taking pictures when arriving at a venue
 - What is the subject
 - What is the story or message you want to convey
 - Where should I take the photograph
 - How do I show this image in a way different from other photographers
- Technical thoughts
 - Are there any distractions to avoid (wires, telephone poles, messy background, etc.)
 - Where to place the subject
 - How to lead observers to the subject
 - Should photo be horizontal or vertical
 - Is there balance in the shot

Talk Completed

Thanks for attending

Questions

Enjoy taking pics or
looking at photographs

Slides will be on Huntcliff
website

I can email you these
slides. Let me know.



**In the final
analysis –
photography
is like fine
wine, that is
you like what
you like !!**



THE END