

# Digital Photography Lesson Plan 2

# [2011]

[This lesson is intended to engage the students with the concepts of art in photography. We will be discussing the use of compositions, background, foreground and above all the subject. We will also review the previous lesson and discuss its importance within this weeks' lesson to help build the students comprehension of photography.]

## The Subject

<b>Subject / Course:</b> Digital Photography	<b>Name:</b> Hugo Gatsby
<b>Lesson:</b> 2	<b>Topic:</b> Composition

### 1. Required Resources

*(list ALL resources required to conduct this lesson with detailed specifics such as textbook titles, chapters, page numbers, author/publishers, website URLs, resources like paper, pencils, protractors, chalk, rulers, paint, specimens, books, maps, videos, posters, lab materials, handouts – include name of handout and number of copies, etc.)*

#### Websites Used:

- **Gatsbyproductions.com/vcad** : To access the information for the class and all classes.
- **www.carbonmade.com** : To access examples of artist and photographers portfolio's online.
- **www.wikipedia.org** : For use with any definitions in fuller details.
- **www.digital-photography-school.com** : To access information relating to compositions and imagery examples as needed.

#### Book Information:

- Sheppard, Rob. Digital Photography Simplified. Indianapolis: Wiley, 2008.

**Working Imagery:** Bring in magazines to illustrate what a photographs final purpose is. Discuss the concepts.

#### Introduction:

- **Composition and Key Elements:**
- Good Composition is a key element of good photographs yet is something that is hard to define.
- The key is to remember that in the same way as a chef rarely uses all the ingredients at their disposal in any dish - that a photographer rarely uses all of the ingredients of composition in the making of an image.
- Today we will look at ten elements of composition.
- They're not 'rules' - just things to consider when setting up a shot.

## Pattern



There are patterns all around us if we only learn to see them. Emphasizing and highlighting these patterns can lead to striking shots - as can high lighting when patterns are broken.

## Symmetry



Depending upon the scene - symmetry can be something to go for - or to avoid completely.

A symmetrical shot with strong composition and a good point of interest can lead to a striking image - but without the strong point of interest it can be a little predictable. I prefer to experiment with both in the one shoot to see which works best.

To play with symmetry try shooting vertical images horizontally and horizontal images vertically. The subject matter is always meant to the focal point, but there isn't necessarily a rule stating vertical images to be shot vertically.

### Texture



Images a two dimensional thing yet with the clever use of 'texture' they can come alive and become almost three dimensional. Texture particularly comes into play when light hits objects at interesting angles.



## Depth of Field



The depth of field that you select when taking an image will drastically impact the composition of an image.

It can isolate a subject from its background and foreground (when using a shallow depth of field) or it can put the same subject in context by revealing its surrounds with a larger depth of field.

By playing with the perspectives of the images foreground and background, you can turn that 2 dimensional image into a 3d view.



A trick on images with horizons is to tilt the camera down and focus on the foreground instead of the actual horizon. This will create a dynamic with the entire composition and draw the viewer's eyes up towards the horizon. (Waterfall Image)

## Lines



Lines can be powerful elements in an image.

They have the power to draw the eye to key focal points in a shot and to impact the 'feel' of an image greatly.

Diagonal, Horizontal, Vertical and Converging lines all impact images differently and should be spotted while framing a shot and then utilized to strengthen it. They should reflect your own style and personality. Remember photography is as much about you as the photo at hand.

## Framing



Most of us use 'frames' to display our images when we hang them on walls for viewing - however 'framing' can be used within the composition of a shot to help you highlight your main point of interest in the image and to give the image 'depth'. In the examples shown we see the use of framing in both a landscape and a portrait.

## Perspective



The perspective that a shot is taken from is another element that can have a big impact upon an image. For our example we will be looking at the above infant photo.

Shooting from up high and looking down on a subject or shooting from below looking up on the same subject drastically impact not only the 'look' of the image, emphasizing different points of interest, angles, textures, shapes etc - but it also impacts the 'story' of an image.

In the current image we can see that the infant is the central focus, but what other objects are noticed in the background? Take into account the framing we talked about previously. What objects might have you taken out of the photo to make it more "effective"?



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**Space**

There can be a fine line between filling your frame with your subject (and creating a nice sense of intimacy and connection) and also giving your subject space to breathe. Experiment with moving in close and personal and moving out to capture a subject in its context.

**Balance**

The positioning with elements in a frame can leave an image feeling balanced or unbalanced.

Too many points of interest in one section of your image can leave it feeling too 'heavy' or complicated in that section of the shot and other parts feeling 'empty'.

## Colour



The colors in an image and how they are arranged can make or break a shot.

Bright colors can add vibrancy, energy and interest - however in the wrong position they can also distract viewers of an image away from focal points.

Colors also greatly impact 'mood'. Blues and Greens can have a calming soothing impact, Reds and Yellows can convey vibrancy and energy etc.

Ask yourself, how do the colours in this photograph help create a feeling or allegory?

## PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT #1: LANDSCAPES

### OBJECTIVE:

- **3 Images/Landscapes (9 Photos in Total)**
  - **3 different locations within the Greater Vancouver area.**
  - **Each image/location will be submitted with an over-exposed, under-exposed, and properly exposed versions.**
  - **For each of the 3 images/locations, write an abstract of why you chose these photos, and for what purpose they are intended for.**
  - **(Remember, each photo always has the potential to be used within your future work and your portfolio, think about the design elements).**
- Submit the image at 300 DPI in JPEG Format
  - Each of the 3 landscapes taken should be of different subject matter.
  - You will be marked on how well you use your subject matter for future design purposes.
  - The over and under exposed images will teach you on how to properly handle your camera to purposely make an image with brighter whites and darker blacks respectively. Use the Over and Under exposures for a purposes. (hint: do not just lower or raise the aperture and shutter speeds, be more artistic)
  - The abstract explanation for each of the three sets will help to define the parameters of your subjects. (Clearing stating your purpose helps with clients in the design field, as well as solidifying your conceptual thought process while shooting.) Story board drawings of what you intend to shoot will also be accepted in addition to the abstract. Remember, make sure the images are clear, in focus and feel free to remove objects out of your frame, since NO POST PRODUCTION will be used in these photos.
- **THERE WILL BE 9 IMAGES SUBMITTED IN TOTAL.**

GRADING CRITERIA	GRADING
Creativity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The subject matter you chose.</li> <li>- Creativity is a photographer's best friend (within parameters.)</li> <li>- This is where story boards/sketches helps in the development stage.</li> <li>- 12 marks x 3 sets of images.</li> </ul>	/36
Abstract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The write up of what you show, and why. Consider this your thesis clean, smooth, well articulated explanations, describing all of the parameters of the project.</li> <li>- (There should only be 3 abstracts, one for each set of 3 images.)</li> <li>- All images should be submitted in JPEG Format. Any edits to the photos should be completed on an additional layer, not the original.</li> <li>- 6 marks x 3 sets of images.</li> </ul>	/18
Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submitting work on time, proper files sizes and resolutions, with all intended materials. (Story boards, abstracts, sketches, etc.)</li> <li>- Placed on a CD.</li> <li>- 4 marks x 3 sets of images</li> </ul>	/12

Composition:	/20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Interesting composition of the images.</li><li>- How the compositions relate to your abstract/thesis.</li><li>- Good design principles (balance, symmetry, framing, colour, etc.)</li><li>- 20 marks for the entire project as a whole.</li></ul>	
Technical:	/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To have a properly exposed image, clear, un pixilated, in focus.</li></ul>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>/100</b>

**Submit in JPEG (PDF optional) format on CD ONLY.**

**Due Date: Week 5**

(at beginning of class)

StudentName\_Assignment#\_Image#