

COMPOSITION PSYCHOLOGY



Composition is important to your photographs for several reasons. First, and foremost, it establishes a “path” through your image. However, it also can add mood or help tell a story. All three factors are key to great photographs.

SYMMETRY



One half (top/bottom, left/right) of an image is identical, or almost, to the other. Naturally, the human eye aims for patterns and balance, and symmetrical images create a sense of harmony, control and proportion. The best way to get these shots is to place your camera as close to the center of your subject as possible (directly below a dome, or right in front of a model, or building, for example).

MOOD IN COLOR

Even though the perception of color is subjective to each individual, there are certain general guidelines that can help you achieve a certain message or mood, through the use of color.

WARM COLORS

Red is the color that grabs the most attention. If it occupies most of the frame, it can create feelings of anger, passion, or speed. If used as detail, it will make that detail stand out. Yellow and orange, create a youthful, energetic vibe.



COOL COLORS

Cooler colors, (especially blue), bring a sense of calmness and peace. Green, because it's found in nature, creates a feeling of growth, and relaxation.



SHAPES

Every element in a photograph will have a shape. Some organic (curved, irregular) and some geometric (symmetrical, usually clean and straight). In the overall composition, we tend to look for balance in one of 3 basic shapes: **Oval, square and triangle.**

