

Using the Elements and Principles of Design in Photography

Think About Composition!

- Composition refers to the arrangement and relationship to the different parts that make up the whole image
- Elements of Art: composition's individual parts
- Principles of Design: composition's organizing ideas



Brassai

Line

- The most fundamental of the art elements
- A moving point in space
- Can be real—a yellow line on a road—or implied— geese flying in a “V”



Shape and Form



John Reddy



Edward Weston

- A shape is created when a line meets itself—2-dimensional or flat
- A form is similar to shape, but it has volume and is 3-dimensional. It gives the illusion of occupying space.
- Shapes and forms can be either geometric (square, circle, triangle) or organic (leaf, shell, tree).

Color

- Hue: The name of a color
- Saturation: The intensity or purity of a color
- Value: The lightness or darkness of a color
- In photography value is created by the amount of light and the range of tones, or light and dark areas, in a scene



Value

- The quality of light and dark, both in terms of color and shades of gray in a composition
- Light and dark values give you visual clues about the shapes and forms of objects



Imogen Cunningham

Space

- Space is the two-dimensional arrangement of objects in a photograph
- Space also refers to the three-dimensional illusion of depth in the image



Ansel Adams

Alfred Stieglitz

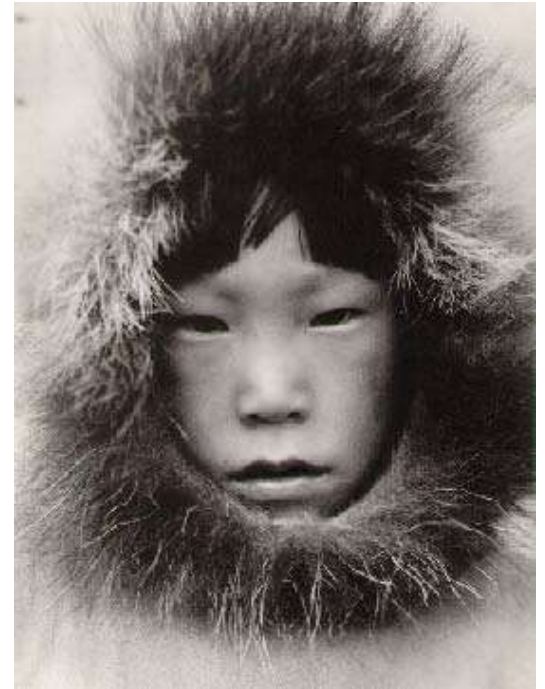


Texture

- Appealing to the sense of touch
- In photography, a sense of texture can help to make a photograph look more realistic or to enhance a 3-dimensional feel

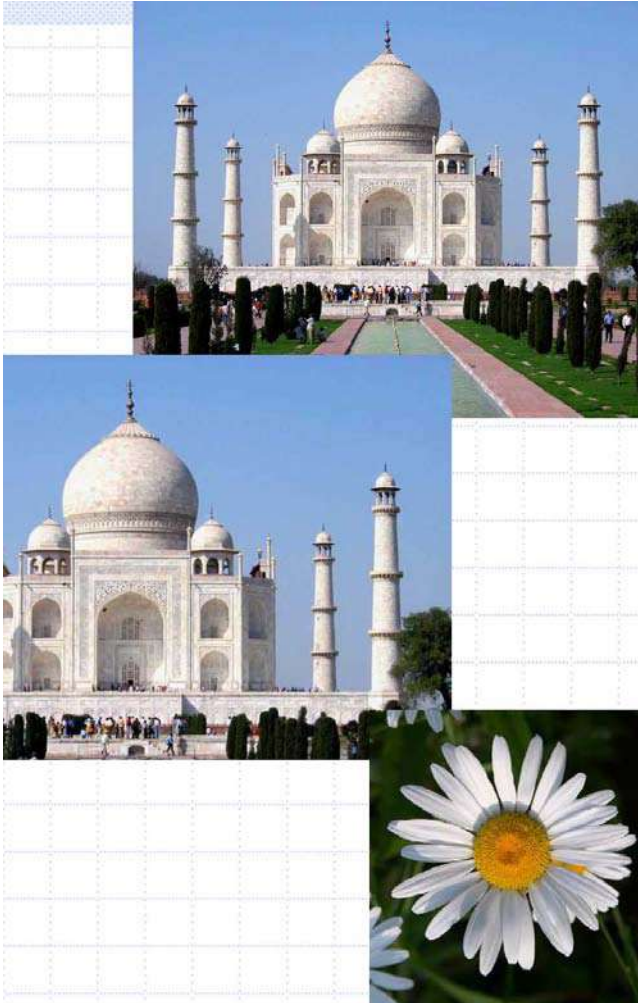


Paul Strand



Margaret Bourke-White

Balance



- The appearance of equal visual weight within a composition
- Symmetrical—Mirror-image composition, similar on either side
- Asymmetrical—still looks balanced by objects are not centered in the frame (Rule of Thirds)
- Radial—Circular style composition, all objects radiate from a central point

Proportion

- The relationship between the sizes of objects or components in an image
- Helps to indicate an object's size, distance, and location



Dorothea Lange

Repetition

- Repetition of elements helps to create a sense of rhythm or movement in a photograph



Tina Modotti

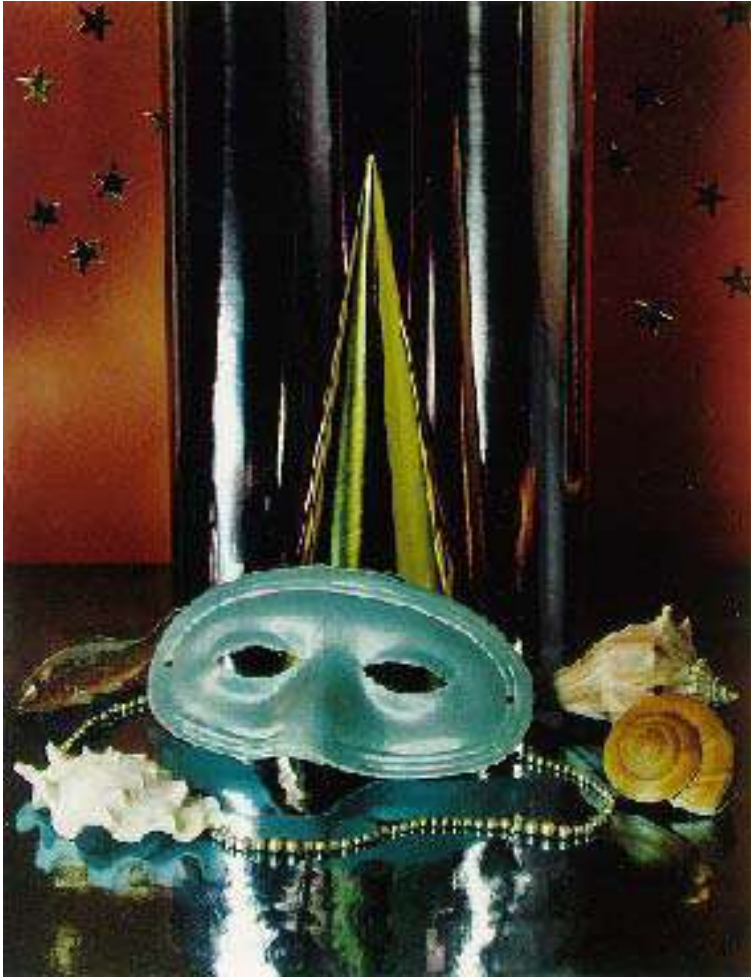
Contrast

- Creates a focal point by using differences in the elements



Harry Callahan

Variety



Paul Outerbridge

Variety is all the different elements in the photograph
Variety helps to add interest to the work and keeps the viewer's eyes moving around the piece

Movement and Rhythm



- In a photograph, movement is real or implied motion (think action photography)
- Movement can also refer to how a viewer's eye travels through a picture
- Rhythm can be created by the organized repetition of art elements or objects



Clarence John Laughlin

Emphasis

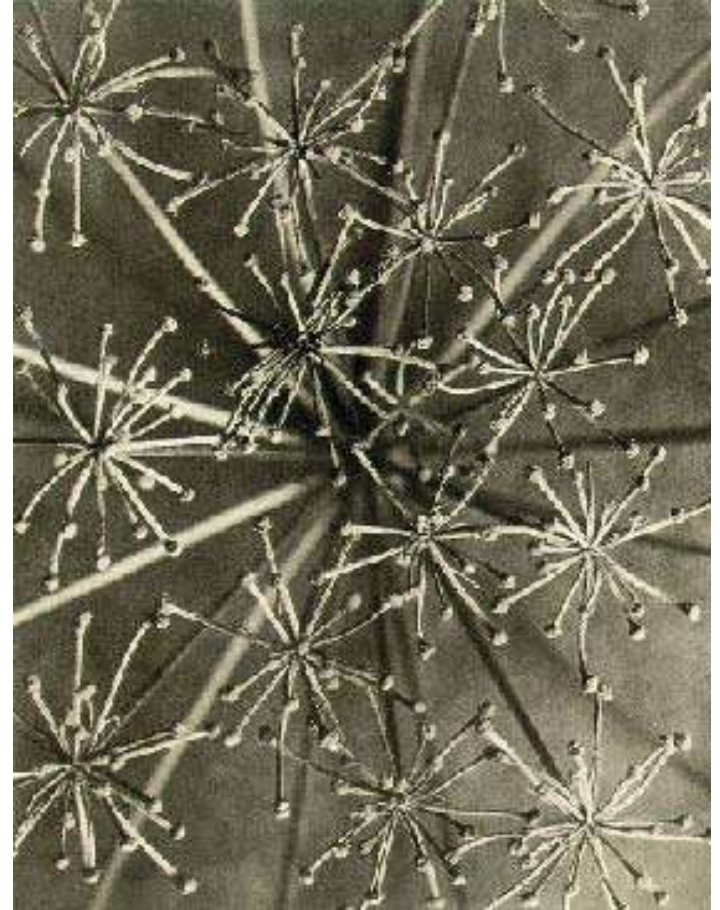


- Emphasis refers to the focal point of the work
- One of the most important decisions!

Jerry Uelsmann

Unity

- Unity occurs when all of the individual parts of the photograph come together and support each other to make one unified image
- Your goal when creating work!



Karl Blossfeldt