

# Shadows and Light



How photographers see the world

Make a list of  
things in this  
room



You probably didn't include shadows.

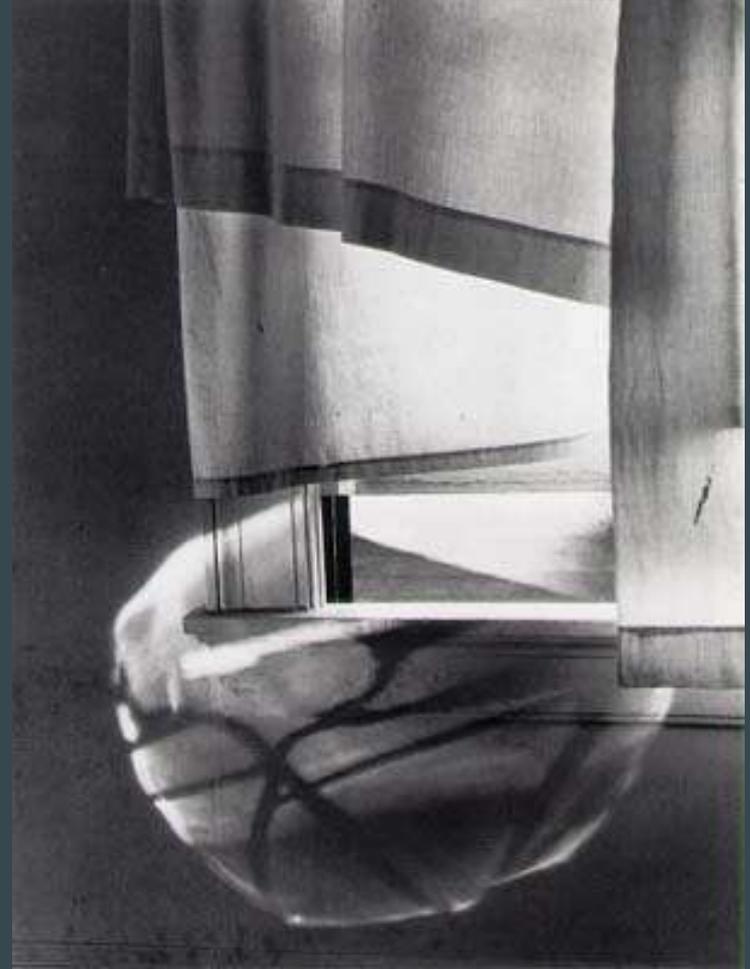
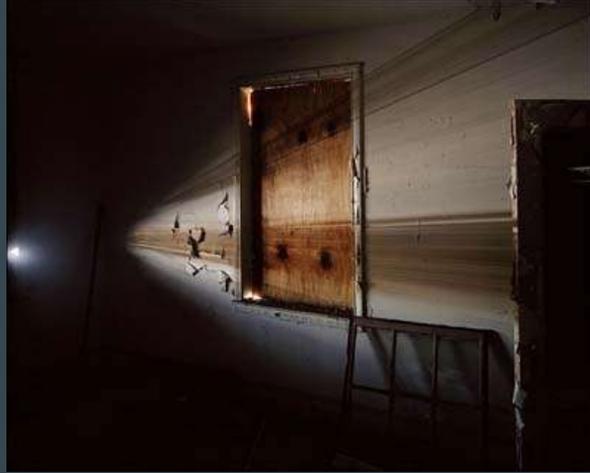
# Shadows can have VISUAL WEIGHT

Shadows can be as important or even more important than anything else in the photo.



# Light can also have VISUAL WEIGHT

Just like shadows,  
areas of pure light  
can be just as  
important as  
anything else in the  
photograph



Shadows can  
reference  
objects outside  
of the frame



or  
they can give  
us more  
information



# Light can show us TEXTURE

Light can define  
the edges,  
folds,  
and textures  
of objects.



# Light can define STRUCTURE

Light can define  
the edges,  
folds,  
and textures  
of objects.



# Light can show DETAILS

What does light tell  
us about what  
happened to this  
street?



# Light can create a FOCAL POINT

Light can draw  
attention to a certain  
part of the  
composition.



# BACKLIGHT

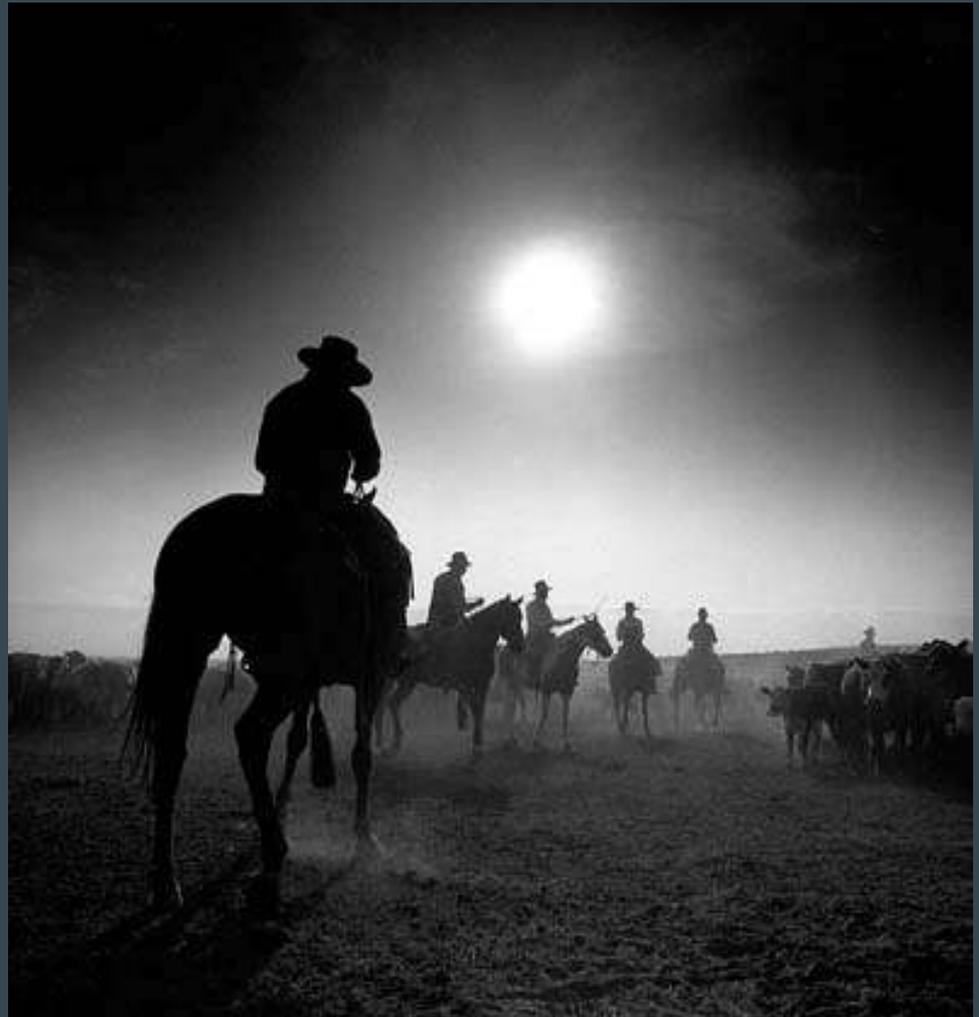
images can be  
dramatic

Sources of light  
behind objects  
can turn them  
into silhouettes.



# Use your LIGHT METER to create a silhouette

Point your camera at the light source behind your subject, and press the shutter button down halfway. Then focus and recompose if you want before you press the shutter button all the way down.



# Your Assignment

Take two photos where shadows are the **most** important thing.

Make sure the shadows are of something with an interesting shape. Avoid a lumpy or shapeless shadow. Do not use a flash for this assignment. The best light source to use is the sun.

I want to look at your photos and think to myself “Wow, that's a photo about shadows and light!”, not “that's a photo with a small shadow in the corner that is barely noticeable.”