

What makes a good  
photograph?

## Justin Mott

“I always teach my workshop students you want someone to feel something, some sort of an emotion when they look at your images. That could be curiosity, anger, sadness, happiness, etc. The most important element of a photo to me is it's ability to evoke emotion.”



## Tanveer Badal

“You have to really care about whatever you're shooting. I know it sounds like a cliché but when I first started taking photos, like most amateur photographers, I would shoot everything in sight. Flowers. Doorknobs. Nascar. It didn't matter that I didn't care about pretty flowers, doorknobs or cars going in circles, I just took photos of them because I thought that's what you're supposed to do when you're holding a big camera and something 'cool' is in front of you.



## Jon Reid

“After spending 10 years hung up in the technicalities of photography, I’ve come to appreciate that a good photograph is one that causes some sort of emotional response. We’re bombarded with so much imagery that our most common response to photography is indifference. If an image surprises me through an unusual view, wows me through its sheer beauty or makes me angry by showing injustice, it is a good photograph. It could be technically terrible, poorly composed and horribly exposed, but if it causes an emotional response, it will be memorable and therefore successful.”



## David Lazar

“I think there are many important aspects to make a good photograph but the most important would have to be: interesting and engaging subject matter. Even if certain technical aspects are not well executed such as focus and composition, there can still be a reason for finding the photo meaningful. Ideally, engaging subject matter, lighting, composition and a sharp focal point are the most important aspects, collaboratively.



# LIGHT

- Lighting is a huge aspect in taking a successful photograph
- Is the photo overexposed? How is the contrast of highlights and shadows?
- Does the lighting effectively emphasize what is important or what you want the viewer to focus on?



# COMPOSITION

- The overall layout of the photograph
- Viewpoint, perspective, cropping and framing of the subject
- How can you create the most intriguing composition to attract the viewer's eye?
- How many ways can you shoot one scene/ object/ subject matter?
- How can you change the composition to improve the photograph?

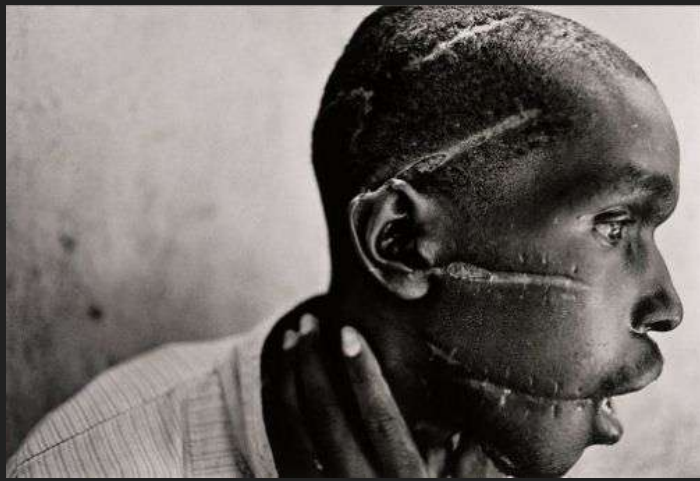




# EMOTION/ TELLS A STORY

- A good photograph allows the viewer to feel some kind of emotion
  - Anger, sadness, curiosity, happiness, excitement, etc.
- Makes the viewer want to know more
- Tells a story, or allows the viewer to create their own story







Keep these things in mind when taking your photos!

