

*“Albuquerque’s Art Scene and
A Few Tips on Composition”*

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Corrales, NM
February 9, 2021*



Ken's Background...



- Photography began in 1968

- Was staff photographer for 3 Detroit area newspapers; weddings, professional portfolios.

- Pursued career in public education, retired photography as avocation; maintained website



- Selected as logo of 25th anniversary of the Bosque, Bosque del Apache NWR



- Advanced Wildlife Photography Workshop at Bosque del Apache NWR



- Greater ABQ – 575,000 population, high desert, 5,000 el.
- Early Spanish Colony, settlement began in 1598
- 6 Native American Pueblos within 45 minutes
- Annual Hot Air Balloon Fiesta with 600+ balloons
- Rio Grande River Valley – extensive Bosque
- Sandia mountains are nearby with 10,500' crest overlooking ABQ
- ABQ, East Side, Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas
- America's nuclear and bomb making playground
- Federal \$\$\$\$

Enchanted Lens Camera Club

- 350 members, skills from beginning to nationally/internationally known and awarded photographers
- Unique membership– foundation of sharing and support
- Two meetings each month, now via Zoom
 - First meeting – speaker
 - Second meeting – exhibition (topic driven with open category each month)
- Monthly Marauder Field Trips, now visits made individually over two week period with follow up zoom session to share photos and experience
- Monthly Casual Critique; group trips will resume when possible
- Two shows annually – Annual NM Photographic Arts Show & Shades of Gray. Each show usually has 250 prints on display from 125 NM photographers
- Members can post photos on Flickr group gallery
- Forum maintained for exchange of ideas/questions/sales, daily news/info

The Art of Photography

*Photography
is an art.*

It's like wine.

*Individual tastes differ
as with most art*



What makes a photograph attractive for one person may not be the same for others.

The Search for the Perfect Image

It all starts by getting the photograph...

- *75% is being there*
- *20% is managing the technical aspects*
- *5% is luck*



ELCC exhibition guidelines emphasize

- *originality*
- *creativity*
- *composition*
- *technical quality, and*
- *impact*

Let's take a brief look at composition and its powerful impact of photos

Composition is described in many ways

Elements of composition include:

*patterns, texture, symmetry, asymmetry,
depth of field, lines, curves, frames,
viewpoint, depth, negative space, filled space,
foreground, background, visual tension, shapes.*



Consciously
incorporating
composition
guidelines
help to:



- Present more compelling photographs
- *Emphasize natural balance*
- Draw attention to the important parts of the image
- *Lead the viewer's eye through the image, and*
- Understand why some photos "work" while others feel like snapshots.



Certain points in a photo's composition naturally attract attention.

Similarly, natural or man-made objects/scenes with *certain proportions* universally please viewers.

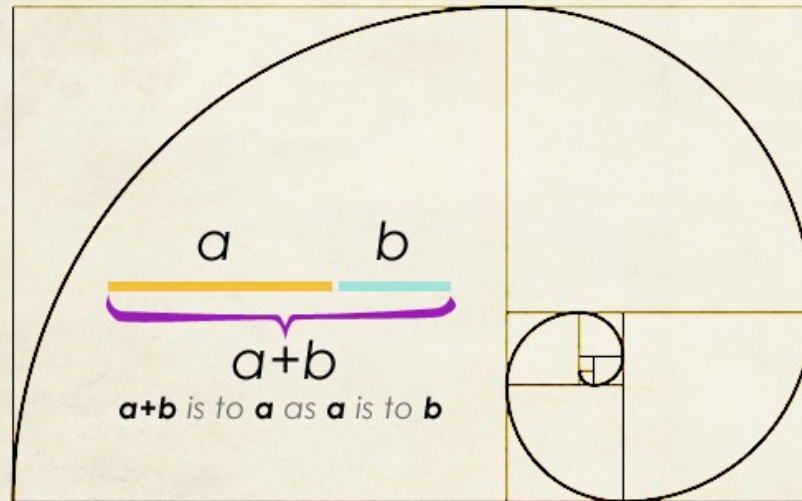
1. Golden Proportions



Golden proportions can be found in nature and in man-made structures.

Whether we've been genetically programmed to like them or we find them

-The Golden Ratio-



The ratio for length to width of rectangles of 1.61 has been considered the most pleasing to the eye.

This relationship was named the golden ratio by the Greeks.

How do standard photographic proportions satisfy the golden ratio...?

35 x 24 mm slide	1.5
4" x 6"	1.5
5" x 7"	1.4
8" x 10"	1.25
11" x 14"	1.3
12" x 18"	1.5
13" x 19"	1.5
Nikon FX sensor 23.9 x 36 mm	1.5
Nikon DX sensor 15.9 x 23.7 mm	1.5
Canon 35mm full frame 36 x 24 mm	1.5



1.3



1.5



1.6



And from Ansel Adams...

"There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs."

Your intuition and judgment matters.

2. Rule of Thirds

Imagine your image divided into 9 equal segments by 2 vertical and 2 horizontal lines.

The rule of thirds says you should position the most important elements in your scene along these lines, and/or at the points where they intersect.



This works because the human eye is naturally drawn to a point about two-thirds up a page. Consider locating your subjects around one of the intersection points rather than in the center of the image. Doing so adds balance and interest to photos.

Some cameras offer an option to superimpose a rule of thirds grid over the LCD screen.





3. *Leading Lines*

When we look at a photo, our eye is naturally drawn

along lines. By

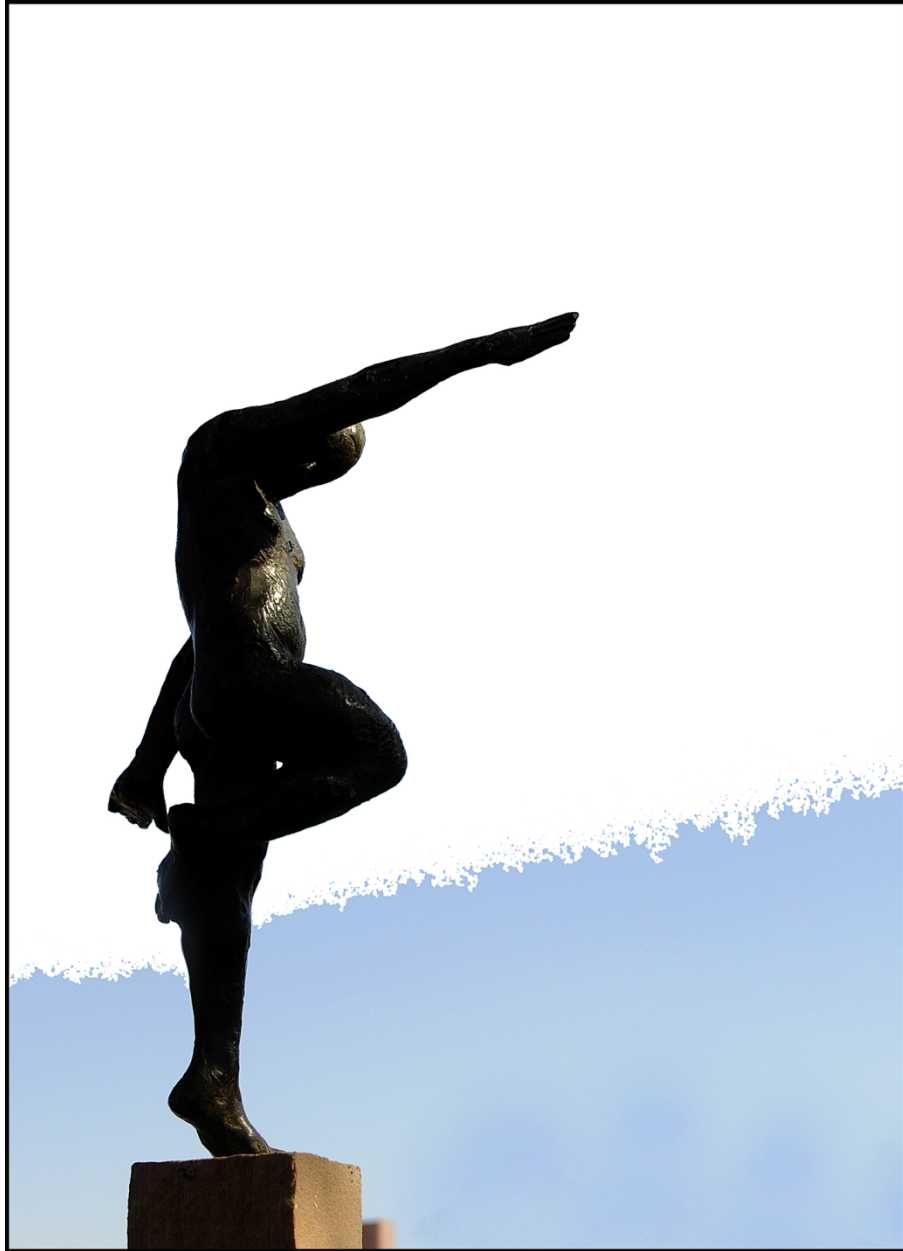
thinking about how

you place lines in

your composition, you can affect the way we view the image, pulling us into the picture, towards the subject, or on a journey "through" the





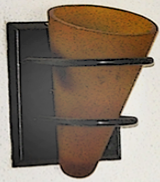




4. Balancing Elements



Placing your main subject off-center, as with the rule of thirds, creates a more interesting photo, but it can leave a void in the scene which can make it feel empty. Consider balancing the "weight" of your subject by including another object of lesser size/mass to fill the space.



5. Rule of Odds

Items grouped together in odds (3 strawberries rather than 2) can provide an image that's more interesting and easier to focus on as the middle element is automatically framed by those that surround it.







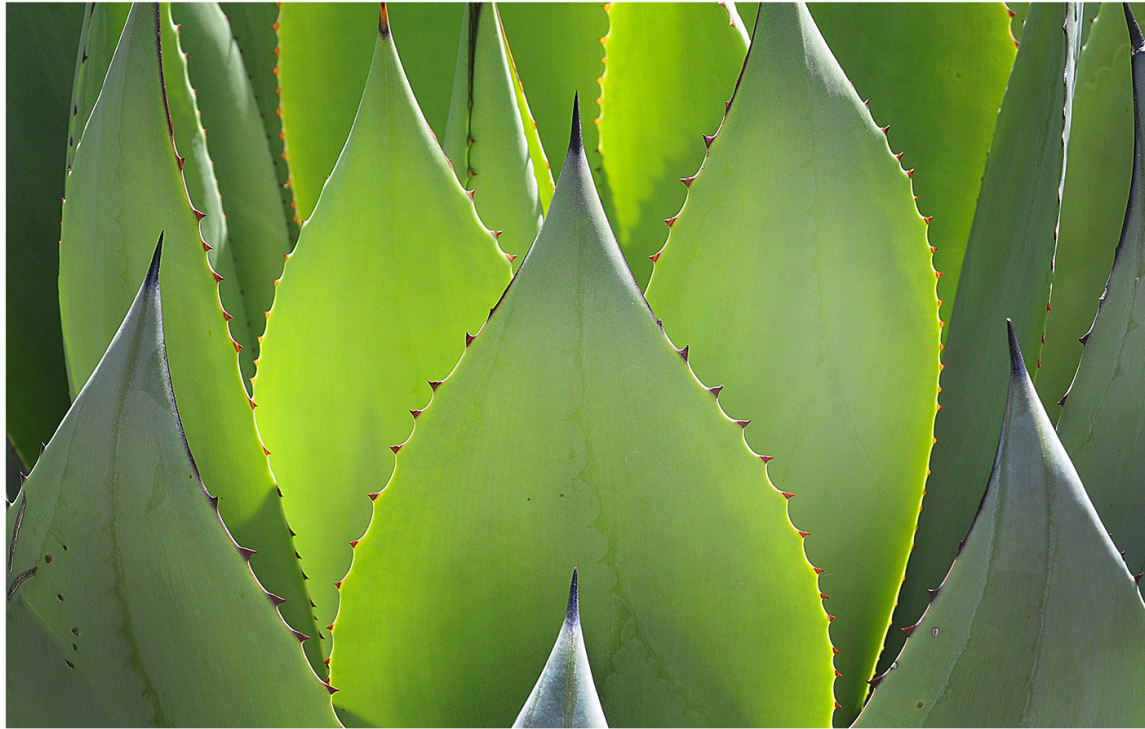


6. Symmetry and Patterns

We are surrounded by symmetry and patterns, both natural.

They can make for very eye-catching compositions, particularly in situations where they are not expected





7. Viewpoint



Consider your point of view. It has a huge impact on the composition.

In addition to shooting from eye level, consider shooting from high above, down at ground level, from

8. Background



Ever take what you thought would be a great shot, only to find that the final image lacks impact because the background competes (i.e., hotspots, clutter, distractions) with the subject or causes the subject blends into the background?



Sometimes post processing can help.



9. Add Depth

Because photography is a two-dimensional medium, Using leading lines can help to convey the sense of depth that was present in the actual scene.





10. Framing



The world is full of objects which make perfect natural



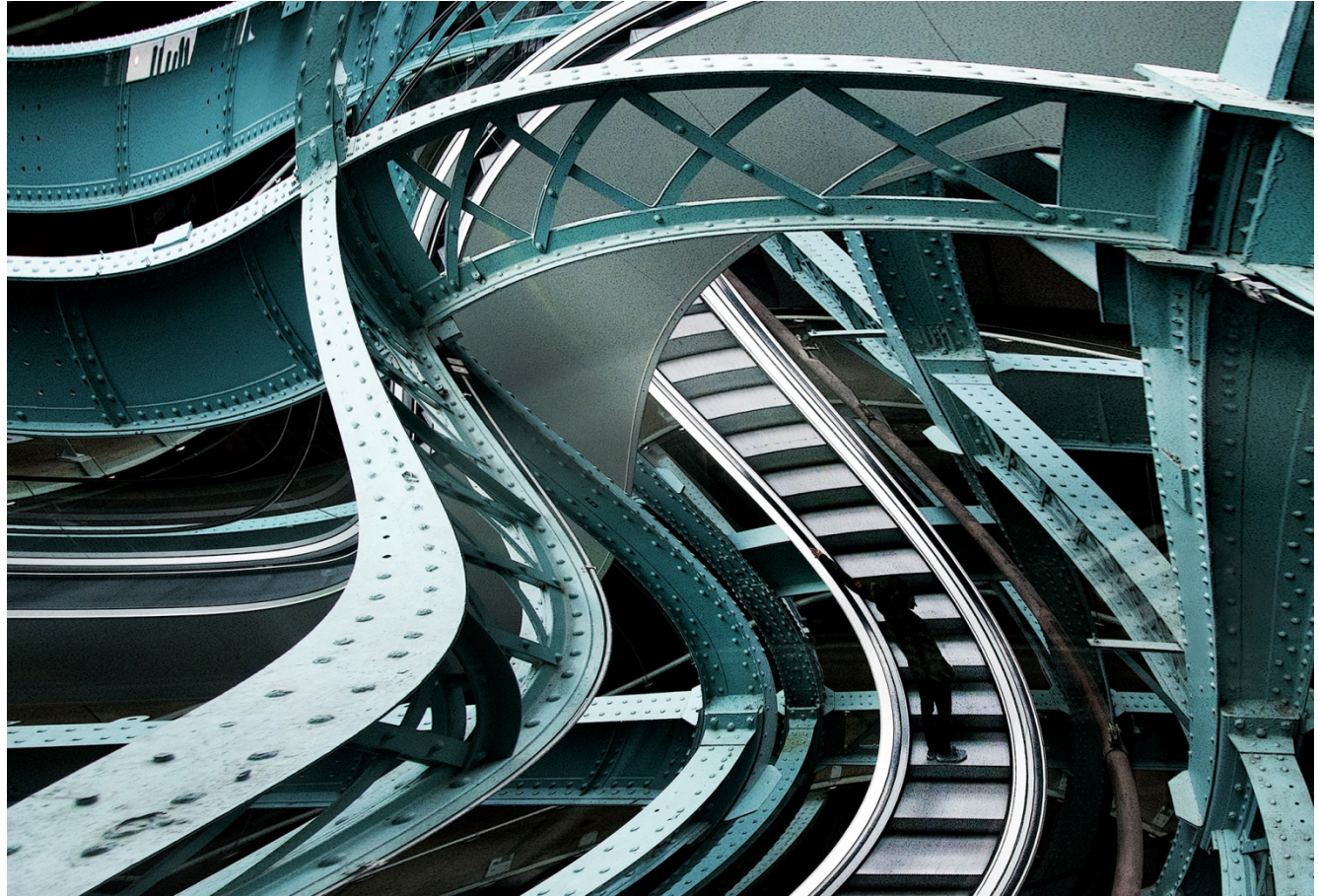


11. Cropping

A photo can lack impact because the main subject is badly placed in the image, or is so

blurred that it is difficult to see the details of it.





Experiment

Play

Have fun

In our digital age, we no longer have to worry about film processing costs or running out of film. As a result, experimenting with composition is a real

• So, when taking a
photog
proces
image,



- *Your thoughts...*



New Mexican Appetizer