

How to take better photos with any camera

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Introduction

Who I am

Arnout Boelens

Researcher

Applied Math & Fluid Mechanics

Photography is a big hobby of mine

Interests

- Travel
- Landscape
- Cityscape

What are your interests?

Introduction

Different aspects of photography

Technique

- Shutter speed
- Aperture
- ISO

Light

- Golden hour
- Blue hour
- Hard light
- Soft light
- Shade/Clouds

Composition

- What is my subject?
- Rule of thirds
- Diagonals
- Breaking the rules

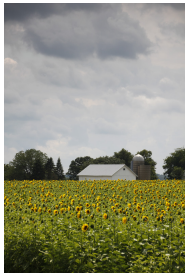
Post-processing

- Photoshop
- Lightroom
- Darktable
- Digikam
- Gimp

Suggestions, not rules

My subject

Why am I taking this photo?



What do you see in this photo series?

My subject

What is the essence of my photo?



What is your story?

My subject

What is the essence of my photo?



What is your story?

My subject

What is my perspective?



What is the relation between these photos?

My subject

Can be abstract

Pattern



Juxtaposition



Composition

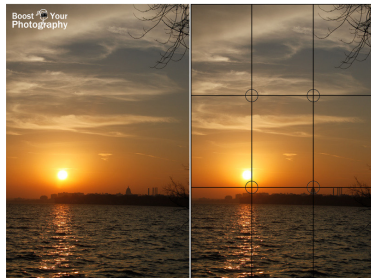
How do I position my subject in the frame?



How did the composition change?

Composition

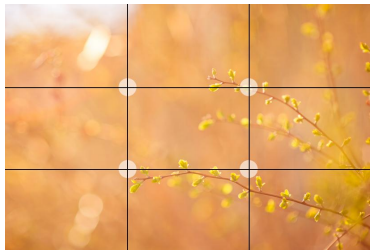
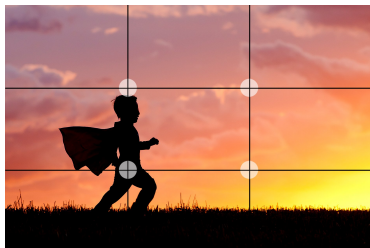
“Rule” of Thirds



How did the composition change?

Composition

More examples of the "Rule" of Thirds



Composition

Different geometrical “rules”

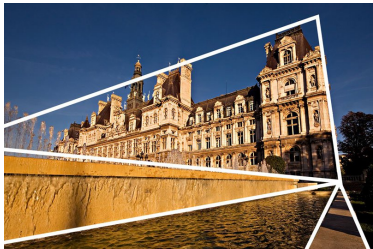


What “rules” are used in these photos?

Composition

Different geometrical “rules”

Triangles



Dynamic tension

Golden ratio

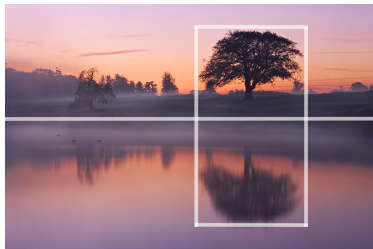


Fibonacci Spiral

What “rules” are used in these photos?

Composition

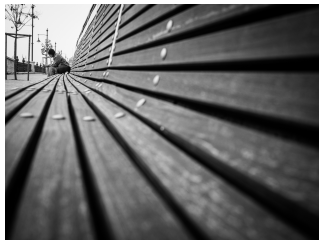
Symmetry: breaking the “rules”



Why do these photos work?

Composition

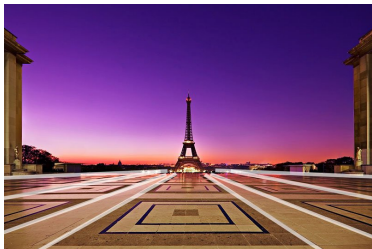
How to draw attention to your subject?



How do your eyes get to the subject?

Composition

Leading lines



Leading lines do not have to be straight

Light

Golden Hour



What differences in the lighting do you see?

Light

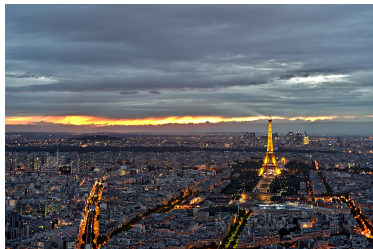
More examples of the Golden Hour



One hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset.

Light

Blue Hour



One hour after sunset

Light

Hard and Soft Light

Soft



Hard

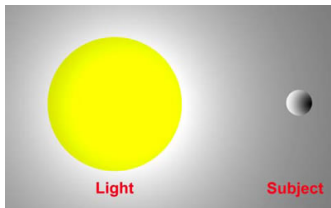


What is the difference in lighting?

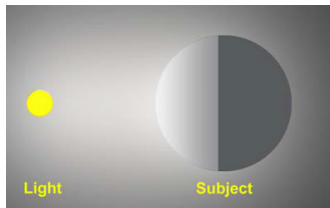
Light

What is the relative size of your light?

Soft



Hard

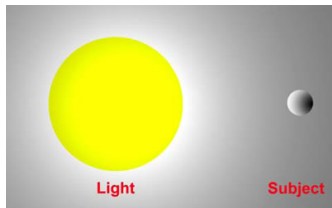


Do you know examples?

Light

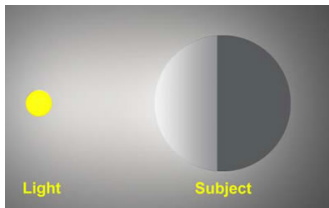
What is the relative size of your light?

Soft



- Overcast day
- Golden Hour
- Shade
- Sunlight through white curtain

Hard



- Sunny day
- Direct flash
- Spotlight
- Bare light bulb

Do you know examples?

Light

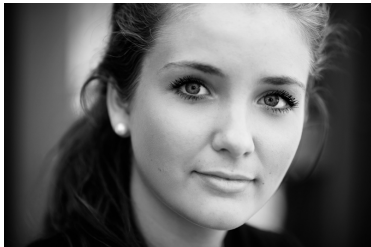
Portraits in shade and on overcast days

Bright day



Shade

Overcast day



Natural soft light

Soft light is generally considered flattering

Light

Shadows: breaking the “rules”



What is the effect of using harsh shadows?

Conclusions

Combine the “rules”



Which “rules” were used here?

Conclusions

Go out and practice!

Summary

- What is your subject?
- Composition
 - Rule of thirds
 - Leading lines
- Light
 - Golden Hour
 - Hard and soft light

How to get better?

- Pick one theme and go out and practice!

References

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- www.chicago-l.org
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