

THE COMPOSITION HIERARCHY

Composition can make or break your photograph, painting, drawing, etc. Here is what makes up a great composition.

by Dan Scott, www.danscottfineart.com

1 FOCAL POINT

What is the point of interest in your composition? Don't leave your viewer wanting and lost.

2 SIMPLIFICATION

Too much going on? Simplify it. Compositions with clutter can make it difficult to identify the focal point.

3 RULE OF ODDS

An odd number of elements can be perceived as being more natural than an even number of elements.

4 RULE OF THIRDS

Separate your composition into thirds both ways. Your focal point should be at one of the intersections. Also, each of the segments should be different.

5 CREATE MOVEMENT

A stagnant composition is boring. Create movement in your composition and use it to guide your viewer's eye around the composition.

6 DON'T CUT IN TWO

Avoid bisecting your composition, for example with the horizon.

7 PEOPLE LIKE TRIANGLES

Triangular compositions are thought to be aesthetically pleasing. This is similar to the Rule of Odds.