GUIDES TO 'PROPER' PHOTOGRPAHY

COMPOSITION

Here is a super 12 minute video explaining how to get a great composition:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUg33pNa5zE
Here is an alternative written guide: **https://antongorlin.com/blog/photography-composition-definitive-guide/**

Introduction

The composition of an image is the most important part of taking an image. An effective composition is one that has impact, conveys a 'story' and makes clear to the viewer what it is you wanted to share.

Here are some tips of good composition

- First think about why you are taking the image – what is it about the scene that has motivated you to want to record it? How then can the composition convey that reason best?
    - Consider your own position – should you be lower or higher, closer or further away – experiment.
- Having created a composition that conveys your message, check that there are no distractions that could interfere with the primary point of focus:
    - Where is the light? – bright or dark spots away from the point of focus can pull the viewers eye away from your point of focus.
    - Are there things in the background that distract – try to move to avoid them or remember that you'll need to remove them in post processing
- Think about the so called 'rules' of photography – having the point of focus on a 1/3 position is often but not always effective. These rules are not rules, but the result of research into how we as humans read an image – we read left to right, we like triangles, we don't like distractions, we like balance – so think about all these things before taking a shot – and then take another and another of the same scene from different angles, light and settings. If the shot is worth taking, you may as well spend some time to give you choices.
- In most photography (especially Landscapes) it is nearly always best to have two things: A Point of focus and a 'Leading Line'. Leading lines can be created by objects, light, natural lines and other artifacts. Look for them in your composition and include them where possible.
- The youtube video above suggests using a phone camera to help you see the scene in 3D and thus check angles and distractions – great idea.
- Keep an image simple – wherever possible seek to simplify – simple images typically are easier for the viewer to understand because they are focussed, have few distractions and are easy on the eye. Simplification includes:
    - Fewer colours
    - Fewer items in shot
    - Filling the frame only with the subject

Examples of Good Composition



This image demonstrates simplicity and tells the story of the effect of mist in morning sunlight as it lights a field in springtime. The tree is on the 1/3rd; the undulating ground provides foreground interest and leading lines, the mist gives ambience and shades of green are the main colours, complementing the simplicity.



In this portrait image we are enjoying the intimacy of man & woman together in their own colourful space. However the colour is controlled to be primarily. strong red and green. Their hands form a complementary line, the light shines from the side, making their faces the PoF whilst the smoking cigarette provides balance