

# How To Work A Subject

Combining Technique, Equipment and design principles to create striking photographs.

Gert Wallis

wallisphotography at gmail.com

## Technique

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- Technique refers to the choices a photographer makes in regards to his equipment
- To create and capture great images a photographer must spend a certain amount of time acquiring know-how and keeping up with technique.
- Working a single subject is a skill sharpening exercise, explore and be unconventional in your approach and don't worry about failures. Reflect seriously on your work and ask for critiques.

## Focal Length

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**Wide angle:** Diminishes scale.

**Telephoto:** Increases the sense of size and flattens the perspective.

## Aperture

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**Small (f2.8)** Shallow depth of field.

**Big (f16+)** Wide depth of field, more is in focus but introduces softness (not as sharp).

## Exposure

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**Time:** Short exposure (1/250) freezes action, long exposure blurry.

## Digital Effects

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Deliberate removal of color.

**White Balance:** In Camera

**Panorama:** Keep all settings on manual, Exposure, Focal Length, White Balance.

**Panograph:**

White Background

50 % Transparency

No Manipulation

## Composition

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**Unequal Spaces:** Avoid dead center for single image. You have to select the most important element and place them in order of importance.

**Horizon:** Avoid the middle ground and position the horizon well above or below the center of the image.

**Intentional Empty Space:** A large portion of unsuccessful images are due to the inclusion of too much detail that distracts from the primary subject.

**Intentional Obstruction:**

**Avoid Bad Tangents:** When primary elements in a picture (barely) touch.

**Unify:** Avoid a vantage point that portrays an image as scattered objects. Search for a viewpoint that gives a feeling of unity.

**Symmetry:** Provides a sense of compositional well being to an image.

**Pattern:** Pattern is created when a distinctive shape is repeated several times inside an image.

## Color

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**Artificial Light:**

**Color Contrast:** Color wheel opposites.

**Color Harmony:** When colors from a similar area of the spectrum dominate the image.

## Texture

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Anything that densely fills part or the entire image.

**Harmoniously organized**

**Harmoniously disorganized**

**Purely Chaotic**

## 3. GEOMETRIC SHAPES

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**Triangles**

**Circles**

**Lines:** Create an eye path

**Curves**

## Point of View

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**Framing:** Surrounding main compositional element with other compositional elements.

**Perspective:** Similar sized object diminishing in size.

**Planes:** Break picture into different planes with foreground, middle and background.

**Reflections:** Go beyond the obvious.

**Macro:**

## Environment

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**Light:** Color of light changes during the day. Cold (Blue) before dawn and warm (Red) during sunsets.

**Weather:** Severe weather can create dramatic lighting.

**Time of Day:**

## Conclusion

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If you want to create images that are creative and with expression, they need a quality that sets them apart from the rest of the crowd. That does not mean everybody will like them.

Analyze why you are drawn to a particular composition and picture.

- Lucky to be born with a good eye. We have to develop it with study, practice and learn how great artists compose their images.
- You have to develop your own library of images you like and dislike.
- You have to expand your awareness of effective composition with every photo you take.
- Effective composition streamlines the delivery of a photos visual and thematic message.

Style needs to be developed – initially it is experimental then it becomes second nature. Pick out the elements that you feel work for you and build on that and your own style will develop.