

Composition beyond the thirds



Introduction

There are more than a hundred compositional devices we can draw upon as photographers, but we're often stuck in a rut with the rule of thirds, perhaps because it's built into the camera.

Objective

To introduce a variety of compositional approaches so that one can 'read' an image then go on to create one using different techniques.

Format

An interactive presentation of about 35 minutes to introduce nine techniques for composition (in three categories).

Then, split into small syndicates of four or five people, who review the compositions using five images (supplied) per team. Take notes to distinguish among the aspects of technical, composition, and impact (handouts provided).

After short while, the pack of images are passed to the next group and each group receives a new pack of images from the previous group. Each group sees about thirty images in total.

Finally, an end of session review to note the new composition techniques used in the images.

Outcomes

Club members discover new composition techniques and gain the ability to read an image. Typically 30 to 90 composition devices are found.

The small-group working means that members have the chance to speak with each other throughout the evening.

Expenses

- ◆ The standard PAGB formula for travel.
- ◆ £10 contribution towards consumables and handouts.