

Composition

We live in a 3 dimensional world. Add time and we have 4 dimensions.
Go beyond 4 dimensions and we find ourselves competing with Professor Stephen Hawking.
But, our photographs have many more dimensions than that.

Pattern

Symmetry

Texture

Depth of field

Framing

Perspective

White space

Balance

Colour

Let's look at them individually and check out some examples.

Pattern

Using the patterns that surround us as an element in our composition can give quite startling photographs. Broken patterns can also add to the excitement of a shot.

Symmetry

Symmetry can be somewhat predictable at times, so it's use should be combined with one or more elements of composition. Most symmetrical images tend to have a focal point, so using this point of interest rather than just the symmetry can give an interesting result. The use of asymmetry can also have dramatic effects.

Texture

Using texture can add another dimension to our photographs. What might have appeared as a two dimensional subject can suddenly spring out of the photograph as a three dimensional image, especially when we use lighting to good effect.

Depth of Field

Using depth of field, or varying focus in our image, can isolate the subject from its background or foreground. By varying the aperture we use when taking our photograph we can introduce the effects of depth of field. Sometimes we might want to have the entire photograph in focus. We use our control over depth of field to get this effect and anything in between.

Lines

Lines have the power to draw our eye to the point of interest in the photograph and increase its impact.

Framing

As artists, frames come naturally to our vision of picture and photographs. We can frame our subject as a means of emphasizing our subject in our image and give the image a feeling of depth.

Perspective

The angle at which you take your photograph from can have a very dramatic effect. Overlooking the subject or viewing it from below or an exaggerated side angle adds to the impact. Sometimes what is omitted can be as effective as what is included. For example, a portrait taken from behind can sometimes tell us much more about the character being captured than a straightforward front- on image.

White space

Using the space within our photograph can add a greater sense of familiarity to our subject, giving it space to express itself. Again, it's sometimes what you leave out that is just as important as what you include in the final image.

Balance

The positioning of the elements of our composition can have a huge effect on our perception of the image. Sometimes an out of balance image will create a sense of unease in the viewer, something that is intangible or difficult to express in words. It's just a feeling. Too much clutter leaves us feeling uneasy, so, balancing the elements can add to the feeling of contentment and harmony.

Colour

Since we mostly all take colour photographs, colour can be a deciding factor in what our image conveys. Vibrancy, vigour and power can be expressed using colours. Mood can be affected. Greens and blues calm whereas reds oranges and yellows add feelings, which make the image more vibrant.