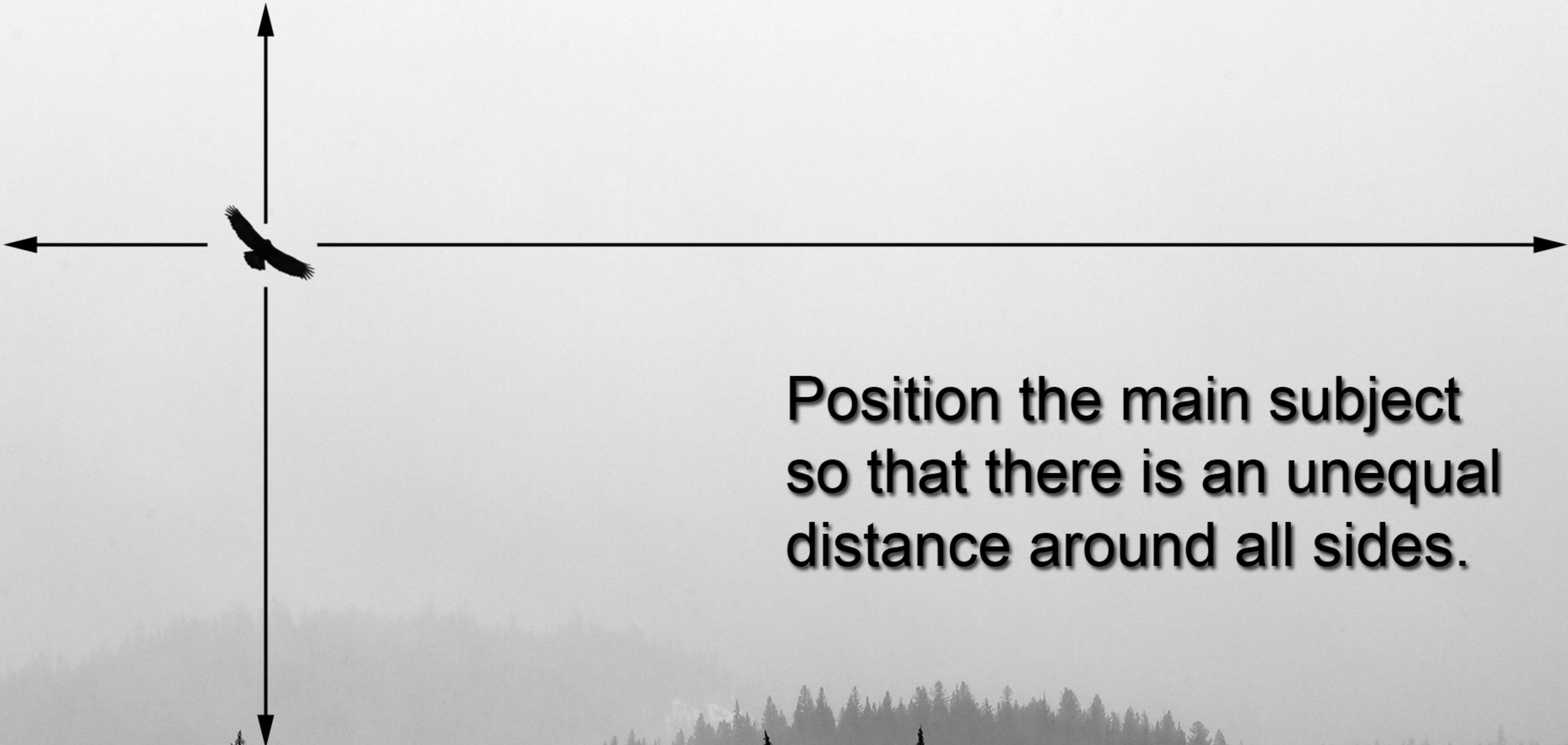


*Composition and the Elements
of Design*





**Position the main subject
so that there is an unequal
distance around all sides.**



Composition refers to the placement of elements in a photograph (artwork).

Good composition is one where the elements in the picture provide unity - a sense of belonging and each element supports the main subject.

Try to organize the elements of a pictures so the picture is seen as a whole.

How to achieve Unity or a Sense of Belonging?

1. Through dominance and subordination.
2. Dominance can be achieved by differences in size, color, location, focal point, convergence and the use of light.
3. A photographer tries to control the amount of attention an element receives and the sequence in which the elements are observed.





Dominance through size, position and focal point.



Dominance by size and colour



Dominance through color & position



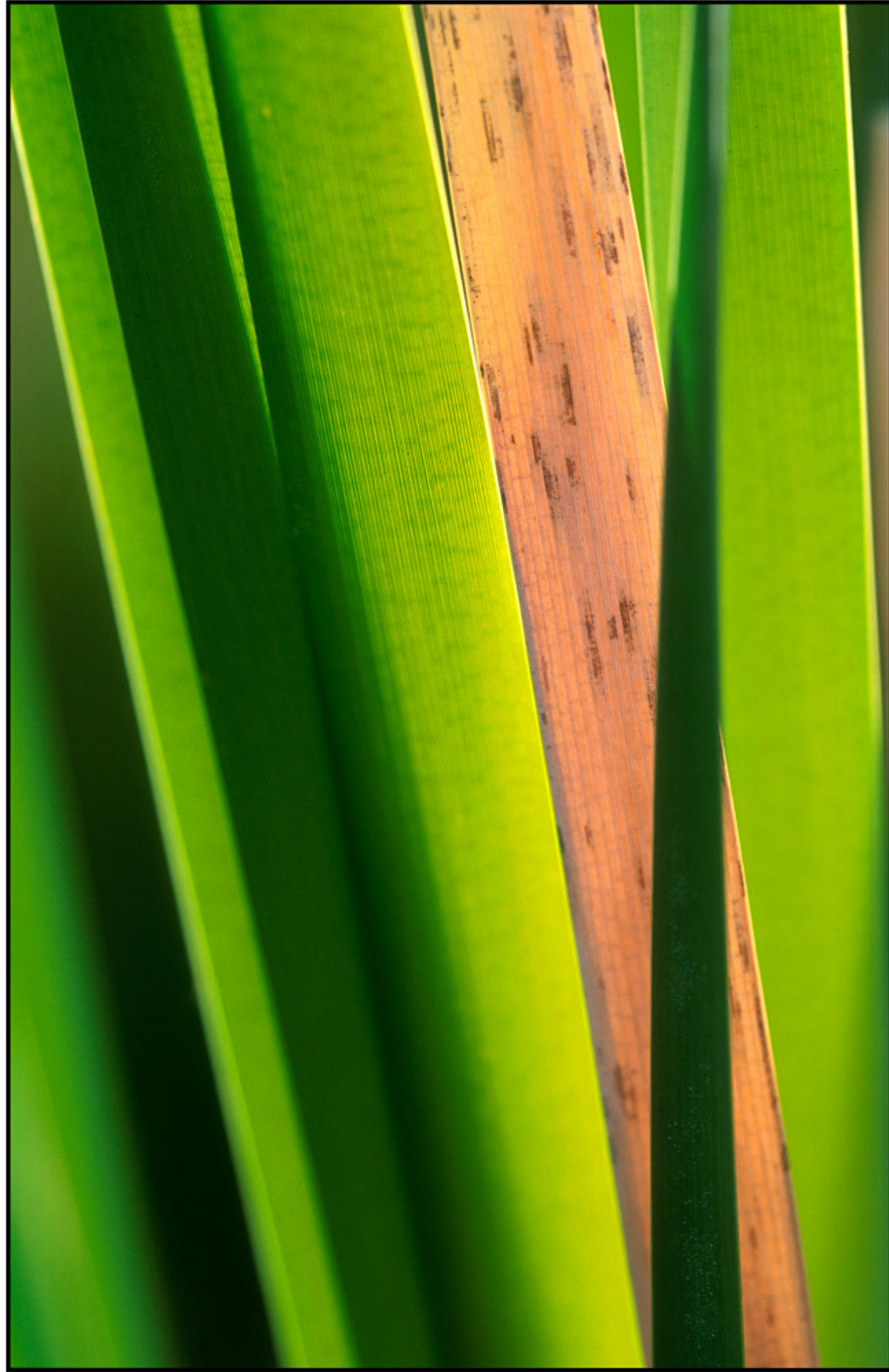
Dominance through color & light







Convergence



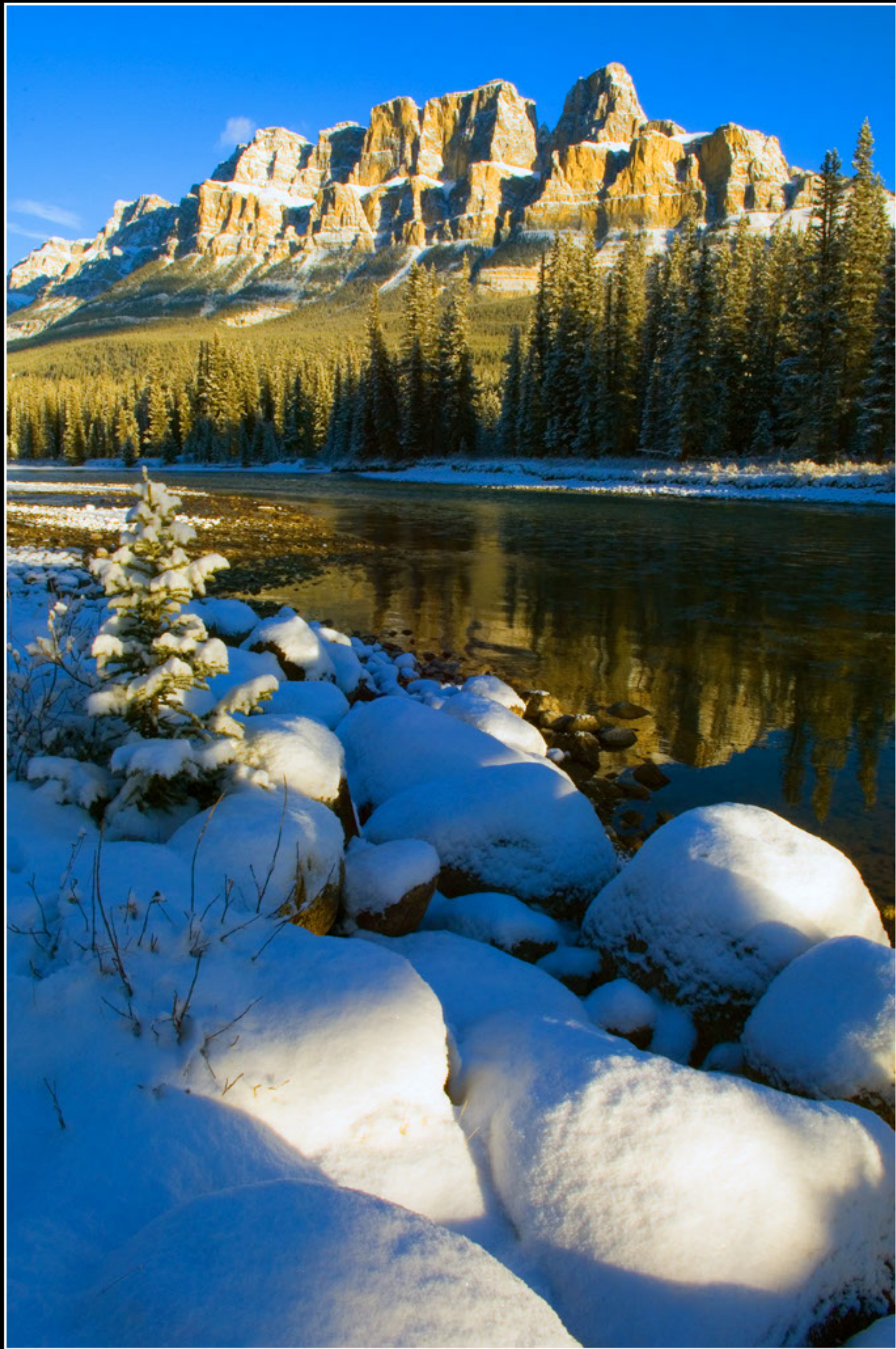
Dominance through difference

Find a subject where all the elements are similar except for one.

Examples: one colored leaf or tree against a background of uniform colored trees. This type of image symbolizes - uniqueness, being different, standing out in a crowd.

Effective Landscapes

1. Determine first whether you want to shoot vertical or horizontal.
2. Decide where to place the horizon - do you want to emphasize the foreground or the sky?
3. Do you have a focal point or center of interest and think about where you will place it - remember an unequal distance from all sides of the frame is usually the best.
4. What type of light do you have - do you need a filter?











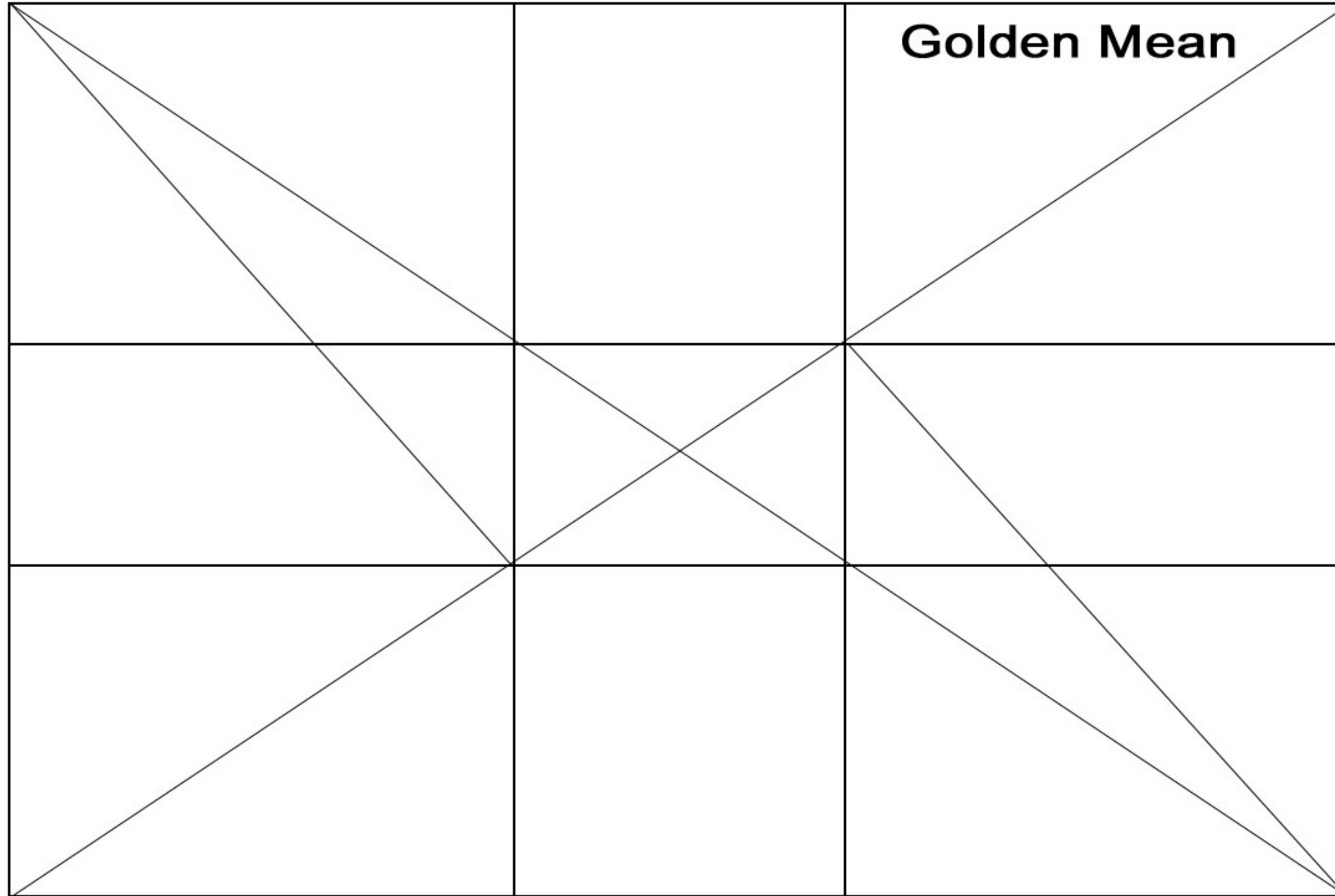


Visual Guidelines for Effective Photos

1. Rule of thirds
2. Golden Mean
3. Positive\Negative Space
4. Line, Shape, Form, Colour, Rhythm
5. Chaos vs Simplicity

		Rule of Thirds

Position elements of interest near the vertices and the horizon near one of the horizontal lines. The objective is to provide some asymmetry in your composition.



Golden mean is derived from the number series: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34 i.e. the sum of the two preceding numbers. The ratio formed is 1:1.618. This number forms a proportion which some people respond to. It is also commonly found in biology and has been used by some painters. Like the rule of thirds you position elements of interest at the vertices or along horizontal and vertical lines.





Negative Space includes the sky and area where there are no objects.

Positive Space is occupied by solid objects as the owl and grain elevator. ↘

A balance between the amount of positive and negative space depends on the size, color and shape of the main subject.



Negative Space in White

Positive Space Black





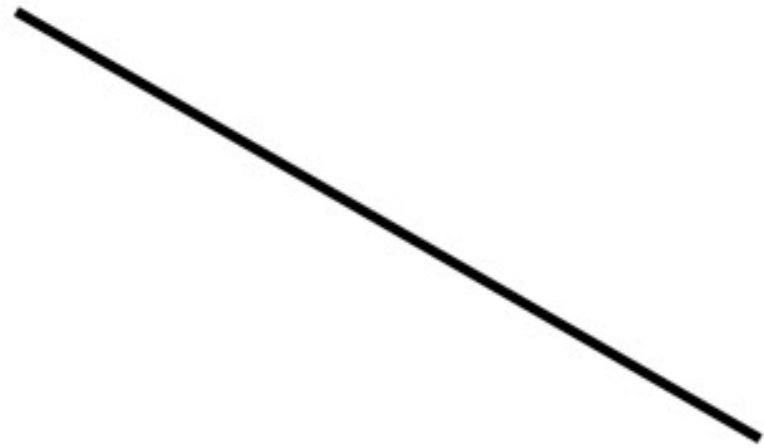
Lines



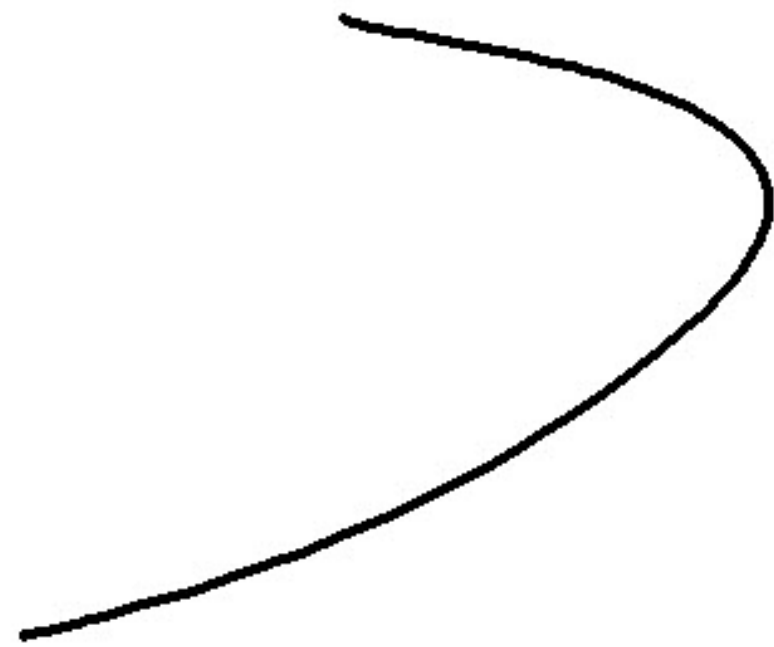
Horizontal line: implies at rest, peaceful, tranquility



Vertical line: implies strength, power, support



Angled line: implies movement, transition, instability



Curved line: quite, calm, sensuous

Look for lines when you compose your pictures and think about what type of feeling you want to convey in your pictures.













Rhythm - repeated elements -
works best if there is variation.



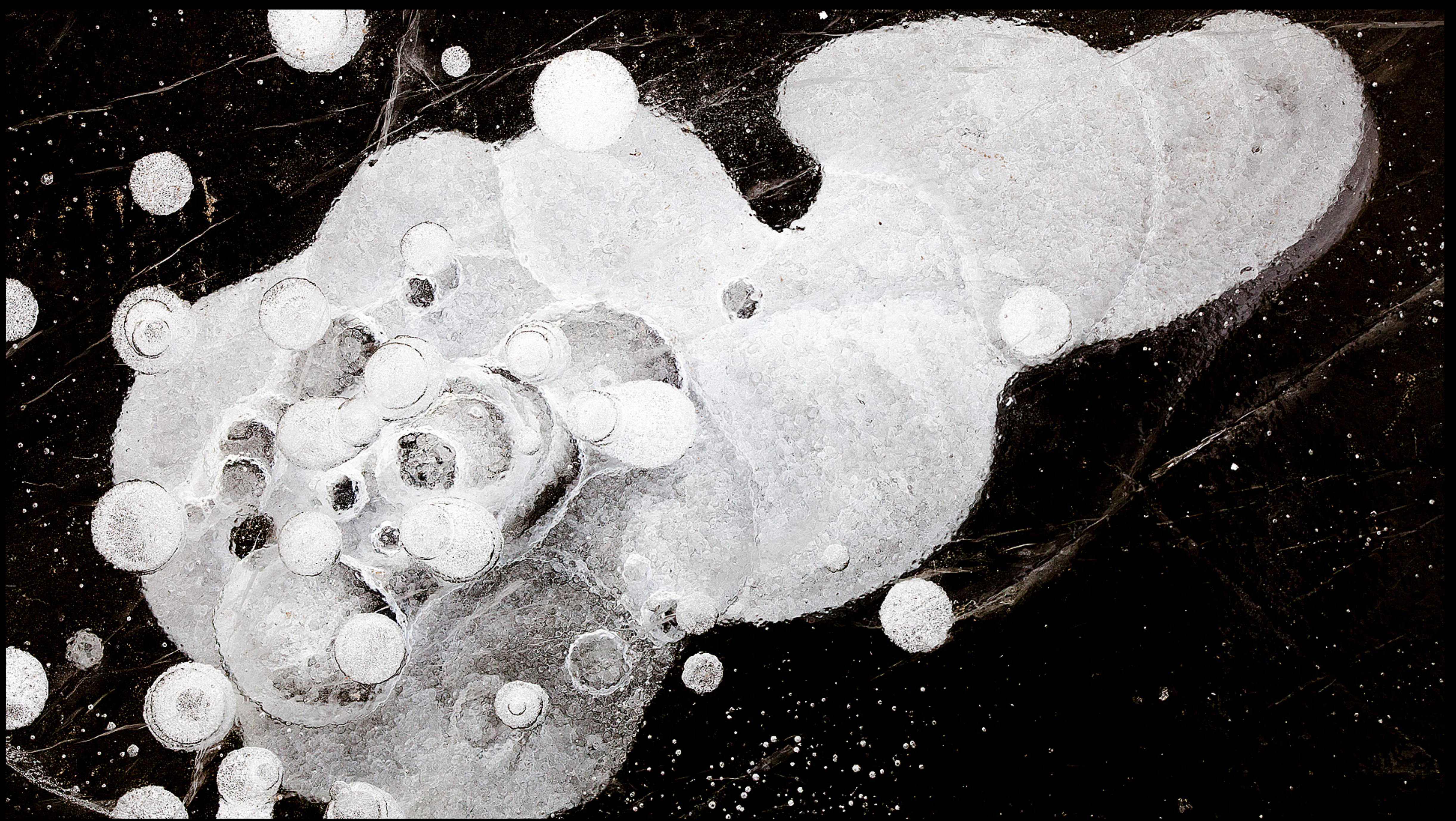




Some Creative Ideas for Photographing in Winter

- 1. Get close or use a macro lens look for shapes, bubbles and items trapped in ice - snowflakes**
- 2. Photograph while its snowing - try your using your flash when its snowing**
- 3. Try to show an animal in its environment - the animal should be small in the frame**
- 4. Look for hoar frost after foggy evenings around Calgary**
- 5. Try creating a panorama by stitching several overlapping photographs**
- 6. Try a “Hockney Style Image” combine several overlapping images using photoshop**
- 7. Try capturing a sense of motion, pan and use a slow shutter speed on any moving subject**
- 8. If shooting in harsh contrasty light consider trying HDR photography (requires tripod)**

















Photograph an animal while its snowing







Show an animal in its environment



Kananaskis Upper Lake
Stitched Panorama

Hockney Style Montage - Created from many overlapping Images Assembled in Photoshop







1/60 Second Pan



1/30 Second

HDR Image - combine 9 different exposures







Convert Colour Image to Black and White





In Summary

Things to think about before you take a picture

1. Consider whether to shoot vertically or horizontally.
2. Identify the main element in your shot and where you will place it - the main element should be an unequal distance from each side of the frame.
3. Identify lines in your picture and determine if you can use them to direct the viewer's attention - think about where to place your horizon.
4. Consider whether color can be used to enhance the image or whether you should consider making the image in Black and white.
5. Work with the type of light available, determine its direction, character - soft, hard, colored and use it to affect a mood or feeling.