



Creating Captivating Photographs

Heritage Hunt Photography Club

Al Ruhl - May 23, 2022

“Creating”

Active process.....photographer plays the role of a painter

Deciding what to include, what to leave out

Using appealing light

Arranging the elements

Choosing a perspective

etc, etc

“Captivating”

Like beauty....hard to define...in eyes of beholder

Tells a strong story

Evokes an emotion

Make the viewer feel involved or intrigued

What would you add to this list?

Story and Composition

Story (or Visual Appeal) is the purpose of a photograph

Composition is a set of tools....learn and practice them...

... then use composition to enhance your story

Tonight....

Me: show lots of images

Most illustrate both story and composition

Some are examples of “working a scene”

You: Practice your observational skills

Become immersed in the image

How does it make you feel? What’s the story? Does it capture your attention? Why?

Let’s start with a set of images....I’ll get into commenting afterwards



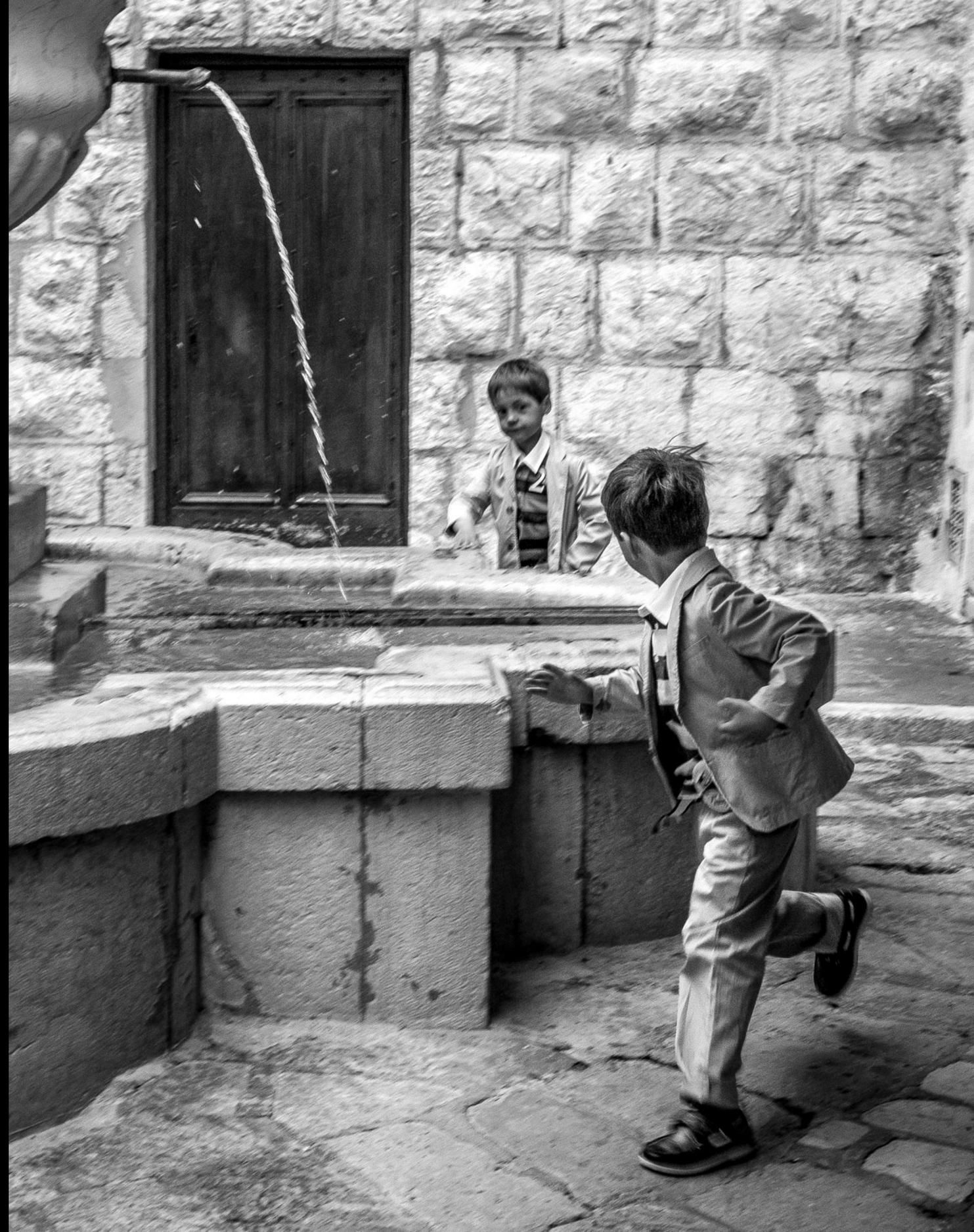




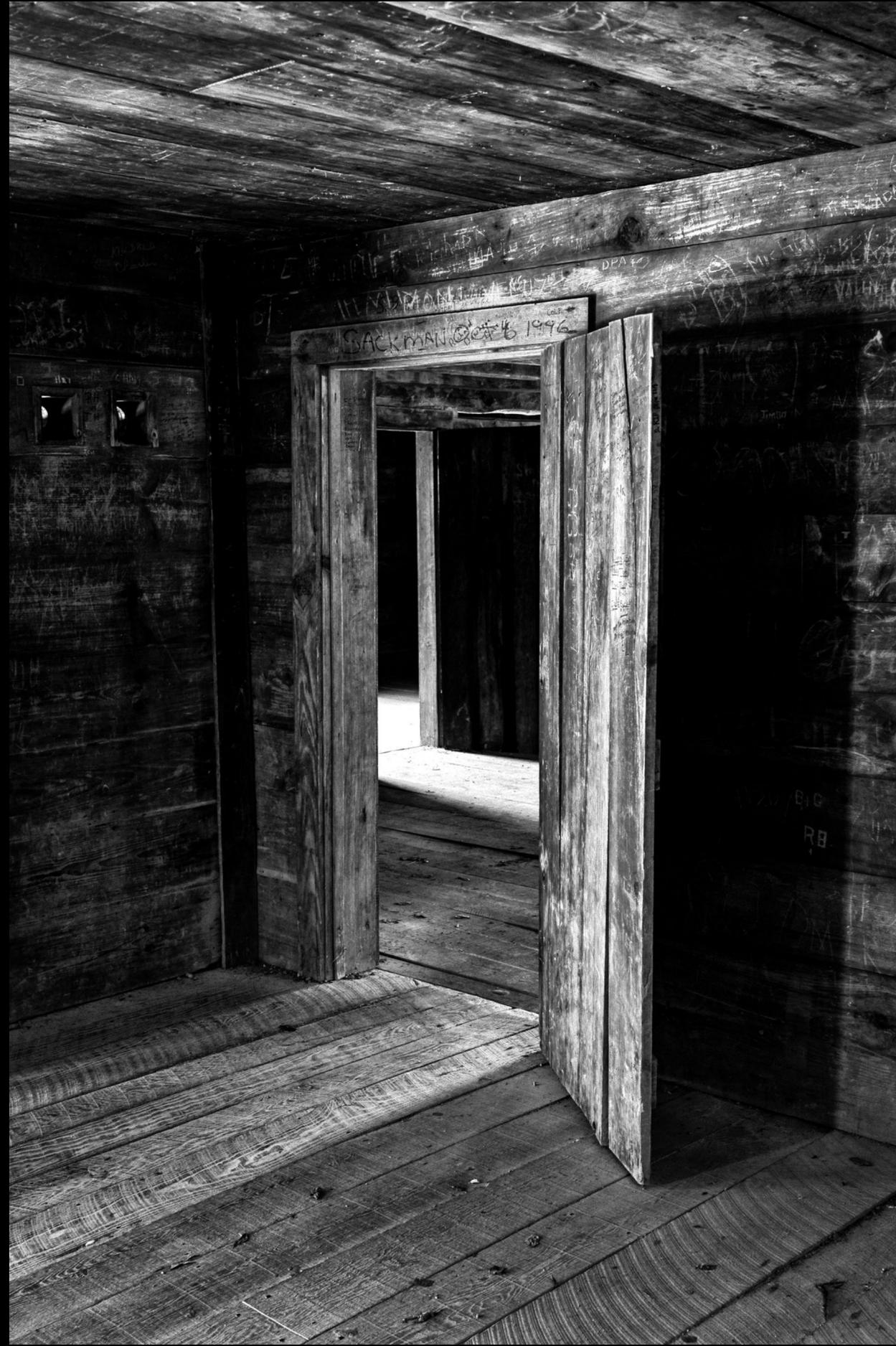


















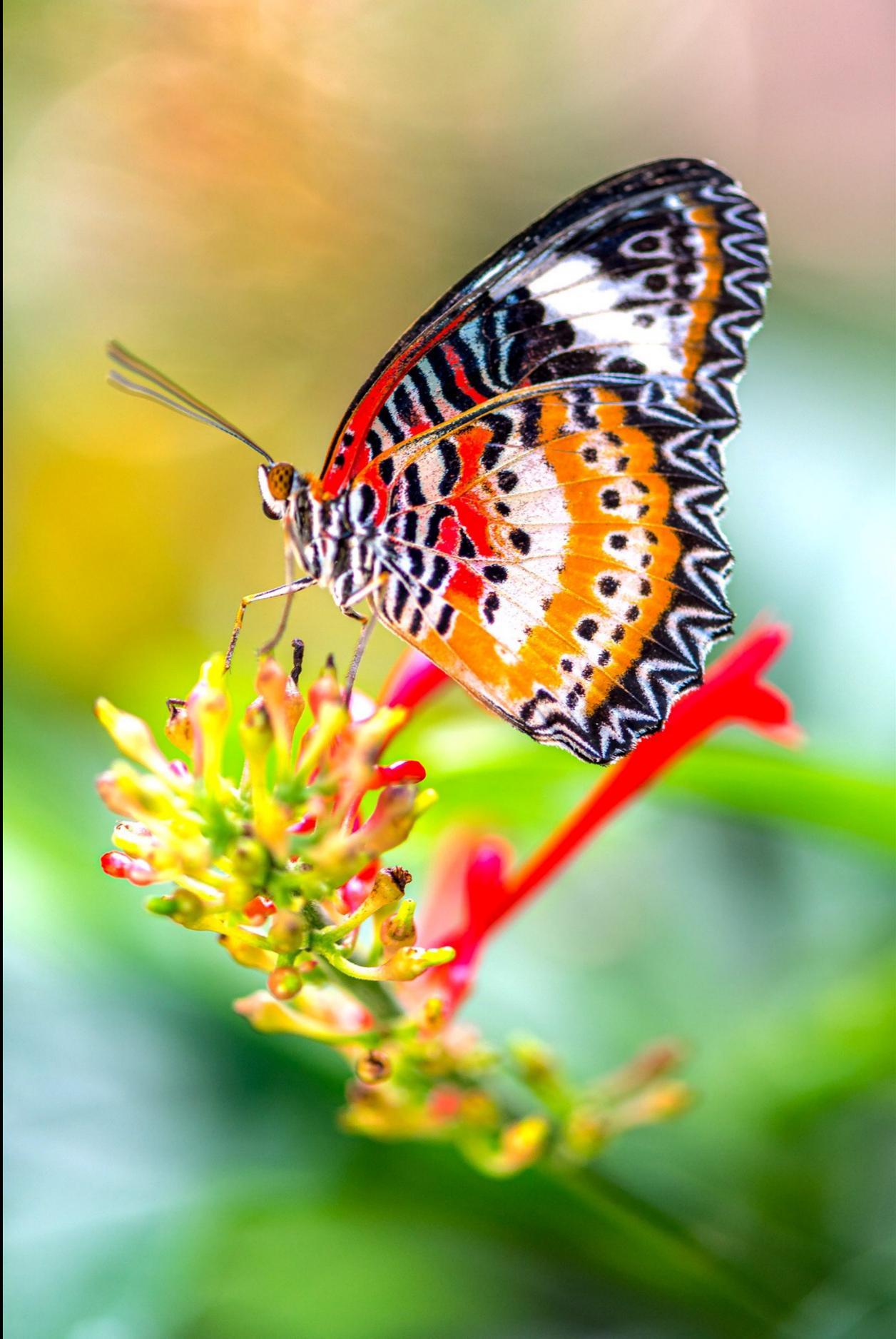






Al Ruhl









Al Ruhl

These images were all about telling stories, creating moods and feelings, and having visual impact.

The photographer's secret:

Each of them was created using elements of composition to work in the background enhancing their visual impact

Dispelling Myths

MYTH:

You need to travel far and have fancy cameras

Reality:

Not true...for a very wide range of images

Interesting subjects and stories are everywhere

Most cameras / smartphones...can take many of these images

It's all about the person behind the camera !!

Your Best Tools

Energy

Interest, determination, AND time & effort

Eyes

See thoroughly, thoughtfully, and imaginatively

Feet

Move them !!

Three Ways to Learn

From the Images

From my commentary

Review the material more slowly at home

....then create your own images with the techniques

Role of the Viewer

(Simplified)

Observer - passive role

Looking at an image, contemplating but somewhat detached

Participant - active role

Involved, experiencing the scene or story





Some Ways to Involve the Viewer

Strong Story

Invoke Emotions

Intimate Compositions

Low Perspectives

Visual Entry Points

Views from Behind

3 Sources of Stories

- 1) In plain view....”Wow!! Look at That!!”
- 2) Hiding in plain site...waiting to be discovered
- 3) Seeing creatively...made in your mind



Howdy Hour M-F
1# Lone Star Draft
2# House Wines
3# House Margaritas
3# Well Drinks



XXX
Pearl
ON TAP

OUR MOTTO
SERVICE
COURTESY
GOOD FOOD

GRAND PRIZES

LONE STAR
GRAND PRIZE
PEARL
JAX
FALSTAFF
SOUTHERN SELECT
MUEHLEBACH
25¢
SOUTHERN BEER 30¢

EXIT

FALSTAFF

RE
ROO

THREADGILL'S





Infos

CUSTOMS ST WEST

45 Queen Street



Key Elements of Composition

(Subject selection....part of story selection)

Element Arrangement Guides

Guiding the viewer's eye

Perspective

Use of light

Simplicity & subject isolation

Use of lines and shapes

Creating Depth (Layering, de- focus, contrast)

Framing

Visual Weight & Balance

Color vs B&W

Patterns, textures, odd vs even

Key Elements of Composition

(Subject selection....part of story selection)

Element Arrangement Guides, e.g., Rule of Thirds

Guiding the viewers eye

Perspective

Use of light (color, direction, contrast)

Simplicity & subject isolation

Use & impact of lines and shapes

Creating Depth (Layering, de- focus, contrast)

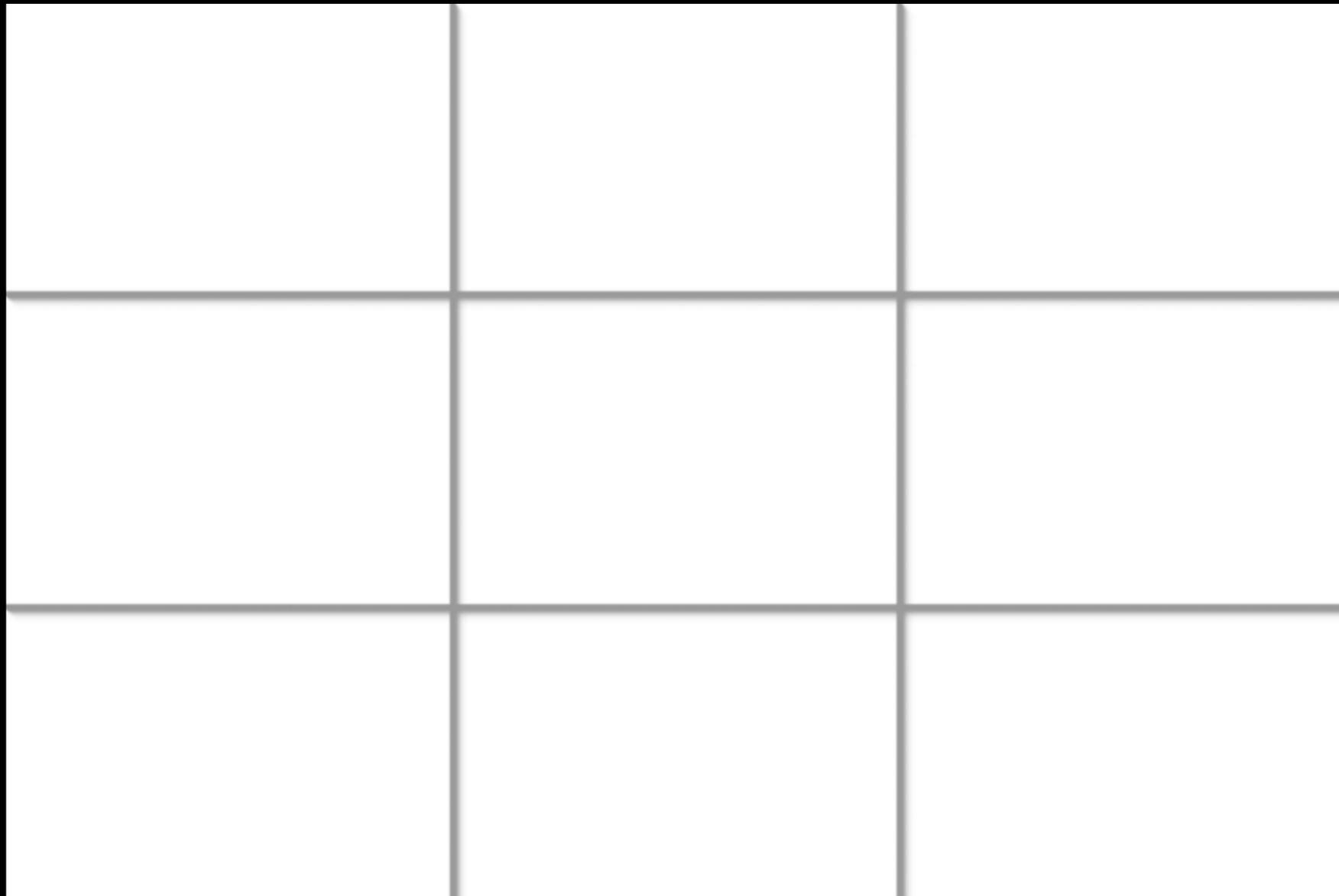
Framing

Visual Weight & Balance

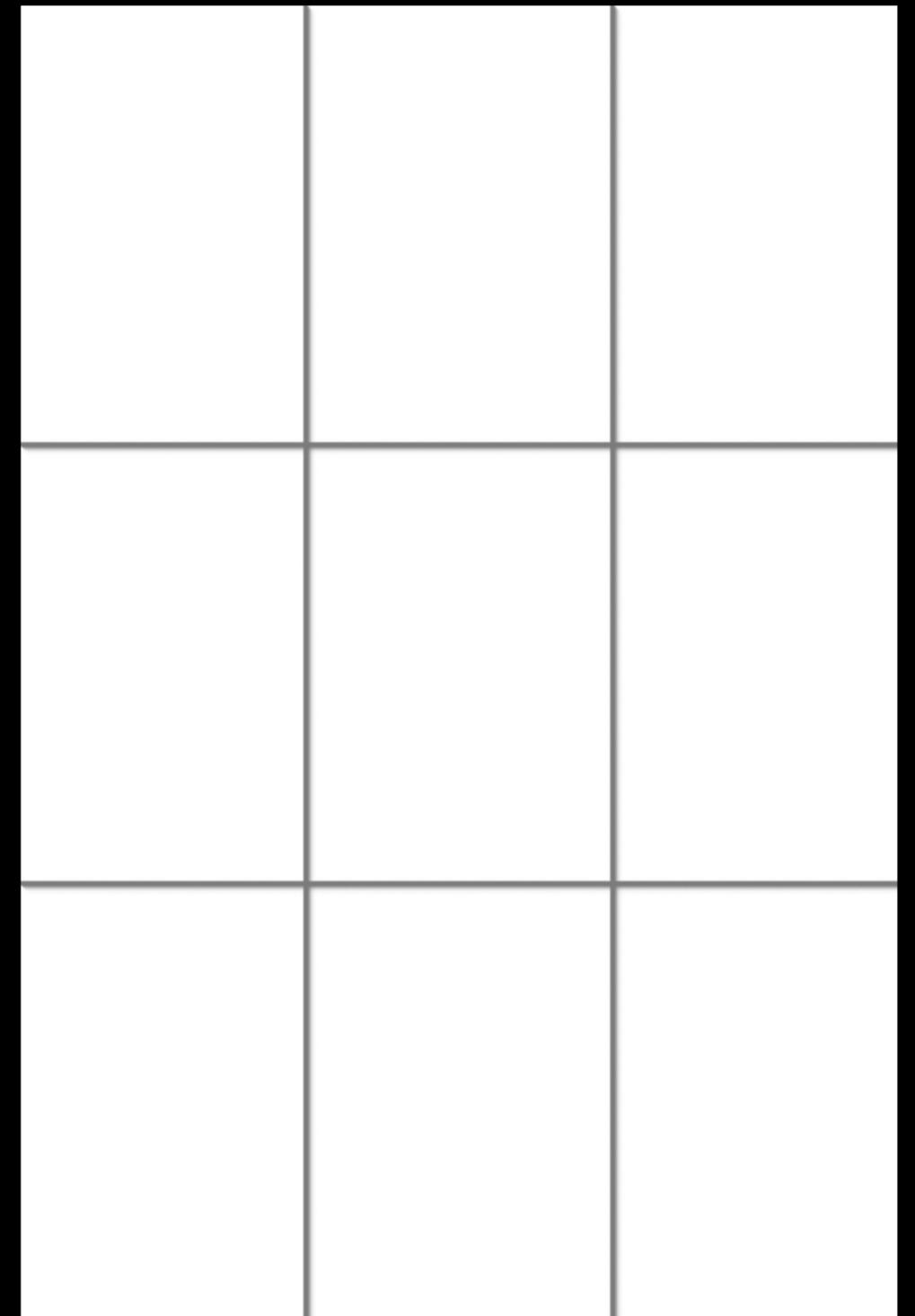
Color vs B&W

Patterns, textures, odd vs even

“Rule” of Thirds



Useful guide....often works great



Key Elements of Composition

(Subject selection....part of story selection)

Element Arrangement Guides, e.g., Rule of Thirds

Guiding the viewers eye

Perspective

Use of light (color, direction, contrast)

Simplicity & subject isolation

Use & impact of lines and shapes

Creating Depth (Layering, de- focus, contrast)

Framing

Visual Weight & Balance

Color vs B&W

Patterns, textures, odd vs even

Guiding the Viewers Eye

Open areas in foreground invite entry

Leading Lines (or objects)

Use of Tones

Light areas attract

Dark areas repel - the power of black

Focused and Defocused Elements







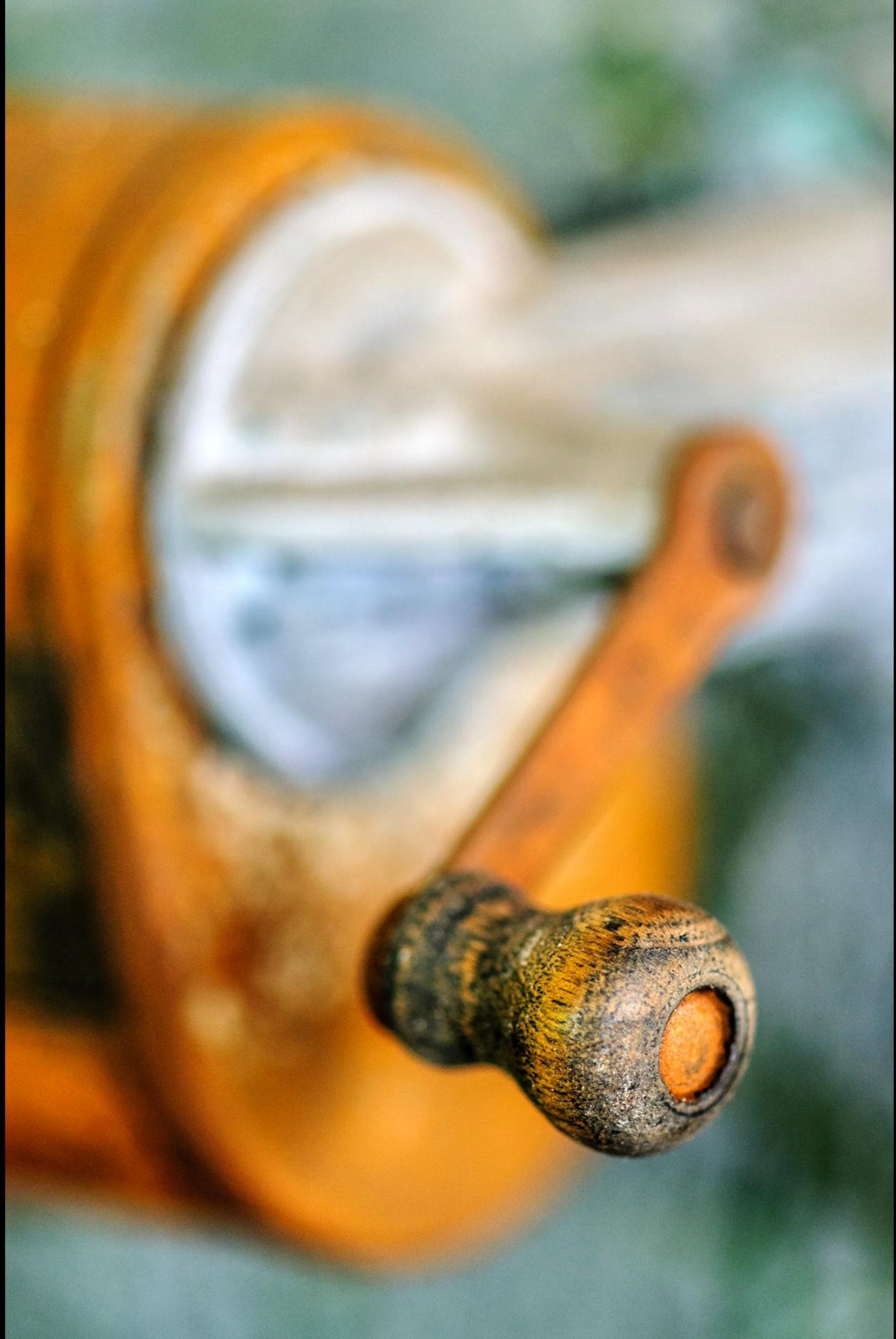








Al Ruhl









Key Elements of Composition

(Subject selection....part of story selection)

Element Arrangement Guides, e.g., Rule of Thirds

Guiding the viewers eye

Perspective

Use of light (color, direction, contrast)

Simplicity & subject isolation

Use & impact of lines and shapes

Creating Depth (Layering, de- focus, contrast)

Framing

Visual Weight & Balance

Color vs B&W

Patterns, textures, odd vs even

Perspective - Relationship of Camera to the Subject

Camera to Subject Distance

Angle of view to Subject

Elevation of camera

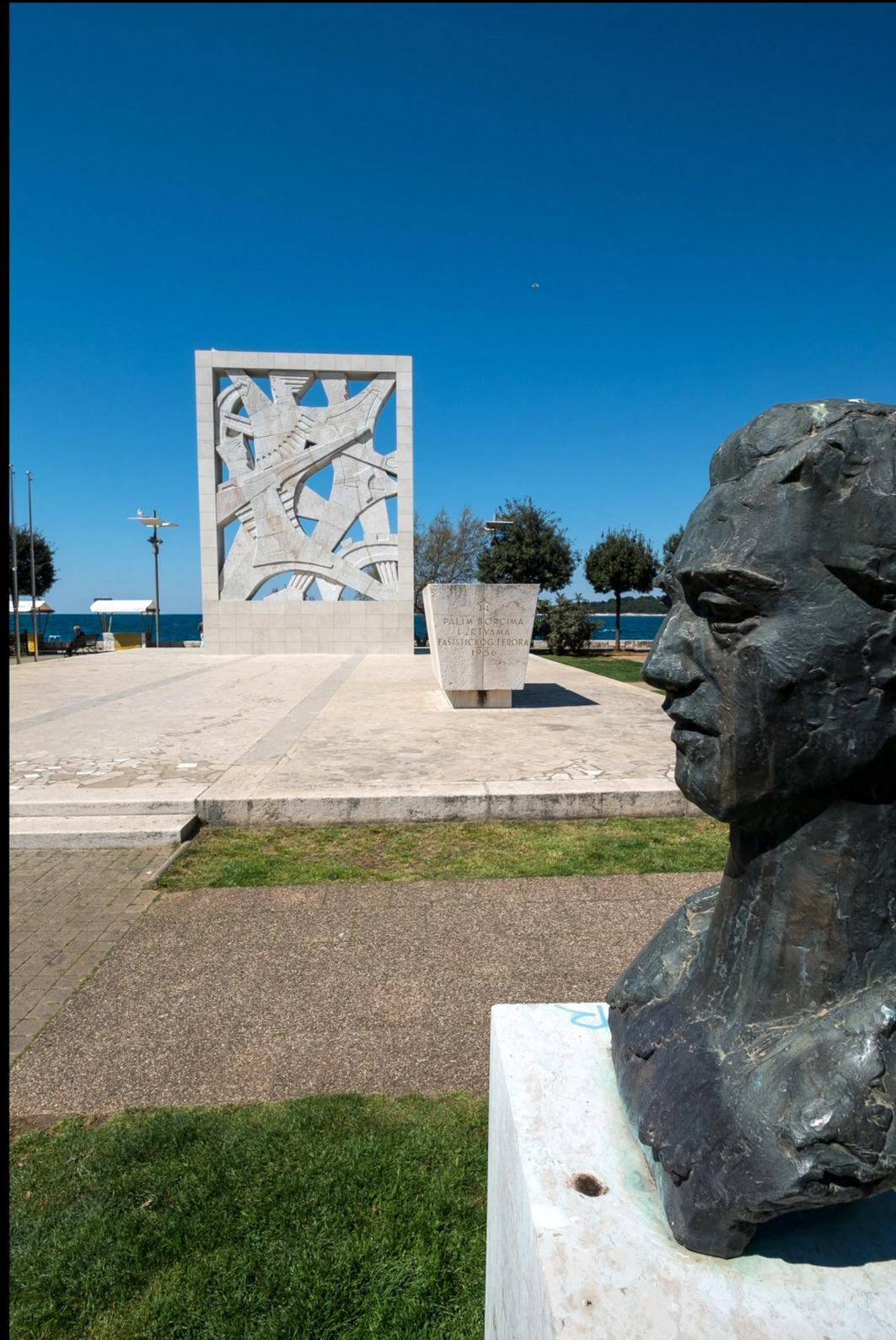
Perspective: Camera to Subject Distance

Being close to a near element exaggerates its size relative to more distant elements

You **MUST** move closer or farther to change the relative size of near and far elements.

Zooming alone only crops.....**MOVE YOUR FEET !!**





Both taken
from 15 feet



Zoomed in without moving feet

Standing 2' from bust



Move Your Feet !!

Perspective: Angle of view to Subject

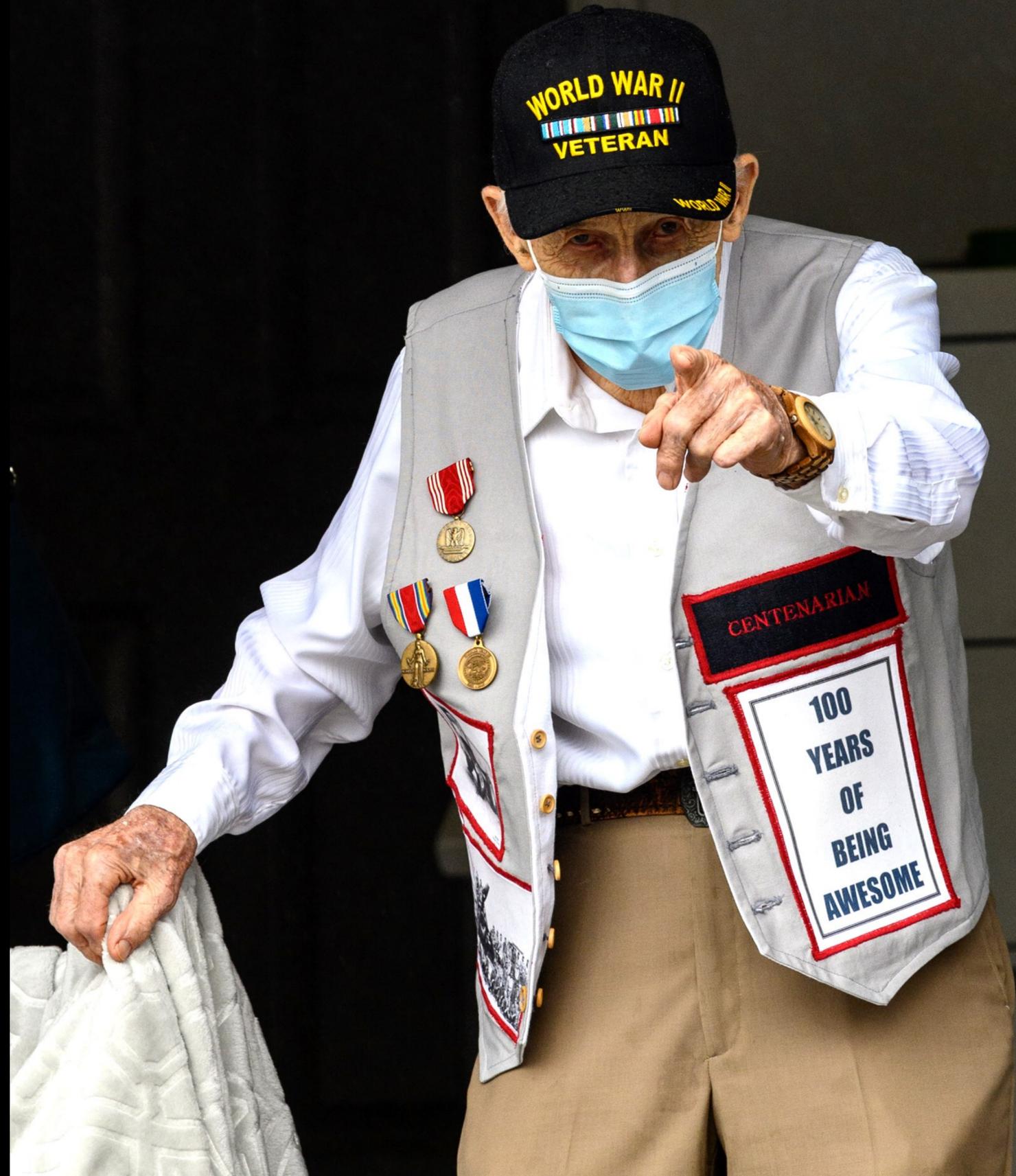
Head On - can be great or boring

Oblique - usually intriguing, dynamic, more 3D

Side - often creative and intriguing

Behind - can pull the viewer in

CHOOSE.....MOVE YOUR FEET !!











Perspective: Elevation of camera

Eye Level - “normal” view

Low - emphasizes subject’s dominance; strongly engages viewer

High - de-emphasizes dominance of any element;
viewer becomes more of an observer

Overhead

Below

MOVE THE CAMERA !!







Getting Low

Hard to get down....and back up?

There are others ways:

- Sit on a chair or bench
- Use a camera with an articulated screen
- Find a location where the subject is above you
- Use a low tripod and a remote trigger
- Use a monopod or selfie-stick upside down









Key Elements of Composition

(Subject selection....part of story selection)

Element Arrangement Guides, e.g., Rule of Thirds

Guiding the viewers eye

Perspective

Use of light (color, direction, contrast)

Simplicity & subject isolation

Use & impact of lines and shapes

Creating Depth (Layering, de- focus, contrast)

Framing

Visual Weight & Balance

Color vs B&W

Patterns, textures, odd vs even

Photography is Painting with Light

Color: Warm, Cool, B&W

Source: Point, Omni-directional

Direction: Front, Side, Back

Light: Color

Warm (reds, oranges, yellows) early and late in day

Cool (blues) mid-day, cloudy, shade

B&W - tones only (blacks, grays, whites)

Light: Source

Point Source

Sunny day, un-diffused flash photography
High contrast, highlights and shadows, dynamic

Omnidirectional

Sun below horizon, cloudy days, in shaded areas
Soft, low contrast, calming

Light: Direction

Front - flat, often unflattering and unappealing

Side - shadows, contrast, adds depth, usually dynamic

Back - silhouettes























Al Ruhl

Key Elements of Composition

Subject selection

Guiding the viewers eye

Perspective

Use of light (color, direction, contrast)

Simplicity & subject isolation

Use & impact of lines and shapes

Creating Depth (Layering, de-focus, contrast)

Framing

Visual Weight & Balance

Color vs B&W

Patterns, textures, odd vs even

Working a Scene













750
Casa Sofia













The “Final Four”







Ol Ruhl







- Go forth with energy and determination
- Practice Observation and Finding Stories

- Go forth with energy and determination
- Practice Observation and Finding Stories
- Learn and Practice Compositional Tools

and...

- Go forth with energy and determination
- Practice Observation and Finding Stories
- Learn and Practice Compositional Tools

and....

and...

- Go forth with energy and determination
- Practice Observation and Finding Stories
- Learn and Practice Compositional Tools

and...

and...

and...

- Go forth with energy and determination
- Practice Observation and Finding Stories
- Learn and Practice Compositional Tools

and...

and...

and...

MOVE YOUR FEET !!

- Go forth with energy and determination
- Practice Observation and Finding Stories
- Learn and Practice Compositional Tools

and...

and...

and...

MOVE YOUR FEET !!

Presentation will be posted on the HHPC Website

Thanks.....Have a great summer !!