



Photography Composition:
using the Elements of Art

- The arrangement of the subject and other elements of the photographic image in relation to each other.
- The different arrangements – or *compositions* - of the ELEMENTS of design to create artistic, interesting, more visually powerful photographs.

Photographic Composition

- Line
- Shape/Form
- Space
- Tonal Value
- Texture
- Color

Elements:

The basic building blocks

- A mark made by a moving point
- Has greater length than width
- Directs the eye
 - horizontal, vertical, diagonal, curvy, zig-zag, etc.
- Can be actual obvious lines or
 - the borders or
 - edges of shapes

Line

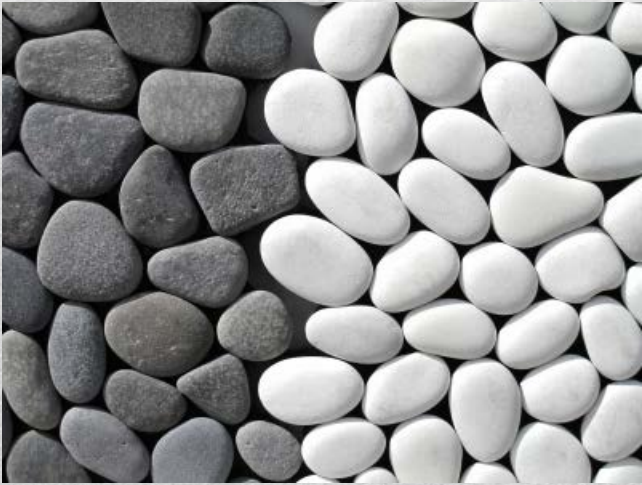
Line



- A contained area.
- Can be GEOMETRIC (man-made)
 - Square, triangle, circle, etc.
- Can be ORGANIC (natural)
 - Leaves, humans, puddles, etc.
- SHAPES are 2-D and flat (circle)
- FORMS are 3-D with height, width and depth (sphere)
- Can be used to create a sense of space and interest

Shape/Form

Shape/Form



- The area used or unused in a composition
- Positive space is:
 - the area the objects/subject takes up
- Negative space is:
 - the area around, under, through and between
- Gives the photo a 3-D feeling. (Depth)
 - Foreground (closest)
 - Middle ground
 - Background (farthest).
- Can be open, crowded, near, far, etc.

Space

Space



- Not about color...
- Black and white and all the grays in between (grayscale)
- Dark to Light
- Can add drama and impact to composition
- Can give a sense of timelessness
- Train your eye to look at photos in grayscale!

Tonal Value

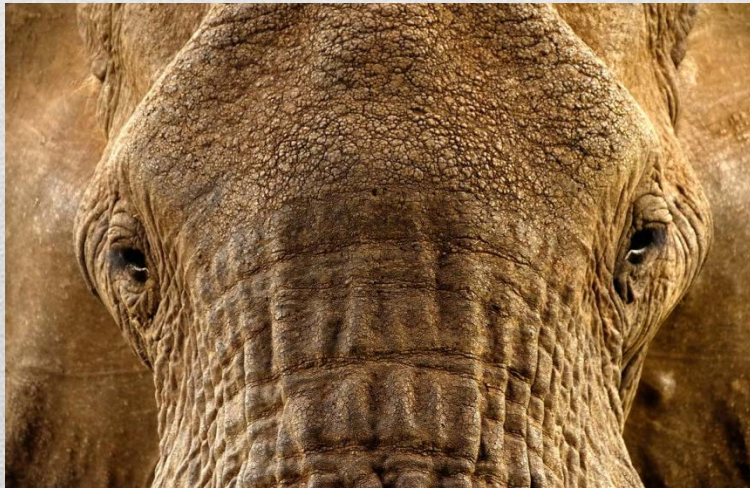
Value



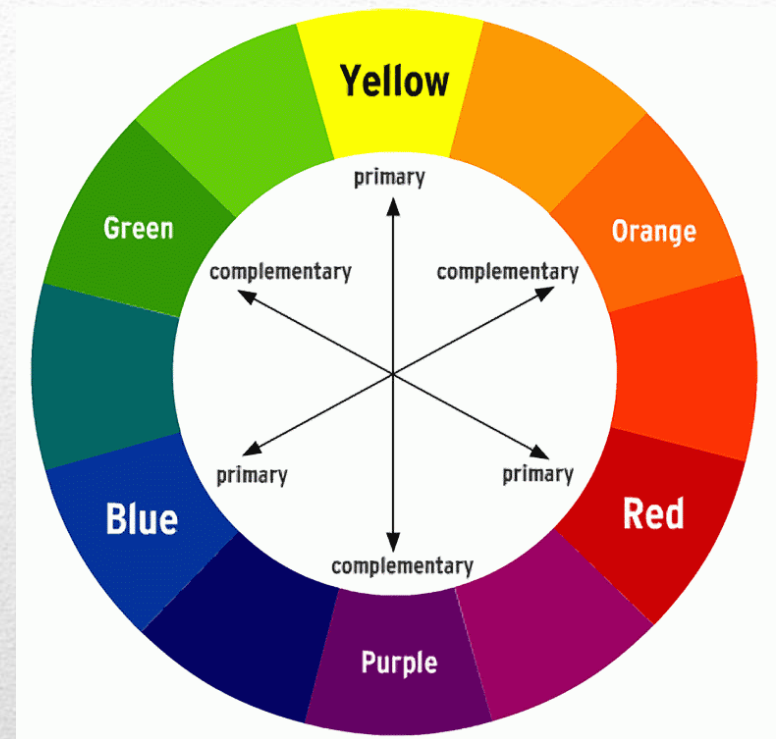
- The surface quality of an object
- How an object feels, or how it looks like it feels
- Rough, smooth, bumpy, gooey, sharp, fluffy, etc.
- Adds interest and involvement!
 - Sense of sight AND sense of touch involved

Texture

Texture



- Artistic term is HUE
- Need light to see color
- PRIMARY
 - Red/Yellow/Blue
- SECONDARY
 - Orange/Green/Purple
- Use color harmony to enhance appeal or make impact
 - MONOCHROME
 - Shades of the same color
 - COMPLIMENTARY
 - Red and Green
 - Yellow and Purple
 - Blue and Orange



Color

Color

