



Photography Composition:  
using the Principles of Art

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# Principles of Art?

- Emphasis/Impact
    - Balance
    - Unity
    - Contrast
  - Movement/ Rhythm
  - Pattern/Repetition
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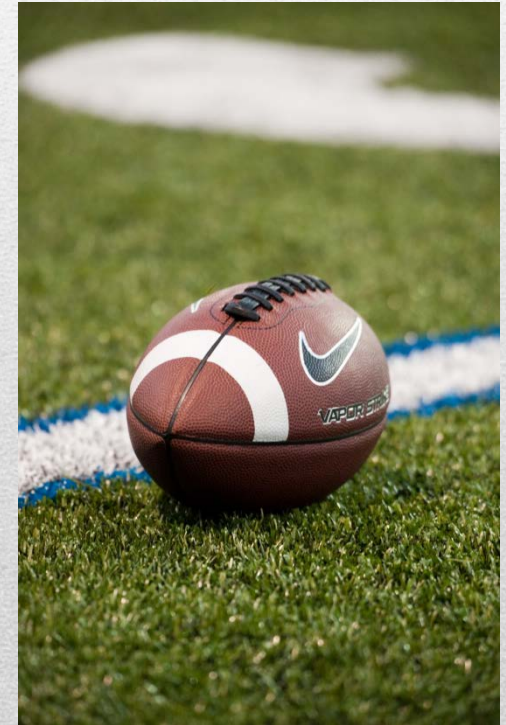
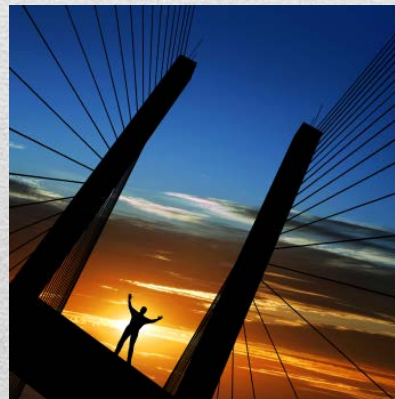
- refers to developing points of interest
- to pull the viewer's eye to important parts of the work
  - Leading line
  - Rule of 3rds
  - Light/Dark
  - Break in pattern/color/shape
  - Color/Black and White
  - Blurred/Sharp
  - Etc.

## Emphasis/Impact

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# Emphasis/Impact





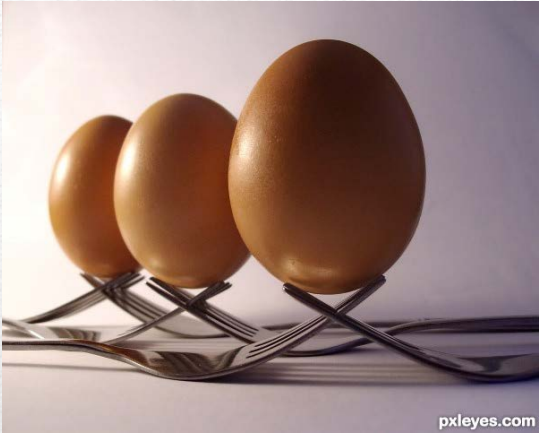
- Gives a sense of stability in the work
- Can be created by repeating same shapes/lines/colors/etc.
- SYMMETRICAL
  - The same on both sides
- ASYMMETRICAL/non-symmetrical
  - Can be created by a feeling of equal weight even though the sides are different

## Balance

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# Balance





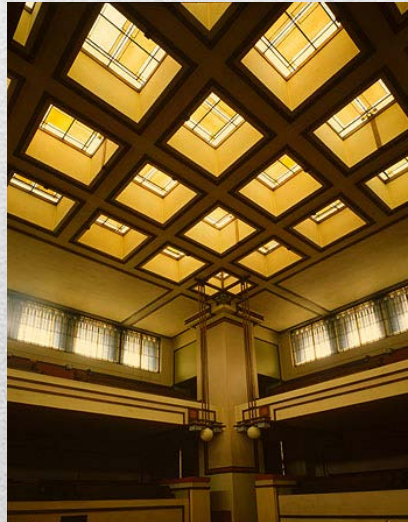
- **Unity** is seen in a photograph when all the parts equal a whole
- The subject and all of the other **ELEMENTS** in the photo work **WITH** each other

**Unity**

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# Unity





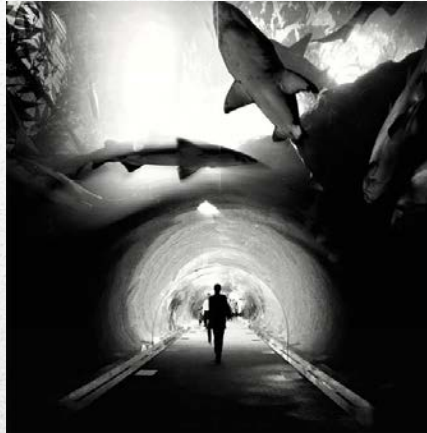
- refers to the opposites & differences in the photo
- You can achieve variety by using different ELEMENTS of art
  - Shapes
  - Textures
  - Colors
  - Values
  - Etc.

# CONTRAST

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# CONTRAST





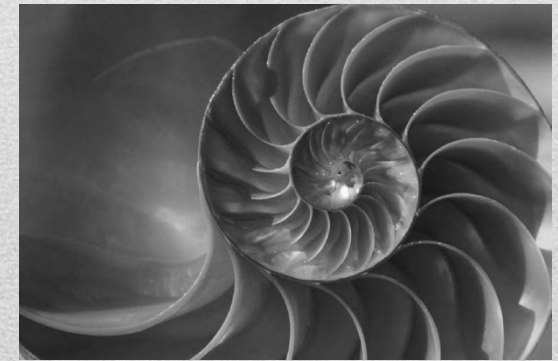
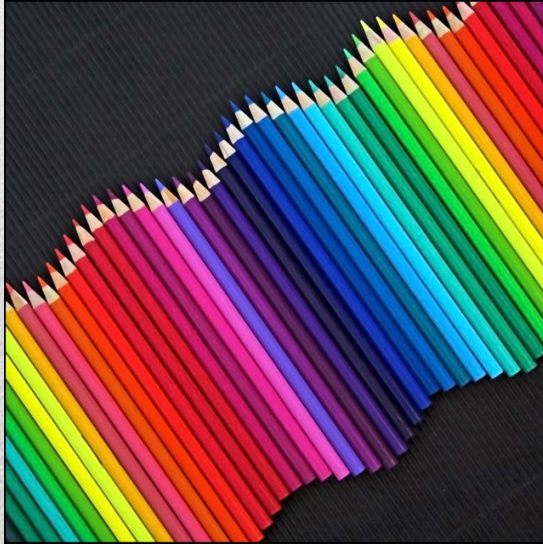
- Movement
  - adds excitement to your work by showing action
  - can direct the viewers eye throughout the picture
- Rhythm
  - is a type of movement in a photograph
    - repeating shapes OR colors OR lines, etc.
    - alternating lights and darks

## Movement & Rhythm

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# Movement & Rhythm





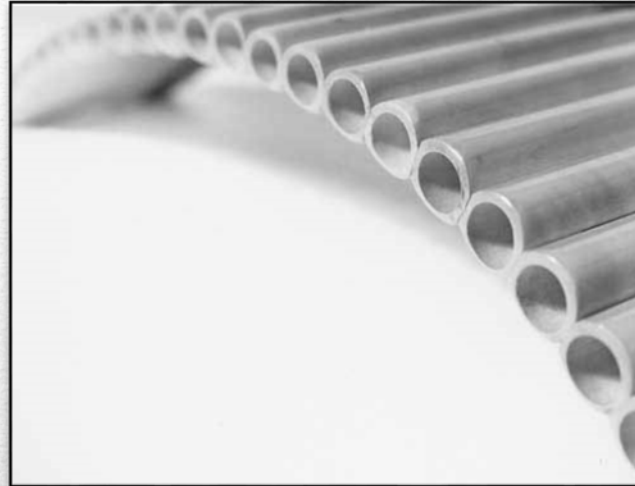
- An ELEMENT that occurs over and over again in a composition.
  - Shape
  - Object
  - Color
  - Line
- Can repeat the element in a consistent pattern.
- Can repeat the element in a variation of the pattern.

## Pattern/Repetition

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# Pattern/Repetition





- The Elements and Principles are used in *making* photographs – not just taking photographs.
- You have to know and understand the elements and principles of art to *see* them all around you and capture them in your photos.

# Elements and Principles in Photographic Composition

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