

Color and Composition Lecture

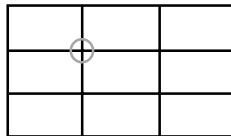
Format of picture

- Horizontal if the main element is wide or sideways.
- Vertical if the main element is narrow or tall.

Large main subject and background

- Emphasis: one object should be larger than the rest to define the center of interest.
- Background can be distracting.
- Solid color background emphasizes main element.

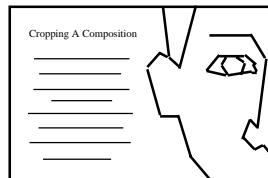
Rule-of-thirds



- Centering the main element in a composition is boring (usually) – except in symmetrical situation.

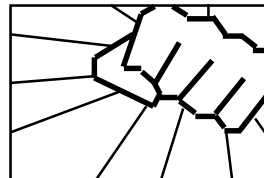
Cropping

- OK to crop the main element
- Never crop a person at a joint



Lines

- Lines going into the main element lead the eye toward the main element.
- Lines show perspective (depth).
 - o Horizontal = stability
 - o Vertical = strength
 - o Diagonal = motion, activity
 - o Curved = gracefulness, slowness



Number of elements (spots)

- Use 1, 3, or more.
- 2 spots or points of interest compete with each other.
- Type is considered a spot.

Color

- Color creates a mood.
- Cool Colors – blues, greens and purples
- Warm Colors – Reds, oranges, yellows
- Color conveys emotions and stands for different things
 - o Blue stands for sky, heaven, and water.
 - o Green may also be water, but it generally means hope, the color of spring, the renewal of life, feed for animals, and thus, food for humans.
 - o Red is the color of blood; hence, it represents courage, sacrifice.
 - o Black is death, the underworld, mourning, desolation.
 - o White is purity, chastity, but it's the color of mourning in the Far East. Isn't white as

pure, or as empty as black? It's also the color of surrender, because a piece of white on a pole could be seen from a great distance, and could not be mistaken for any kind of flag. White means cowardice, too, because some people surrender for no other reason than to save themselves.

- Gold or yellow means the sun, sun god, wealth.
- Purple is emblematic of rank and authority. It's derived from the ancient, expensive dye prepared from the purple fish (purpura in Latin, porphyra in Greek). Purple robes were worn by Roman emperors and, later, by high ranking prelates of the Christian church.
- Scarlet, a yellow-red hue of very high saturation, is also a sign of dignity and high rank. Originally, it was a kind of Persian broadcloth, used for tents and flags. The textile was often dyed this particular red and, eventually, the name of the cloth became synonymous with the color. Scarlet, however, is also applied in an opprobrious manner, to women of ill repute. This association is due to Revelations XVII, 1 - 6. Blue, scarlet, purple, and gold are the colors of the priests' garments, as listed in Exodus.
- Gray means colorless, figuratively as well as literally.

Type

- Type is an element
- It can be the main element or a secondary element.
- One color of type on its complimentary color is difficult to read and causes eyestrain.