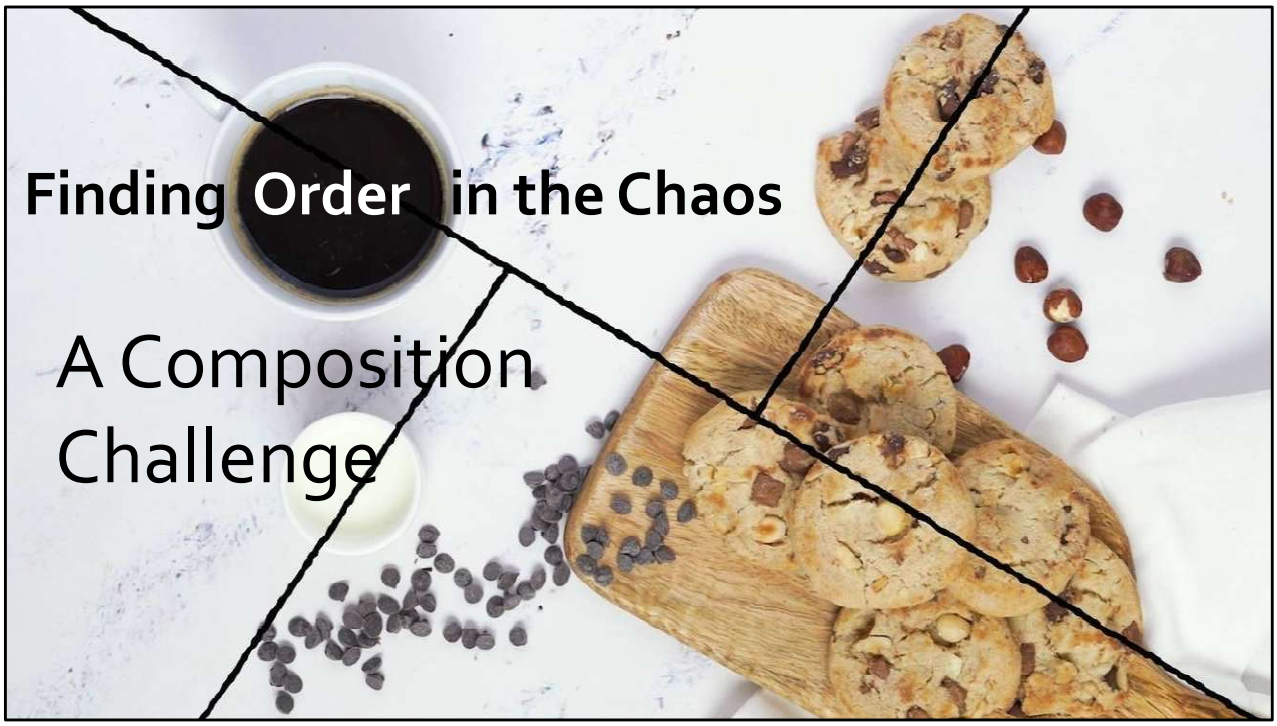
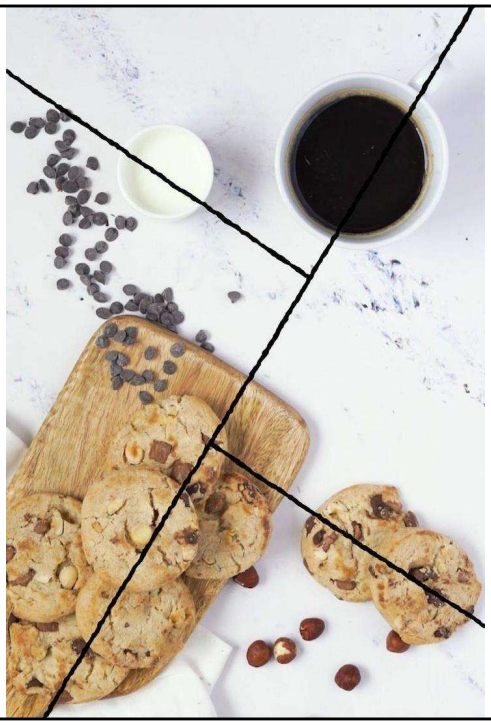


"Most photographers look at a scene and think about what they're photographing. Today's challenge asks a different question. Instead of looking at the biscuits, coffee, nuts and chocolate chips, we're going to look at how the photographer organised the frame.

Good composition isn't an accident. It is the deliberate arrangement of shapes, lines, tones and visual weight. During the next few slides, we'll examine five compositional elements hidden within this apparently simple kitchen-table photograph."



Follow the Lines

Challenge:

Identify the strongest lines in the image.

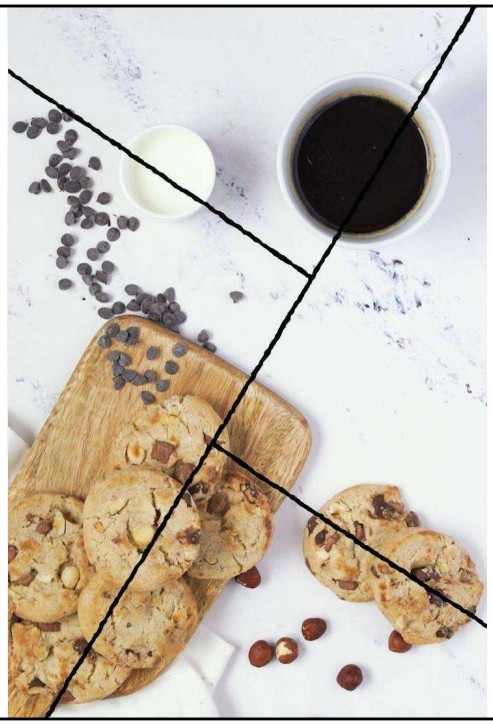
Where do your eyes travel first?

Follow the Lines

"Our eyes naturally follow lines. Even when no actual line exists, the brain joins objects together and creates visual pathways.

In this image we can see several routes. The edge of the wooden board forms one path. The trail of chocolate chips creates another. The cups and biscuits form invisible connections.

Before looking at any analysis, simply ask yourself: where did your eye go first, and what path did it take around the picture?"



Shapes and Triangles

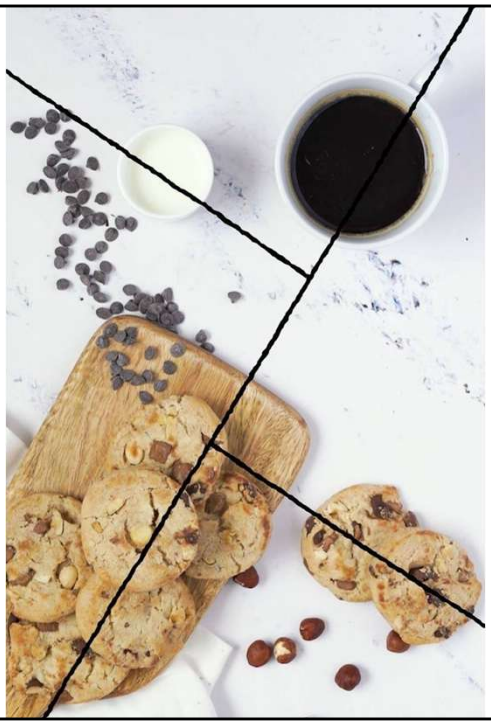
Challenge:

How many triangles can you find?

Why are triangles useful in photography?

Shapes and Triangles

"The black guides drawn across the image reveal several triangular structures.
Triangles create stability while also introducing movement. The eye tends to circulate around the three points of a triangle rather than leaving the frame.
Notice how the coffee cup, milk container and biscuit board form one large triangle. Smaller triangles appear between scattered nuts and clusters of biscuits.
Many successful photographs contain hidden triangles that viewers never consciously notice."



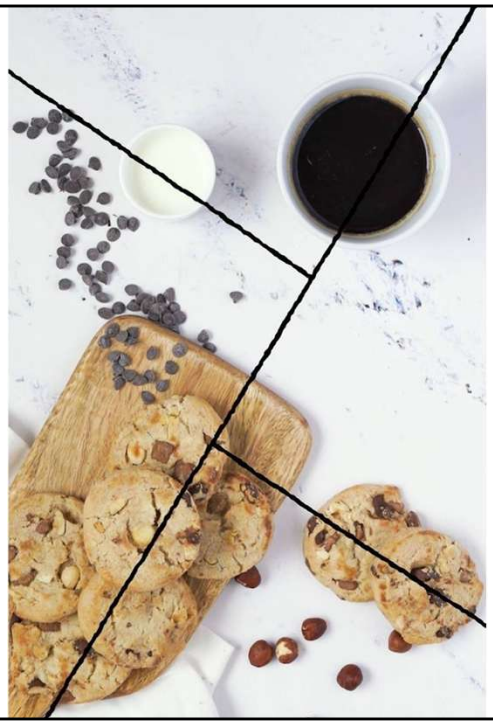
Visual Weight

Challenge:
Which object feels heaviest?

Which object attracts attention most strongly?

Visual Weight

"Visual weight is not the same as physical weight.
The coffee cup is visually heavy because it is dark. The board carrying the biscuits is visually heavy because of its size. The scattered chocolate chips attract attention because they contrast against the pale background.
When photographers balance a frame they are balancing attention, not kilograms.
Ask yourself whether the photograph would feel balanced if either the coffee cup or the chopping board were removed."



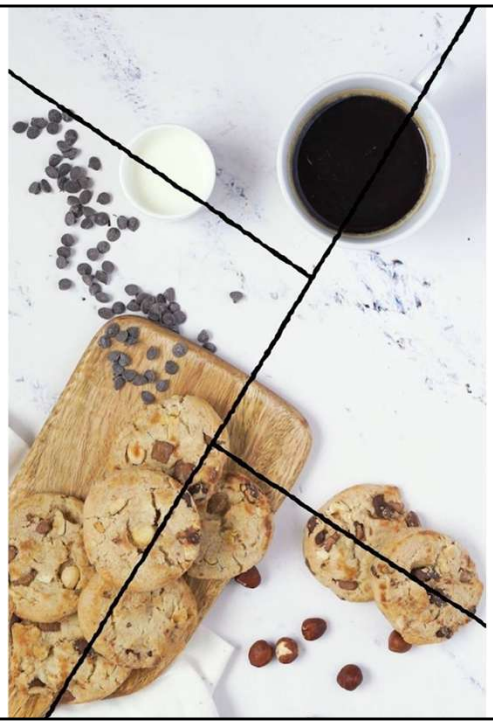
Negative Space

Challenge:

Why did the photographer leave so much empty space?

Negative Space

"Many beginners try to fill every corner.
Experienced photographers often do the opposite.
More than half of this image consists of pale marble worktop.
Yet this empty space serves an important purpose. It allows the eye to rest and prevents the composition from becoming crowded.
Negative space can be as valuable as the subjects themselves. Sometimes what isn't there is just as important as what is."



Balance and Flow

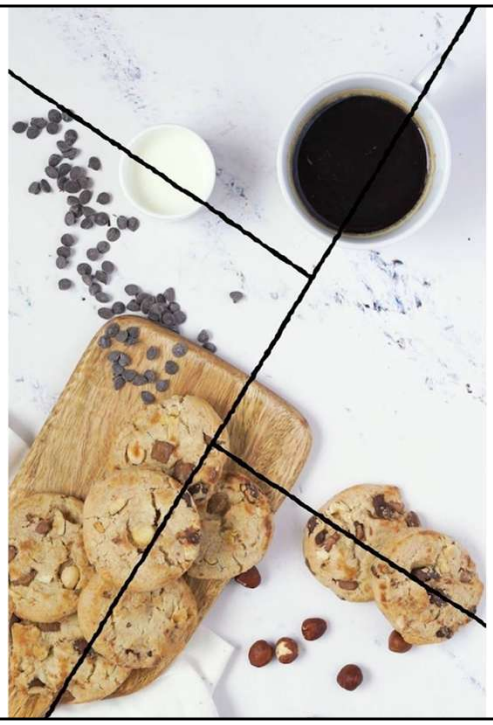
Challenge:

Does the photograph feel balanced?

Why?

Balance and Flow

"The coffee cup sits high on the right.
The wooden board sits lower on the left.
These two visual masses counterbalance one another.
The scattered ingredients act like stepping stones, helping the eye travel between them. Without those intermediate elements, the photograph might feel disconnected.
The image succeeds because it encourages continuous eye movement rather than allowing attention to become trapped in one location."



The Reveal

The Composition Map
Show image with
guide lines.

The Reveal

"The purpose of the guide lines is not to prove a photographer consciously drew triangles before pressing the shutter. Rather, they demonstrate that successful images often contain underlying geometric structures.
Whether planned or instinctive, those structures help organise visual information and guide the viewer through the frame."



Practical Exercise

Next Time You Photograph:

✓ Find a line
✓ Find a triangle
✓ Balance visual weight
✓ Leave breathing space
✓ Guide the eye

Practical Exercise

"The next time you're out with your camera, don't start by asking what you're photographing.
Ask how the elements connect together.
Look for natural triangles.
Observe areas of negative space.
Think about where visual weight sits within the frame.
And most importantly, ask yourself where the viewer's eye will travel."



Discussion

Questions

- Which category was easiest to spot?
- Which was hardest?
- Did the guide lines change your perception?

Discussion

"This is where the learning often happens.
Different photographers notice different elements first. Some immediately recognise balance, while others are drawn to shape or leading lines.
There are no wrong answers here. The aim is to develop awareness of how composition influences what we see."

Closing Thought

"We photograph objects.
We remember compositions."



Closing Thought

"A biscuit is just a biscuit. A cup of coffee is just a cup of coffee.
What makes an image memorable is not the subject but the way the subject is arranged.
The photographer's real task is not simply recording a scene.
The photographer's task is organising visual information into something the viewer enjoys exploring.
That is composition."

Photography Challenges

Challenge 1. The Hidden Triangle
Create a photograph containing a clearly identifiable triangle formed by three subjects or points of interest.

Challenge 2. Follow the Trail
Use a line or series of objects to lead the viewer through the photograph.

Challenge 3. Less is More
Produce an image where at least 50% of the frame is negative space.

Challenge 4. Balancing Act
Create a photograph with two visually important areas that balance each other.

Challenge 5. Kitchen Table Composition
Create a flat-lay photograph using everyday household objects.

Bonus Challenge (For the Brave) - The Full House
Create **one photograph** that contains all five composition principles in a single image.



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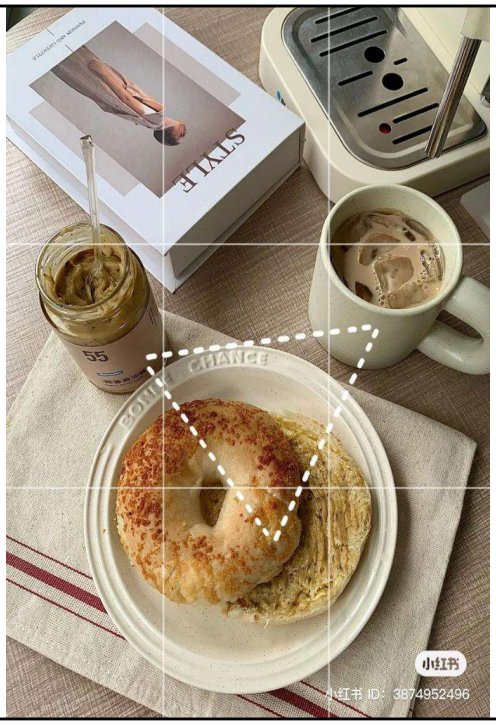
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The Hidden Triangle

Create a photograph containing a clearly identifiable triangle formed by three subjects or points of interest.

Rules:

- No actual triangular objects.
- The triangle must be created by placement within the frame.
- Any subject is acceptable.

What we're looking for: Can the viewer discover the triangle without being told where it is?



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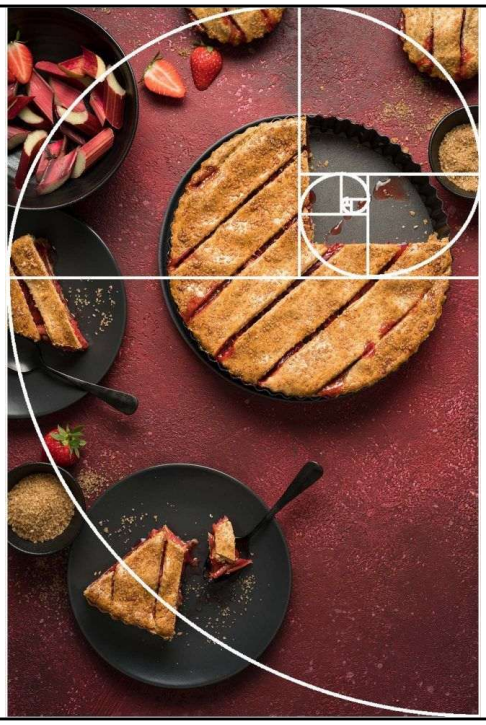
Challenge 2.
Follow the Trail

Use a line or series of objects to lead the viewer through the photograph.

Examples:

- A pathway
- Fence posts
- Fallen leaves
- Cups on a table
- People in a queue

What we're looking for: A photograph where the eye naturally travels from one area to another.



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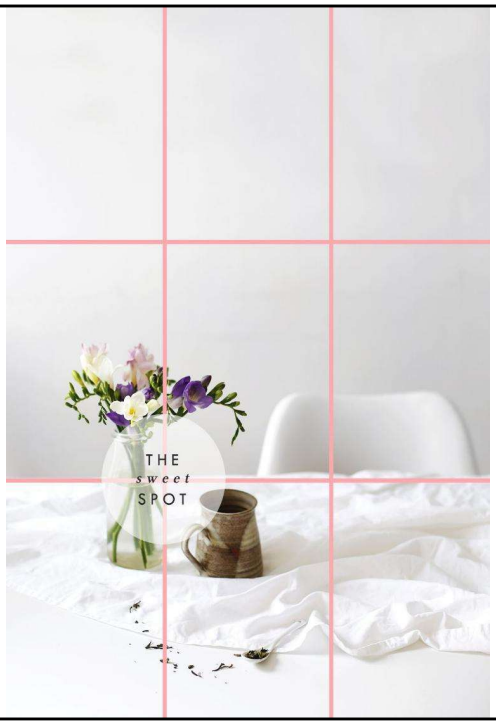
Challenge 3.
Less is More

Produce an image where at least 50% of the frame is negative space.

Rules:

- One main subject.
- Plenty of breathing room.
- Simplicity is the goal.

What we're looking for: A strong subject that benefits from the surrounding empty space.



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Challenge 4.
Balancing Act

Create a photograph with two visually important areas that balance each other.

Examples:

- A person and a building.
- A tree and the moon.
- A bright object and a dark object.

What we're looking for: An image that feels stable even though the subjects are not centred.



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Challenge 5.
Kitchen Table Composition

Create a flat-lay photograph using everyday household objects.

Rules:

- Photographed from above.
- Minimum of five objects.
- Objects should be arranged deliberately.

What we're looking for: Organisation, balance, shape, colour and visual flow.



Challenge 5.
Kitchen Table Composition

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Bonus Challenge (For the Brave)
The Full House

Create **one photograph** that contains:

✓ A triangle

✓ A leading line

✓ Negative space

✓ Visual balance

✓ A clear route for the eye to follow

What we're looking for: A photograph that demonstrates all five composition principles in a single image.



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The Full House

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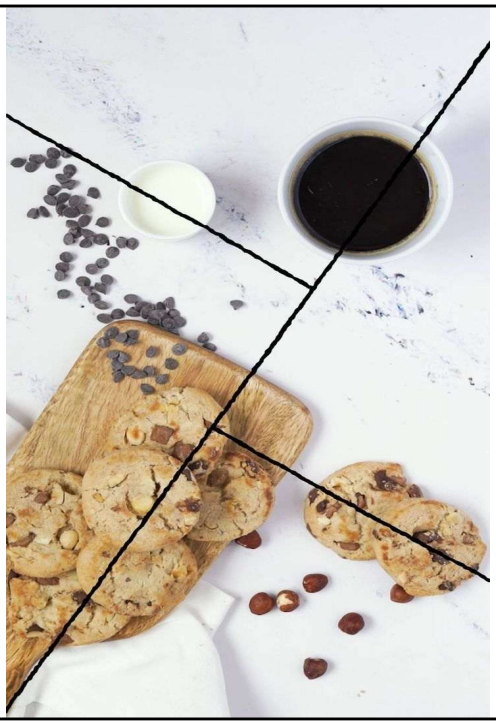
Closing Statement

"Remember, this challenge isn't about finding unusual subjects.

It's about arranging ordinary subjects in an interesting way.

Great photographers don't just see scenes.

They organise them."



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