

"Welcome to our November challenge, The Power of Contrast.

Most photographers immediately think of black and white when they hear the word contrast, but contrast is much broader than that. It can be tonal, colour-based, textural, geometric, or even conceptual.

This month I'd like you to look for differences that make a photograph stronger and more engaging."

What Is Contrast?
Contrast = Difference

- Light vs Dark
- Warm vs Cool
- Rough vs Smooth
- Large vs Small
- Old vs New



"At its heart, contrast simply means difference.

Our eyes are naturally drawn to differences. A bright object in a dark scene attracts attention. A red flower amongst green foliage stands out immediately.

The greater the difference, the greater the visual impact."

Tonal Contrast

- Highlights and shadows
- Silhouettes
- High-key images
- Low-key images
- Monochrome photography



"Tonal contrast is probably the most familiar type.

This is the relationship between light and dark areas in an image. Strong tonal contrast can add drama, shape and depth.

Monochrome photography often relies heavily on tonal contrast because colour has been removed from the equation."

Colour Contrast

Examples:

- Blue and Orange
- Red and Green
- Yellow and Purple
- Warm and Cool colour palettes



"Colour can be just as powerful as tone.

Complementary colours naturally attract attention because they sit opposite one another on the colour wheel.

A small splash of contrasting colour can become the dominant feature in an image."

Texture and Shape

Look for:

- Rough and Smooth
- Hard and Soft
- Curves and Straight Lines
- Natural and Man-made Forms



"Contrast doesn't have to involve colour or tone.

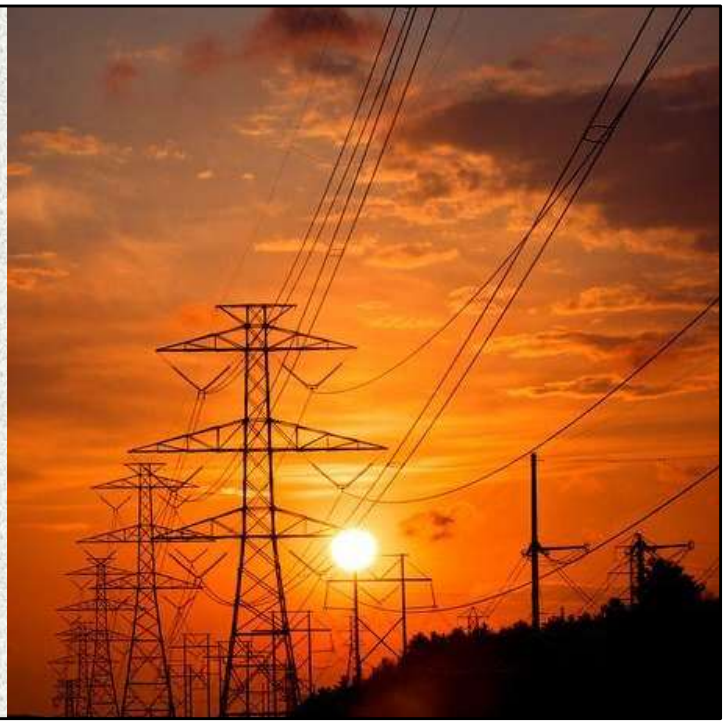
Texture contrast can be very effective in close-up and landscape photography.

Similarly, opposing shapes such as curves and straight lines can create strong visual interest and lead the viewer around the frame."

Contrast Through Ideas

Examples:

- Old and New
- Nature and Industry
- Tradition and Modernity
- Order and Chaos



"Some of the strongest photographs tell a story through conceptual contrast.

An old building beside a modern structure. A wild flower growing through concrete. A pristine object placed in a weathered environment.

These images work because the contrast exists in the idea as well as the visual appearance."

This Month's Categories

Theme: The Power of Contrast

Images may be entered as:

Human World

Natural World

Monochrome

Close-Up



"The categories remain exactly as usual.

Human World, Natural World, Monochrome and Close-Up.

What changes is the theme.

Whatever category you choose, I would encourage you to think about how contrast contributes to the photograph and strengthens the image."

Final Thought

Don't just photograph a subject.

Photograph the difference that makes the subject interesting.

Good Luck and Enjoy the Challenge



"Contrast is one of the most powerful tools available to a photographer.

Whether the difference is one of light, colour, texture, shape or meaning, contrast helps guide the viewer's eye and communicate your idea.

Good luck, and I look forward to seeing what creative interpretations everyone brings to the challenge."