



Aperture Photography Group  
Camera Skills  
What to Photograph

[www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk](http://www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk)



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# Camera Skills

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Tonight:

- ❖ What to photograph
- ❖ Recap the key points from the Nick Rains video
- ❖ Q&A



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# What to Photograph

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- ❖ Understanding how to use your camera is important
- ❖ But what makes a good photograph?



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# What to Photograph

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- ❖ Ask yourself: “What made me take this photo?”
- ❖ ‘It’s a nice picture” is not enough.
- ❖ We need to look further.



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# What to Photograph

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- ❖ All of us have a subliminal library of the kinds of images that we prefer and that work for us.
- ❖ Certain kinds of image trigger our interest.
- ❖ We subconsciously use these elements when out shooting.
- ❖ Michael Freeman wrote about this idea in his book *'The Photographer's Mind'*.
- ❖ 'Building Blocks' (Mental Templates).

# Example

- ❖ Strong colour
- ❖ Backlight
- ❖ Cast Shadow
- ❖ Simple
- ❖ Graphic
- ❖ Single person
- ❖ Texture



## Example 2

- ❖ Warm colour
- ❖ Backlight
- ❖ Repeating shapes
- ❖ Graphic
- ❖ Aerial perspective



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# Building Blocks - Summary

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- ❖ Strong colour
- ❖ Backlight
- ❖ Shadows
- ❖ Simple
- ❖ Graphic
- ❖ Single person
- ❖ Texture
- ❖ Warm colour
- ❖ Repeating shapes
- ❖ Aerial perspective
- ❖ Big sky
- ❖ Chiaroscuro
- ❖ Detail
- ❖ Abstract
- ❖ Small figure in the landscape
- ❖ Mist and fog
- ❖ Reflections
- ❖ Recession
- ❖ Mixed white balance
- ❖ Wabi sabi
- ❖ High key
- ❖ Low key
- ❖ Moon & Sun





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# What to Photograph

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- ❖ You can use more than one Building Block in a photograph.
- ❖ Which Building Blocks have been used in these images?

# What can you see?

- ❖ Back light
- ❖ Strong shadows
- ❖ Low key
- ❖ Graphic shapes
- ❖ Warm tones



# What can you see?

- ❖ Colour contrast
- ❖ Limited DOF
- ❖ Low-key
- ❖ Abstract
- ❖ Graphic shapes
- ❖ Cool tones
- ❖ Weather



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# What can you see?

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- ❖ Limited palette
- ❖ Low key
- ❖ Repeating shapes
- ❖ One figure
- ❖ Back light



# What can you see?

- ❖ Limited palette
- ❖ Wabi-sabi
- ❖ Graphic shapes
- ❖ Texture
- ❖ Irony
- ❖ Warm tones





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# What to Photograph - Summary

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- ❖ Review your images and those of other photographers.
- ❖ Understand what makes the images work.....
- ❖ ....These are your potential Building Blocks
- ❖ Make a list of the Building Blocks you like.
- ❖ Carry the list with you.
- ❖ Use one or more of your building blocks when shooting new images.
- ❖ Keep updating your list.



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# What to Photograph

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❖ Q&A