



FOUR ELEMENTS PHOTO ADVENTURES

Subjective Vision

“Teach me how to see”. That is always one of the most requested lessons that we get during workshops. It is true that some people have an eye for image compositions, while others struggle. But fear not, with a little guidance and instruction you can train your eye to see things in a way that you may have missed in the past.

When most of us start out in photography we just clicked away at anything and everything. There is nothing wrong with that as it helps in learning how to navigate your camera controls, but when you review your images, you may find that they are too chaotic or include things that look out of place or just don’t have a flow.

Here are some things to try when you’re out walking around with your camera, and you come across an interesting composition.

- ☐ Look at the composition from different angles. You may find one that’s better than the other.
- ☐ Simplify your image by removing unnecessary objects. Less is more!
- ☐ Zoom in and out. Wide landscapes can be amazing but sometimes the image works better when you isolate part of the expanse.
- ☐ Look for leading lines that will draw your viewer in and let them move through the image.
- ☐ Find and include interesting foregrounds, wildflowers, rocks, reflections, etc.
- ☐ Layer your landscape for depth. Look to see how your foreground, mid-ground, and background flow together.
- ☐ Use natural framing. Put a subject between two trees or find a way to highlight your subject using other objects to frame it.
- ☐ There are also composition rules around “thirds” and “triangles” that you can use to make your images more pleasing to look at. These rules are based on where you locate subjects or how you flow your image. And sometimes it’s ok to break the rules!

Taking the time to consider these composition tips, while deciding on your final image, will make all the difference. In the end, your final image is an extension of what you saw and how you wanted to project your vision. That’s the subjective part, the image is all yours. There is no right or wrong.

One last thing, we always have to laugh every time when we are driving around scouting locations because we usually see the same potential composition at the same time. It could be that we all have an “eye” for it, but a lot has to do with the years of using the principles of composition in our image creating.

Be patient.....