

An Exercise in Composition

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Description

Photograph nature, focusing your camera as close to your subject as you can. Explore textures, patterns, shapes, forms, and details, filling the entire picture frame. The emphasis of this project is on composition.

Frame each photograph carefully, paying attention to the whole area of the picture. Take your time, and think about focus, depth of field, and movement.

Don't photograph general nature views; this is a details project.

Requirements

Shoot one roll of film in nature. You must have at least three finished prints for review.

You may shoot additional rolls of film if you wish. You get credit for all serious work you do.

Notes

Consider these subjects when photographing:

Textures

Worn stones, rocks, bark, weathered wood, leaves. You may want to try to contrast different textures in the same picture.

Patterns

Branches, trees, roots, water, reeds by water, bark, stones. Explore the patterns that can be found in nature. Look for natural elements that are dramatic.

Reflections

Photograph the patterns and shapes of trees and branches reflected in water. Find still pools of water, as well as moving streams, and look for patterns on the surface of the water. Throw rocks into still water and see the patterns you can make.

Quote to Consider

"You learn to see by practice. It's just like playing tennis—you get better the more you play. The more you look around at things, the more you see. The more you photograph, the more you realize what can be photographed and what can't be photographed. You just have to keep doing it."

—Eliot Porter