#### ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF ART

# COMPA SITION in Photography

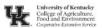
Cultural Arts and Heritage KEHA State Supported Lesson

Prepared by: Jeanne Badgett, Senior Extension Associate for Clothing, Textiles, and Household Equipment



# Today we will...

HSC-EPA.900





#### 2022 - 2023 CULTURAL ARTS AND HERITAGE • KEHA STATE SUPPORTED LESSON

The visual arts are among the most sophisticated forms of human communication, at once shaping and shaped by the social context in which they find expression. Humans have created objects of beauty and significance for thousands of years (Stokstad, 1995). Examples of cave paintings dating back more than 10,000 years provide a glimpse into our primitive world, as we view not only what is depicted, but also the way it is depicted.

Our involvement with art may be intense or casual, naïve, or sophisticated. As viewers, we actively participate in the re-creation of the work, and the meaning changes from person to person. We may react instinctively to a painting or photograph and get a "feeling" of knowing what we like, while our opinions as to what constitutes art changes over time (Stokstad, 1995).

But how do we know which "art" is worthy of our attention, and how do we know when we have found it? Sachant, et al. (2016) suggest the decision about "what art is best" belongs to the individual. There is specific vocabulary that enables us to analyze and process what we see. And when we enhance our "visual literacy," we raise our awareness of the powerful images that surround us (Sachant, et al., 2016). The "elements and principles" of art provide that vocabulary we can use to engage in meaningful conversations about what we view in our artistic world.



 Briefly explain the connection between light and some of our camera settings.

- Apply our "Elements and Principles of Art"\*
  vocabulary to composition in photography.
- Explore the concepts that make a "visually pleasing" photograph.
- Encourage participants to experiment with making pictures.

\*from "Year 1" of the 2022-2025 Program of Work

Cooperative Extension Service | Agriculture and Natural Resources | Family and Consumer Sciences | 4-H Youth Development | Community and Economic Development



# Is it a "good" photograph?



KEHA Judging Criteria for Photography

- Originality
- Content
- Clarity
- Technical Competence
- Composition

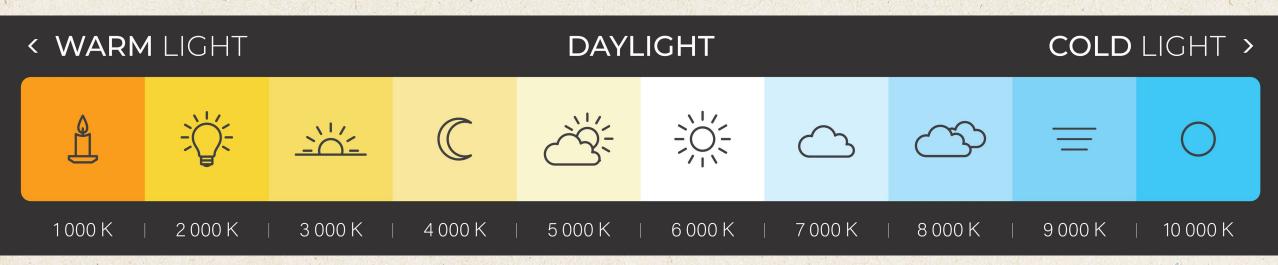


# Photography Equipment



## Light

- We need a light source to be able to "see" an image.
- We can "manipulate" the light to make our photos unique.





# Light Exposure

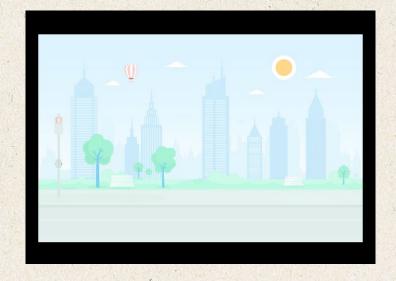




- Not enough light "let in"
- Sensitivity to light is low



**CORRECT** EXPOSURE

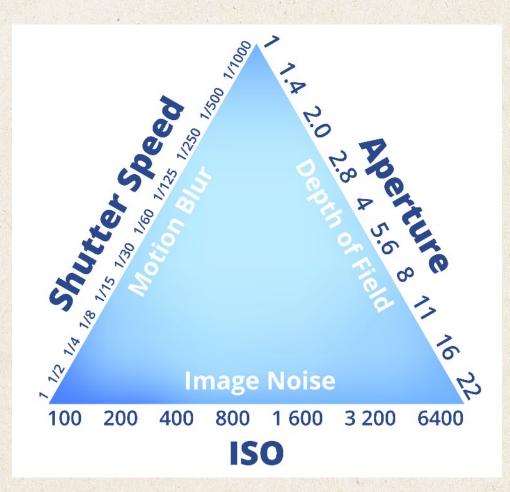


#### **OVER**EXPOSURE

- Too much light "let in"
- Sensitivity to light is high



## Camera Settings



Exposure is a balance of these camera settings:

- Aperture
- Shutter Speed
- ISO Sensitivity

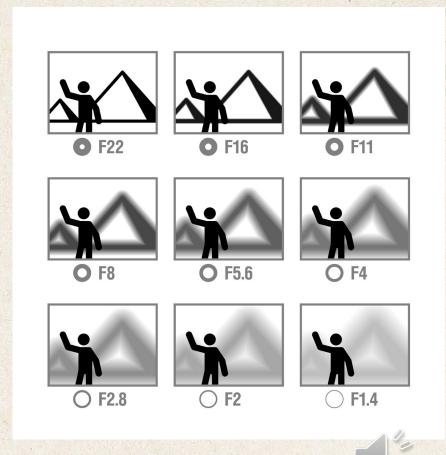


#### Aperture

 Opening in the lens that allows light to pass through to the image sensor (or film)

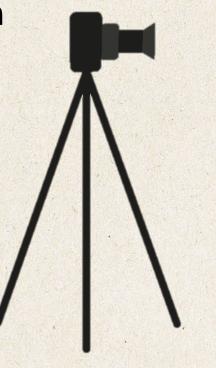


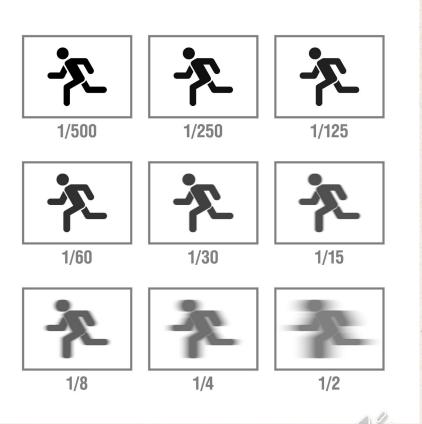
- Controls "depth of field"
- Controls what can be in focus
- "F-Stop" or "F-Number"
- Smaller "F-Stop" number = shallower depth of field



## Shutter Speed

- Length of time lens is open
- Controls how much light makes it to the sensor
- Fractions of a second (or longer)
- Use a tripod to limit blur at slower speeds







# ISO Sensitivity

- International Organization for Standardization

- How sensitive to light is the film or sensor?
- Lower ISO number
  - -- lower light sensitivity
  - -- higher image quality
- Higher ISO number
  - -- higher light sensitivity
  - -- lower image quality

























ISO 25600



#### "Make Pictures" with a Purpose

By understanding the **ELEMENTS** and **PRINCIPLES** of art and design, we can increase our "visual literacy" and awareness of the powerful images that surround us.





Line Shape **Form** Space **Texture** Value Color

ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF ART



# ELEMENTS

The physical and visual components with which a work of art is created.

**Unity / Variety** Proportion Balance Contrast **Emphasis** Movement Rhythm Pattern

ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF ART



# PRINCIPLES

The effects or results that are created based on the use of the ELEMENTS of art

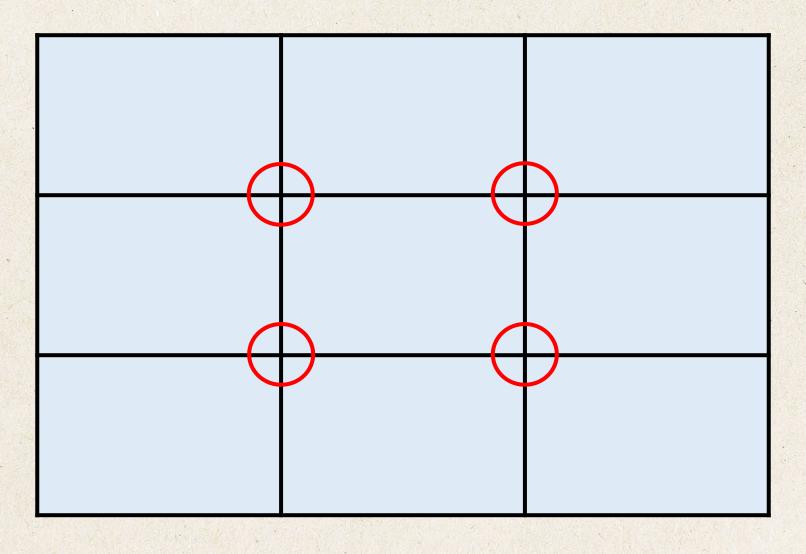
## Composition Concepts

- Rule of Thirds
- Framing
- Leading Lines
- Balance
- Perspective / Viewpoint
- Depth of Field

- Background
- Capturing a Moment
- Motion
- Repetition
- Silhouette



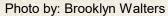
#### Rule of Thirds





## Rule of Thirds







#### Rule of Thirds

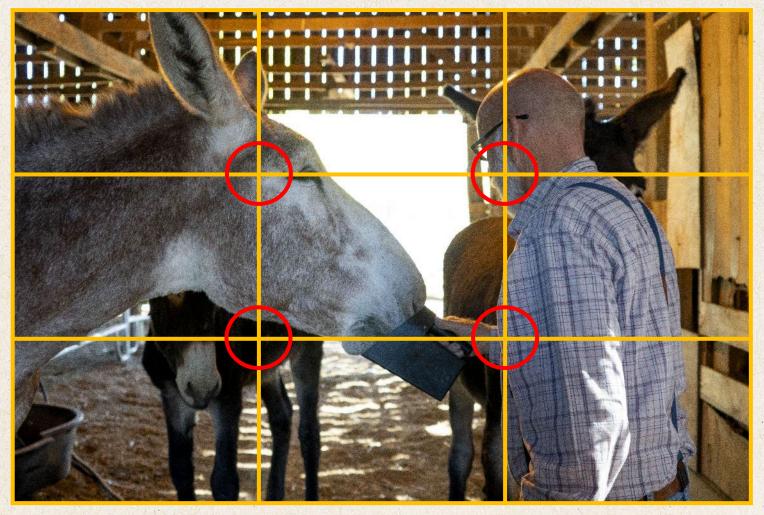




Photo by: Brooklyn Walters

# Framing



Photo by: Michael Smallwood



# Leading Lines



Photo by: Jack Weaver



## Balance



Photo by: Nyah Leveretter



# Perspective / Viewpoint

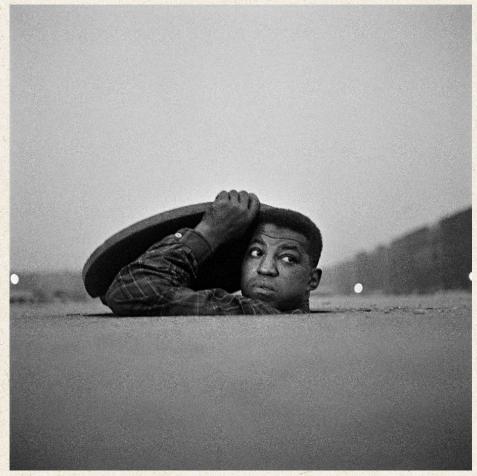
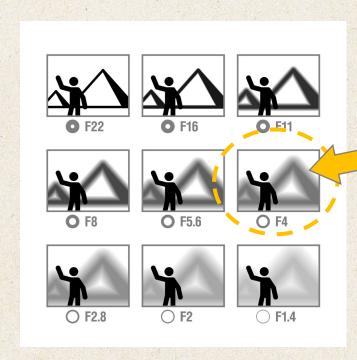


Photo by: Gordon Parks



# Depth of Field



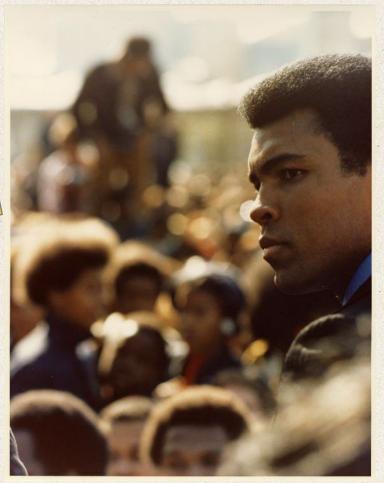


Photo by: C. Thomas Hardin



# Background



Photo by: Eric Comley



# Capturing a Moment



Photo by: Bryce Towle



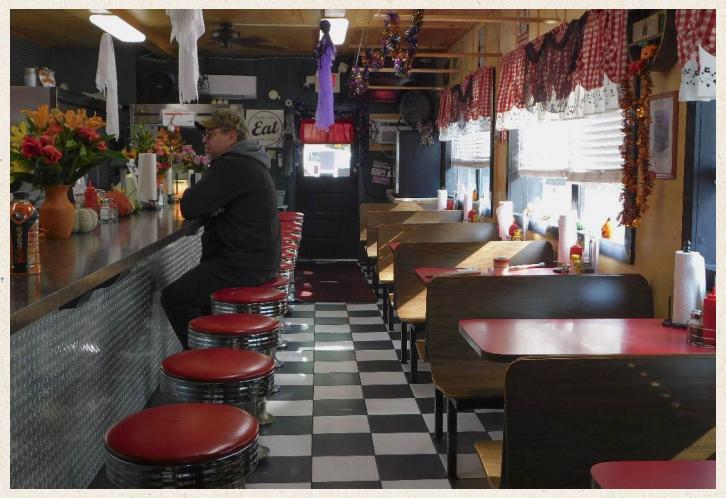
#### Motion

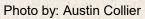


Photo by: Brooklyn Walters



# Repetition







## Silhouette



Photo by: Austin Collier



#### Color or Black and White



Photo by: Austin Collier





# Is it a "good" photograph?



# KEHA Judging Criteria for Photography

- Originality
- Content
- Clarity
- Technical Competence
- Composition

#### What's next?

- Learn the functions of your camera.
- Take some photographs.
- Experiment.
- Delete or toss photographs "without meaning."
- Display and share your favorite photographs.





# Questions?





#### Resources

Definitions of the Composition Concepts are based on content from *Making Photographs* by Sara Quinn, The Poynter Institute, poynter.org

#### Photograph examples used with permission from:

- Eric Comley, Garrard County 4-H Agent
- Picture Kentucky <a href="https://picturekentucky.org">https://picturekentucky.org</a>
- David Stephenson, Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Media
- University of Kentucky Art Museum

#### References:

- University of Minnesota Extension. (2023). Photography lessons and resource guide. Retrieved March 27, 2024, from <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/10e45tGmuijLS5Mpuun8HzH4y5QteQGBJw-5mCZISnl8">https://docs.google.com/document/d/10e45tGmuijLS5Mpuun8HzH4y5QteQGBJw-5mCZISnl8</a>
- Way, C. (2006). Focus on photography: A curriculum guide.
   International Center of Photography. Retrieved March 27, 2024, from <a href="https://www.icp.org/sites/default/files/icp-curriculum-guide-part1-0.pdf">https://www.icp.org/sites/default/files/icp-curriculum-guide-part1-0.pdf</a>

**Graphics:** Adobe Stock Images

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