



PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS

ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

What makes up a photograph?

- What elevates a photographer from the millions of people taking snapshots and uploading them to social media?
- TAKING vs. MAKING
- As a photographer, you must pay attention to what is making up your photograph.
- Which elements are coming together to create a successful work of art that goes beyond a snapshot?

TAKING:

- Snapshots
- Recording a moment, not a lot of preplanned thought.
- Common, everyday





MAKING

- Artistic and conscious control over the process.
- Paying attention to what you will capture in your photograph.
- Which elements are included, is the focal point standing out? Are things competing with each other for attention?

Seeing Photography:

- Photography isn't just about the main subject of the picture. You must also consider:
 - What are the supporting players to the focal point?
 - Are those supporting pieces bringing your eye to the focal point or distracting from it?
 - How are the elements creating interest in your photograph?



Elements of Composition:

Line

Color

Shape

Contrast

Emphasis

Texture

Space



LINE CAN BE USED...

... to lead your eye towards the
focal point.



... to create pattern and shapes.

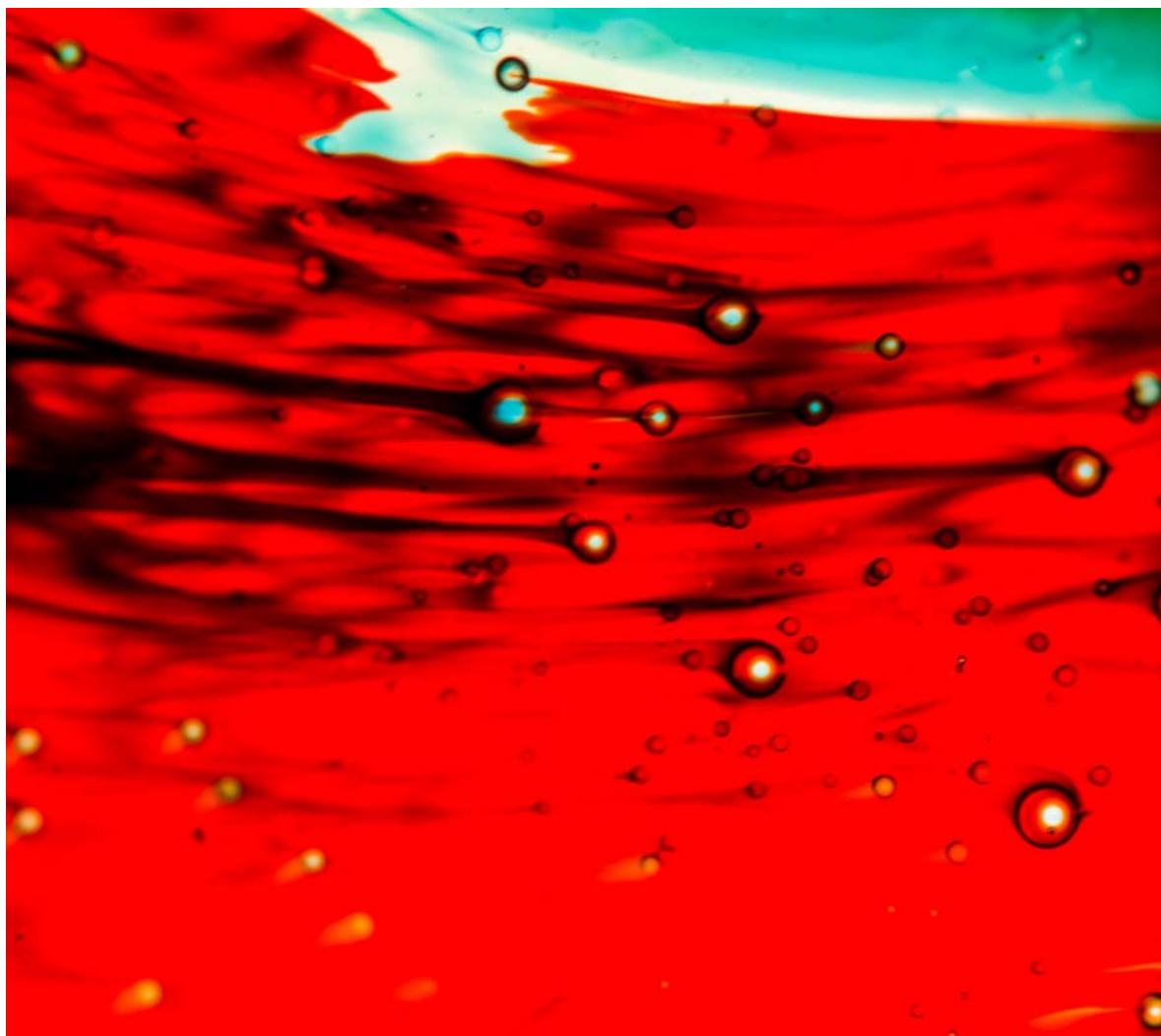
LINE CAN BE
USED...





LINE CAN BE USED...

... to create a sense of
movement.



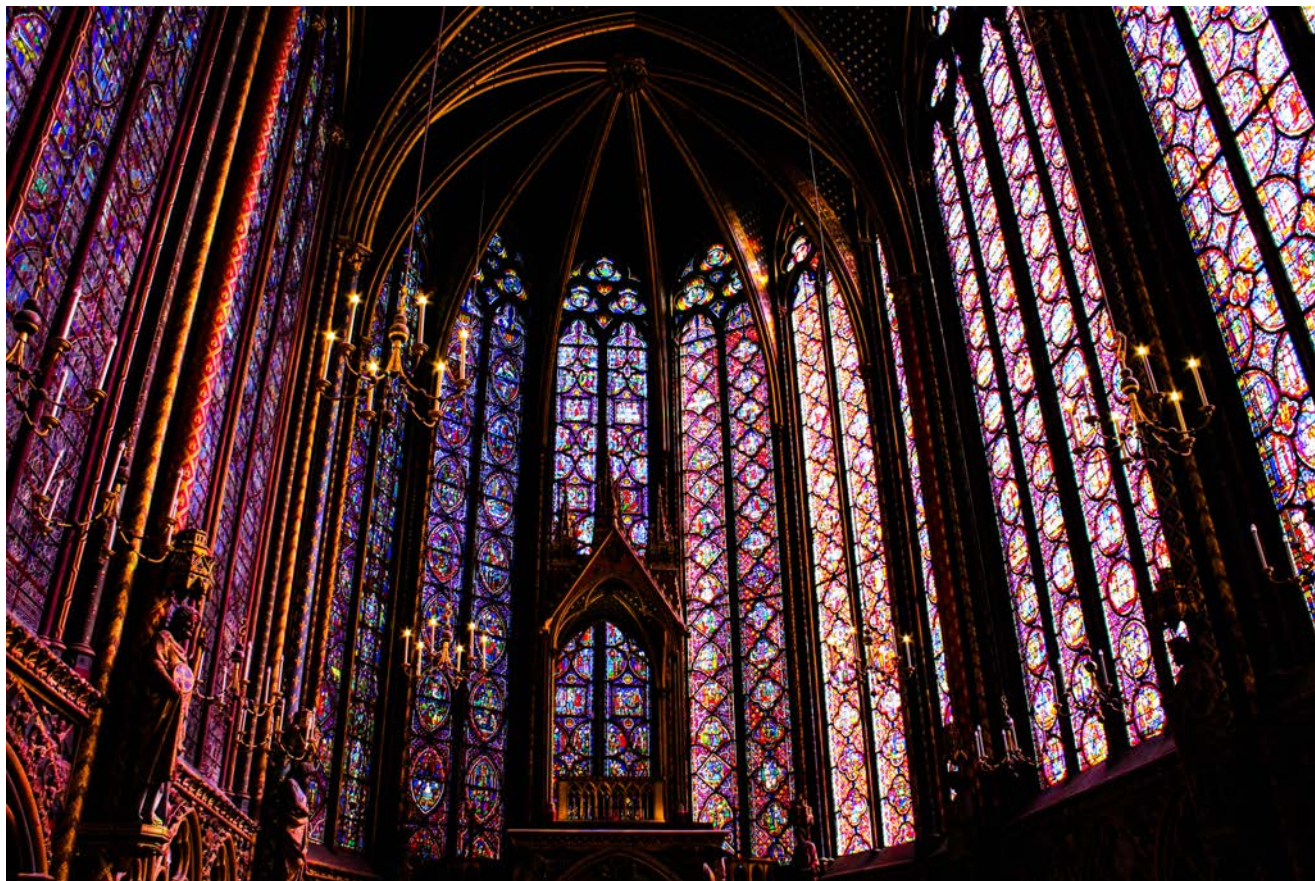
COLOR CAN BE USED...

... to create interest.



COLOR CAN BE USED...

... to create emphasis.



SHAPE CAN BE USED...

... to create pattern.



SHAPE CAN BE USED...

... to create variety and
emphasize the focal point.



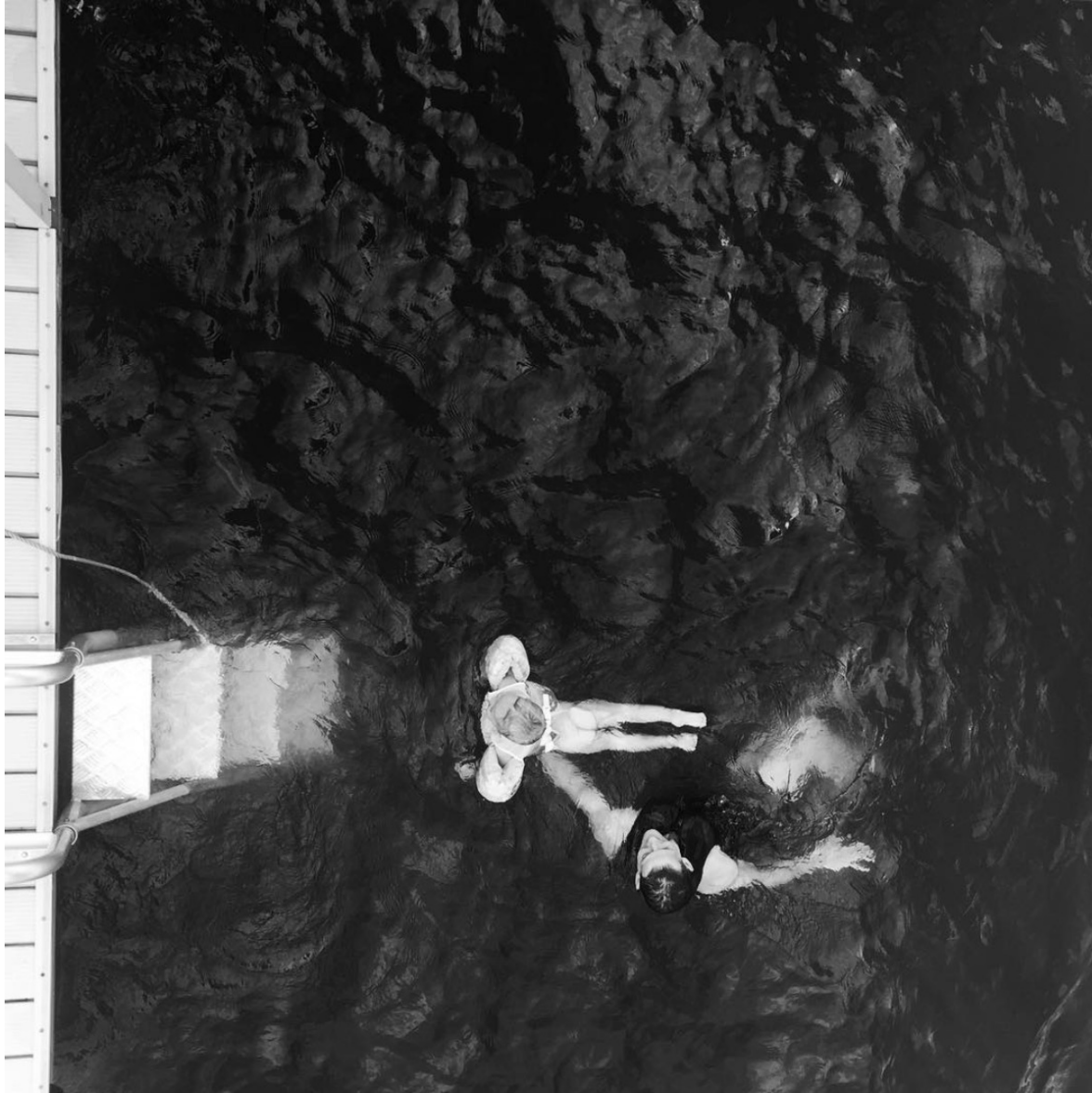
DISTINGUISHING SHAPES:

Shapes that are isolated and
as a result, emphasized.

Creates repetition and a sense of unity in the photograph.

OVERLAPPING SHAPES:





CONTRAST CAN BE USED...

... to emphasize the
focal point.

CONTRAST CAN BE USED...

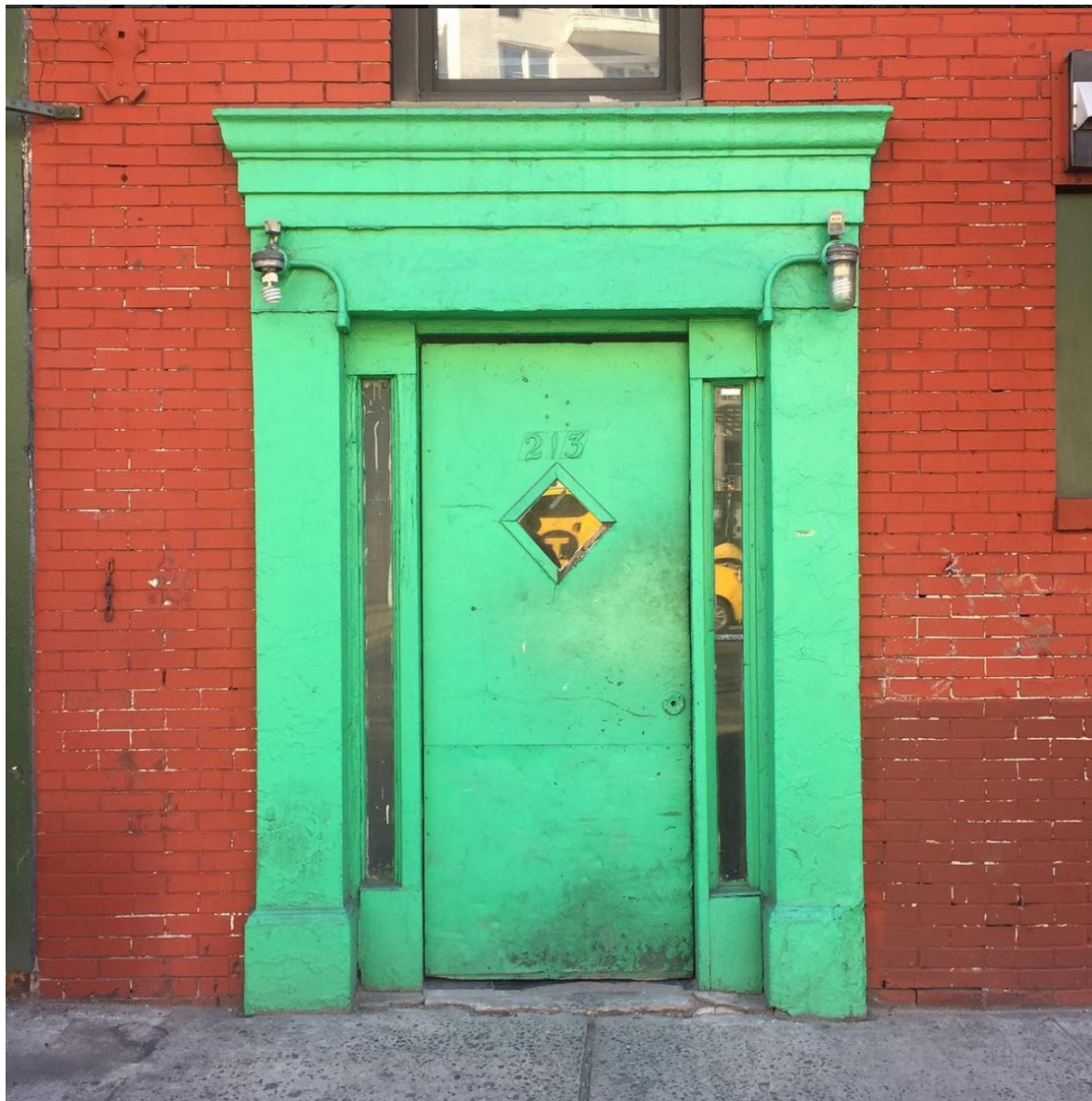
... to help different textures stand out from each other.





CONTRAST
CAN BE
USED...

... in your lighting.



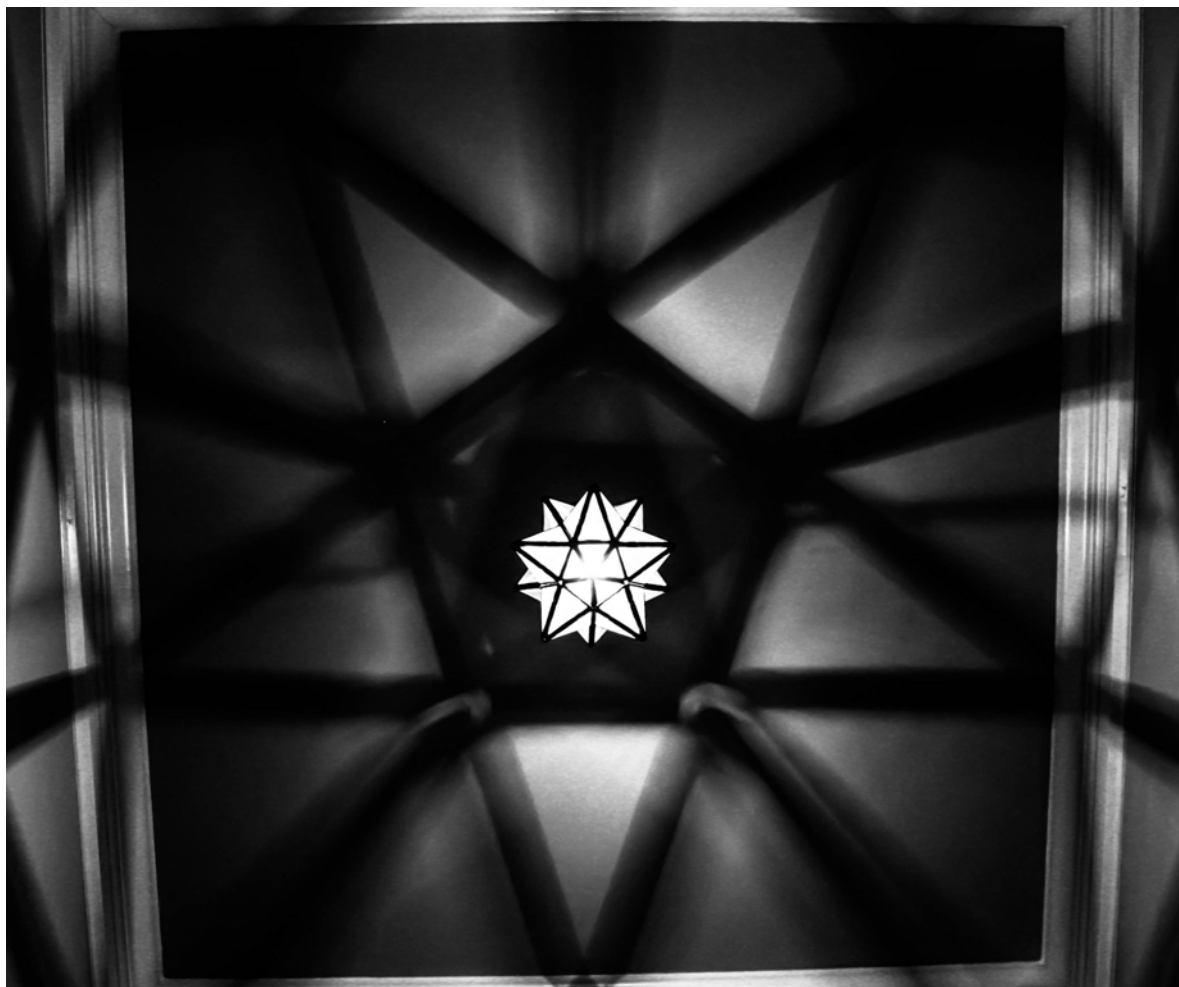
CONTRAST CAN BE USED...

... in your color to help the subject pop. Think complementary colors.



CONTRAST CAN BE USED...

... in your juxtaposition of
sizes.



EMPHASIS CAN BE USED...

...to bring attention to your
focal point.

EMPHASIS CAN BE CREATED...

... through positioning.





EMPHASIS CAN BE CREATED...

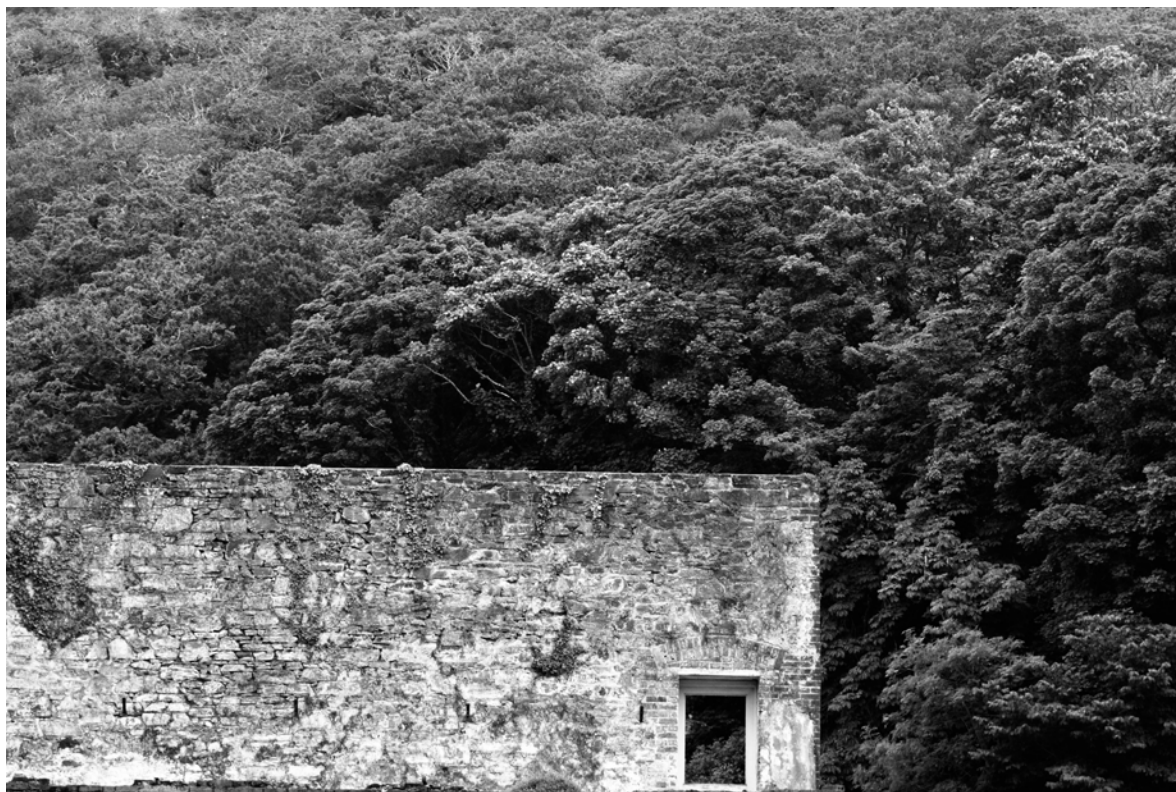
... through focus and depth of field.





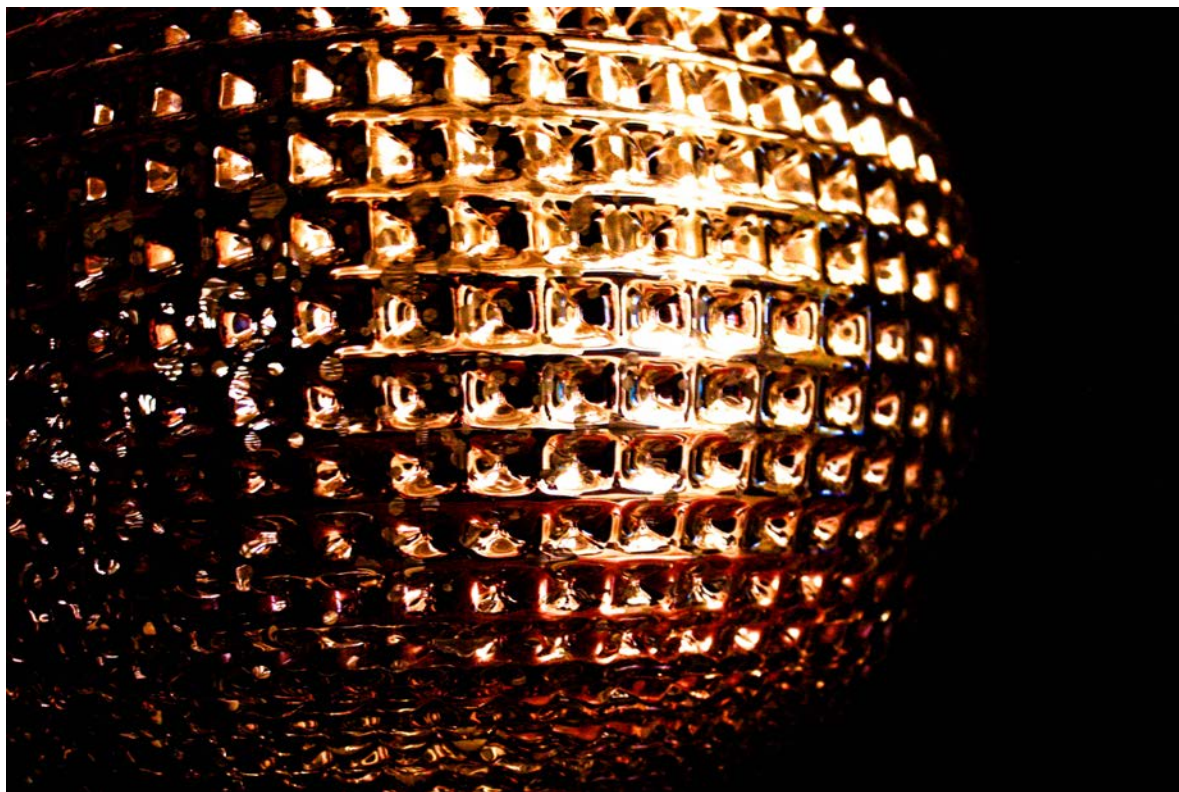
EMPHASIS CAN BE CREATED...

... by framing the subject
matter.



TEXTURE CAN BE USED...

... to separate subjects from
each other.



TEXTURE CAN BE USED...

... to emphasize value.



TEXTURE CAN BE USED...

... to give information about
the subject.

SPACE CAN BE USED...

... to create a sense of depth.





SPACE CAN BE USED...

... to help define the focal point
and subject matter.

Your assignment:

- You will go on a photography scavenger hunt!
- You are tasked with taking photographs that represent the different elements of photography.
- You will take 11 photos in total.
- You must title your photographs with the element it represents then save your pictures to a folder titled: Your Name-Elements Scavenger Hunt.

Don't forget:

- The element you are photographing should be the highlight of the picture.
- You aren't just TAKING a picture you are MAKING it.
- You set the stage for the best possible picture. Add elements, take things away, get on the ground, go up high, think about the framing.
- You don't want to rely on editing to improve your pictures, you want your pictures to be as complete as possible the moment you take them. That is why we learn elements and composition before you start learning how to use a DSLR camera.

THE END