How to see images with a camera in the way

Taking good photos

seeing

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My qualifications as a *photographer*

- None. Don't know an f-stop from a stoplight

My qualifications as a *viewer*

- More than 20 years of experience selecting photos for newspapers and magazines

  - Document
  - Tell
  - Show

What is in this photo?

LIGHT

- To see a good photo, you must be aware of light

LIGHT

- ## Sunlight
    - Natural light brings out more detail and more vivid colors

but...

LIGHT

- Really bright sunlight casts harsh shadows

- Overhead sunlight can wash out detail in faces

- Try not to shoot photos in the harsh midday sun…

LIGHT

- Shoot with the sun behind you, or to the side – or blocked by your subject for a silhouette

LIGHT

- Use natural light indoors…light coming in from a door or window (or turn up the lights inside)

LIGHT

- Side light shows texture, dimension, shapes

LIGHT

- The golden hours: sunrise and sunset

Photos taken at these times have rich, warm, inviting colors, good natural shadows
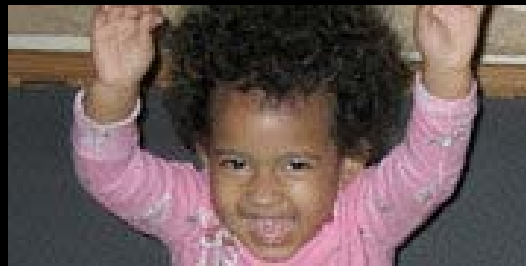
morning

LIGHT

afternoon

LIGHT

- Flash

- Most small digital cameras have a flash range of about two to three meters.

- Shoot twice: with and without the flash

Flash too far away

Too close: the bright light washes out the detail.

Better: the color is more natural.

LIGHT

- ## Red eye
  - Flash reflecting off the retina of your subject's eyes.
  - Move outdoors or increase the light in the room
  - Have your subject avoid looking directly in to the lens.
  - Try the red eye reduction feature on your camera

COMPOSITION

- The Rule of Thirds
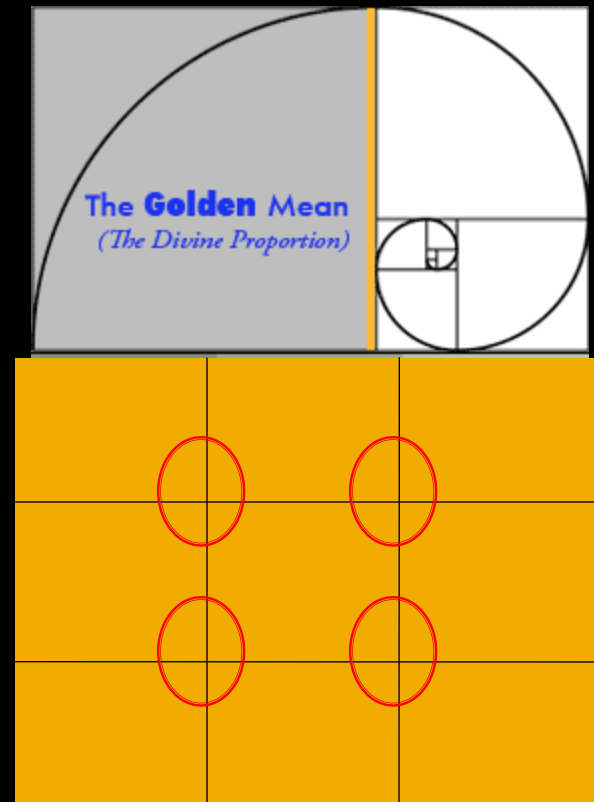- Background
- Lines and angles
- Frames
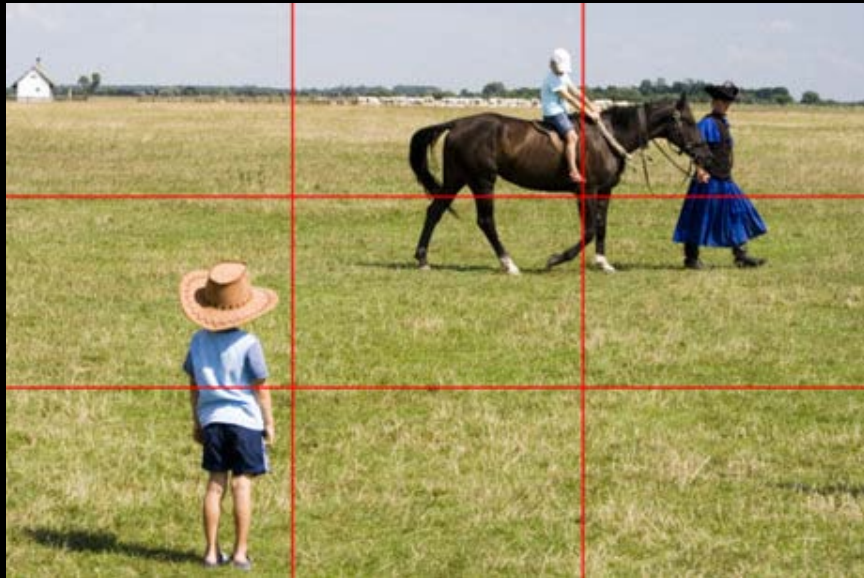- Scale

COMPOSITION

Zzzzzzzz....

COMPOSITION

- ## The Rule of Thirds
  - Think of a nine-square tic-tac-toe grid over what you see
  - Choose a main point of interest.
  - Place the main "interest" at the grid intersections

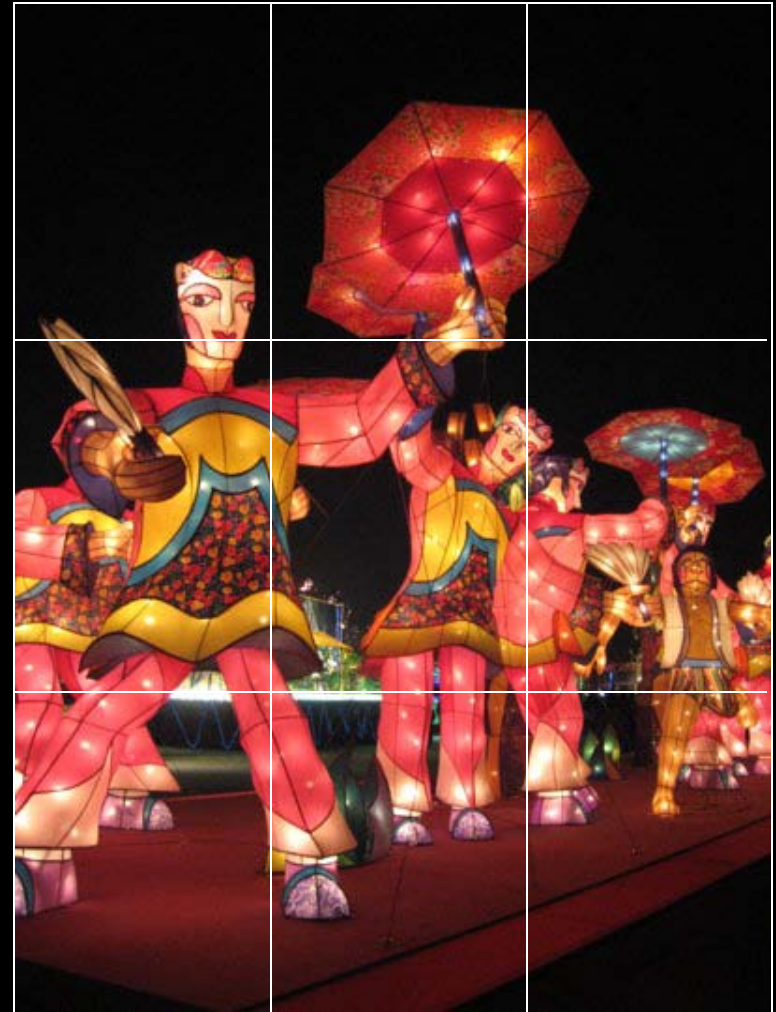The **Golden** Mean
(The Divine Proportion)

COMPOSITION

Many digital cameras have a grid built in.
Turn it on!

 * Break this rule occasionally!

COMPOSITION

Sometimes dead center
can be very evocative

COMPOSITION

- **Background**

Develop a habit of looking beyond your subject. Sometimes what is in the background can be as important as what is in the foreground

COMPOSITION

- ## Lines

Lines create perspective and depth. They lead the eye to the center of interest.

COMPOSITION

Lines and curves

COMPOSITION

Watch out for things growing out of people's heads!

COMPOSITION

- Scale

Include objects or people in the foreground to add depth and scale

COMPOSITION

- ## Angles

Instead of taking a photo straight on, try seeing it from a different angle.

Change your position.

Change the camera's position. Take both horizontals and verticals

COMPOSITION

Get down at a lower level and shoot up

COMPOSITION

Zoom in

Zoom out

COMPOSITION

- Frames

A good way to draw attention to the center of interest is to frame it. A frame helps the subject stand out

Doorways make good frames

Look for unusual shapes

COMPOSITION

- Wide landscape (the entire scene)
- Medium-range: show the details of different aspects of an activity
- Close-ups: people, inanimate objects

COMPOSITION

- With a digital camera, there is no such thing as too many photos!

- Field shots that document the passage of time: from seed packets to bed preparation, planting, harvest
- People in action…preparing meals, sharing meals, hauling produce to markets, processing, selling produce
- Close-ups of vegetables, plants, people

COLOR

- Look for spots of bright color to draw attention

PATTERN and REPETITION

Look for repeating shapes, lines, patterns

PATTERN and REPETITION

SOUL

- Quality of expression

SOUL

SOUL

SOUL

Remember...to SEE a good photo

Look at the LIGHT

COMPOSE the elements of interest

Use the power of COLOR

Seek out PATTERN and REPETITION

Find the SOUL of the photo

…but whose names I didn't list, because <u>they weren't attached to the images</u>!

?

ALWAYS…

Include the details!

- **Who** took the photo

- **Who** is in the photo – get the correct spelling of their name(s)!

- **What** is in the photo – species, for instance

- **Where** it was taken

- **When** it was taken

When all else fails…

- There is always Photoshop.

Thank you!