

Photography

Composing or modifying a
reference photo

Rules of photography

- First rule is that there are exceptions for all of these rules
- Simplicity
- Fill the frame
- Avoid distractions
- Identify a subject or point of interest
- Placement of the subject or point of interest
- Lighting
- Techniques to create a mood and draw the attention to the subject

Simplicity

- Avoid multiple point of interest
- Simplify a photo by cropping or leaving out items
- Create a thumbnail sketch to determine balance and composition
- Learn to combine references



Fill the frame

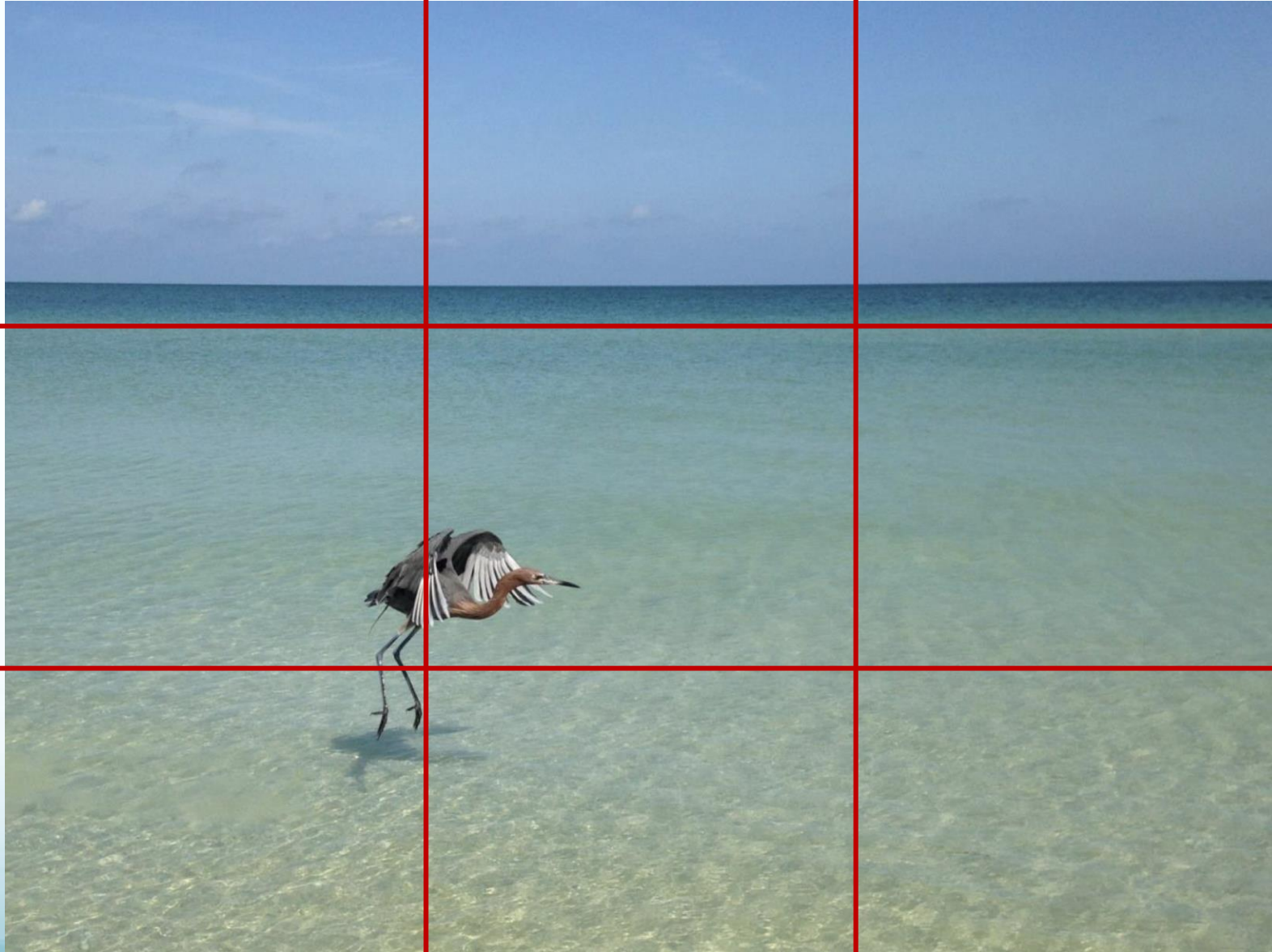
- Two often photographers don't get close to their subject and leave too much negative space
- Can be achieved by cropping but only if you have a high resolution photo
- Negative space can be a statement itself





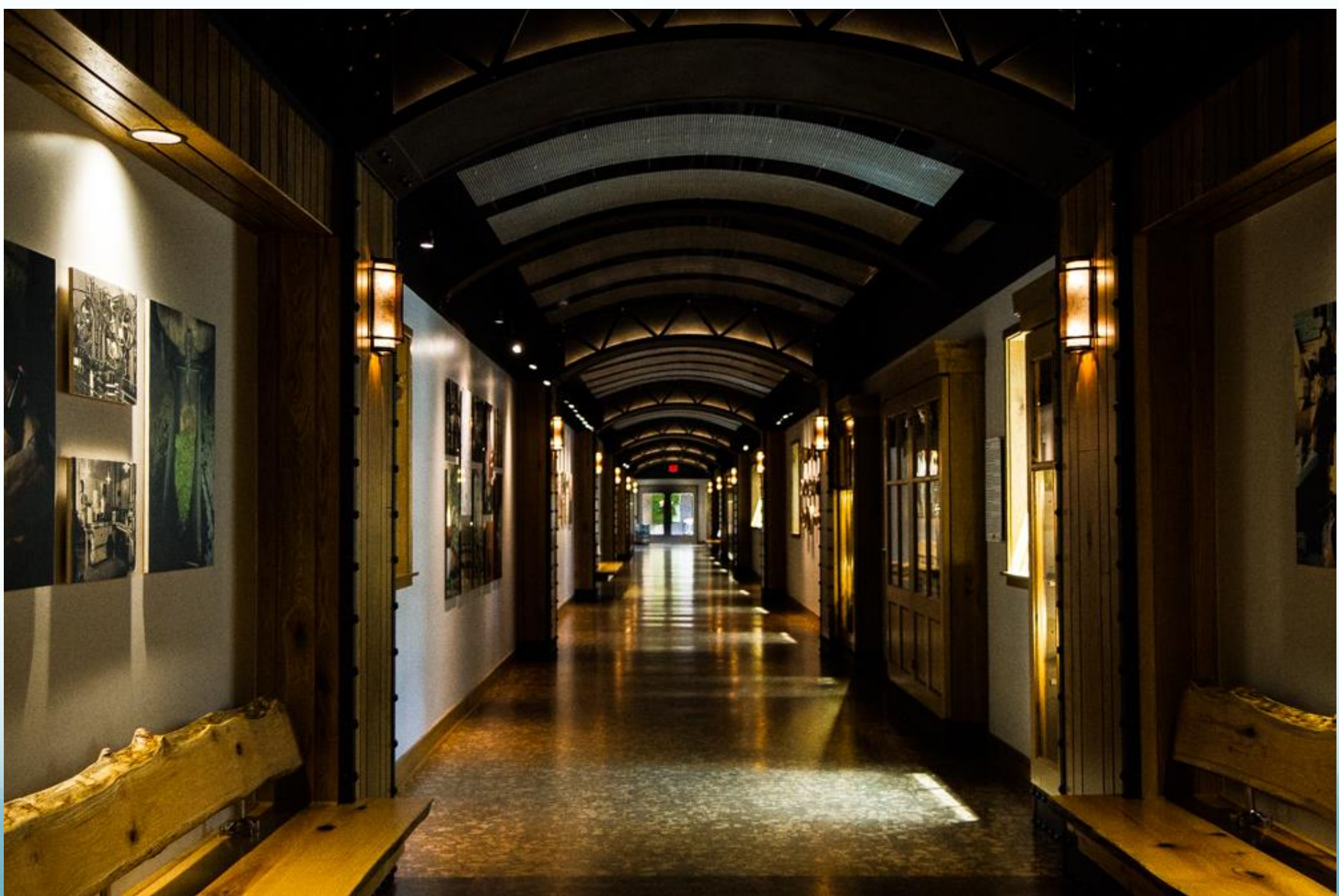
Negative space

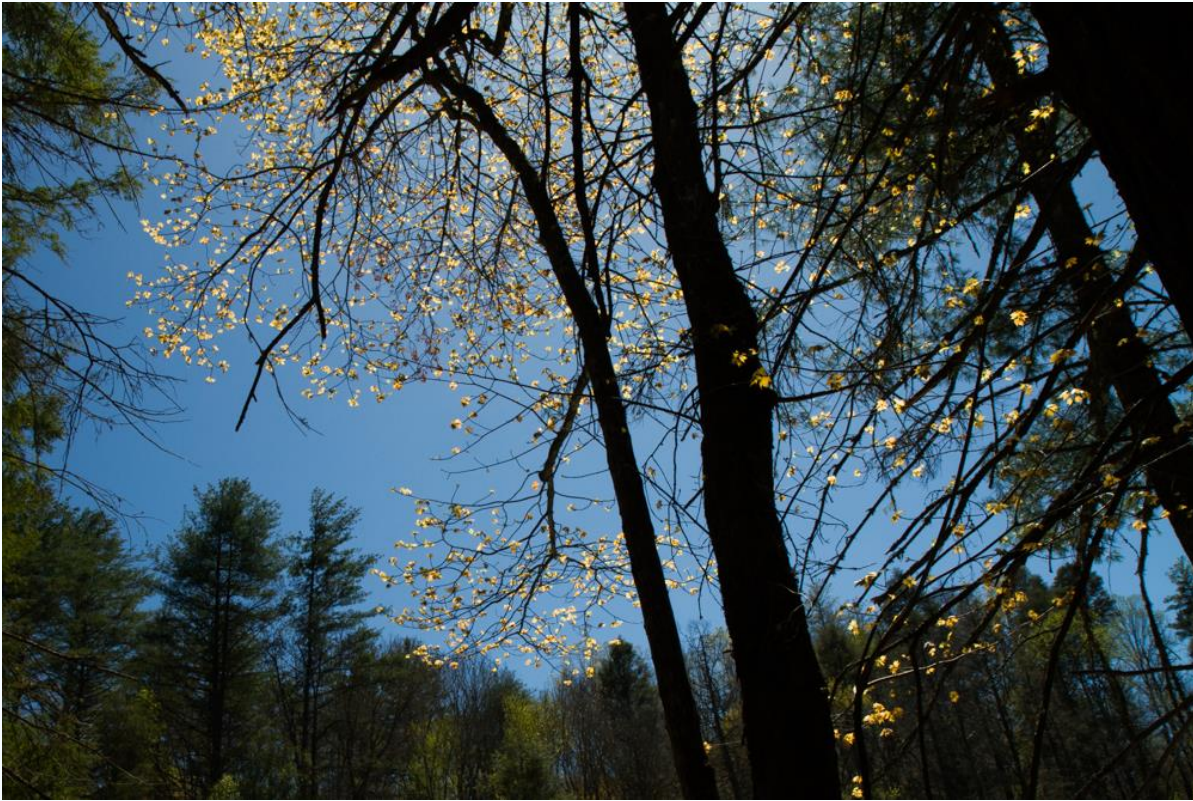




Depth and perspective

- Adding an object to the foreground can help to add depth to a scene
- Take your photo at an angle
- Take several photos from different angles









Avoid distractions

- Change the angle to avoid things that you don't want in your picture
- Vertical poles, utility lines and garbage cans
- Avoid shooting into the sun unless you want a silhouette
- Take pictures from an angle that does not include unwanted objects





Identify subject

- If photo does not have a clear point of interest, you can arrange one yourself
- Avoid multiple points of interest
- Create balance
 - Rule of odds
 - Main subject can be counter balanced by a smaller object
- Learn to combine your references





Rule of odds



Background

- Does the background contribute to or distract from your photo
- Blur the background using the camera or phone by increasing the size of the aperture (how much the lens opens).
- Angle the shot so there is not a distracting background
- Substitute a different background

Subjects lost in the background

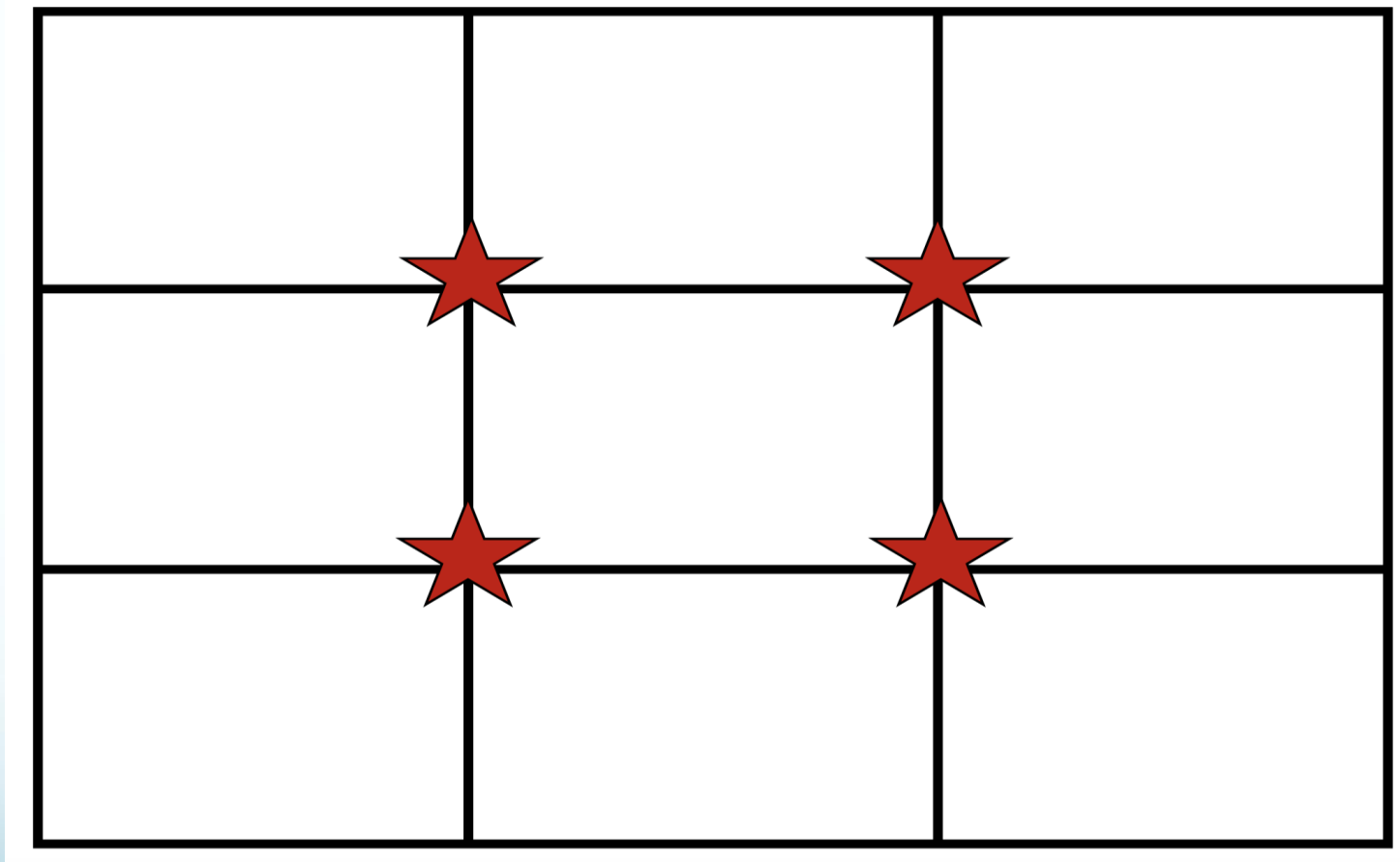


Combining references



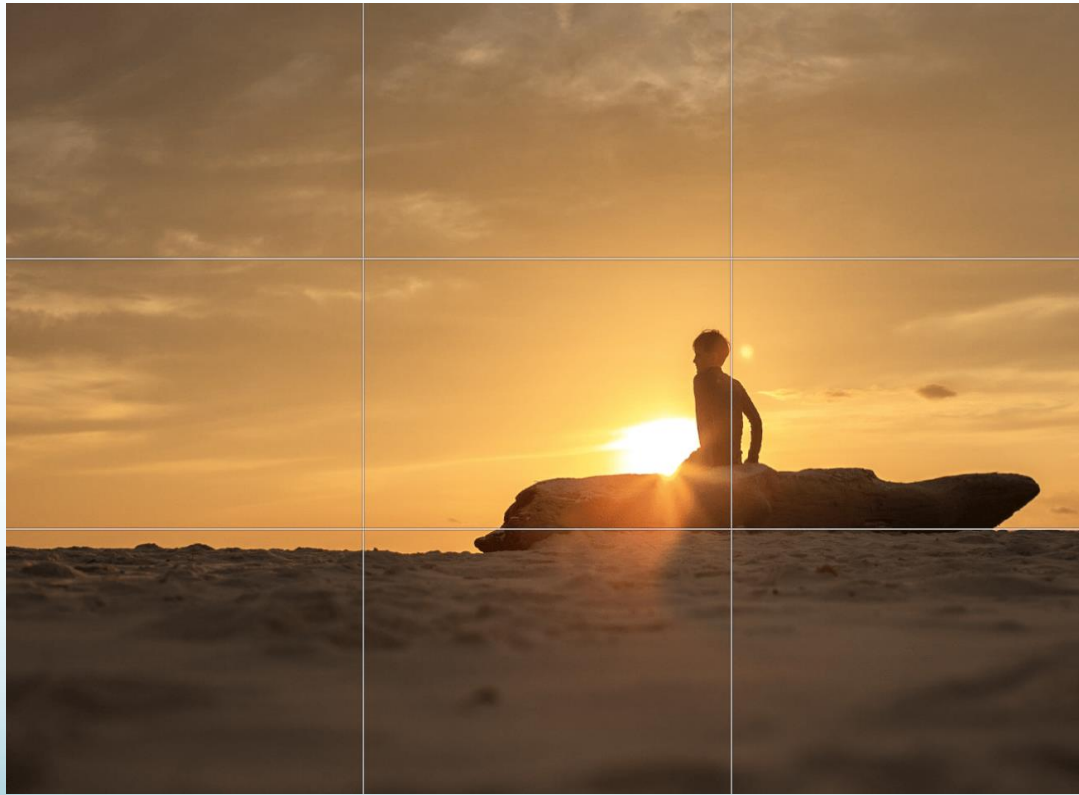


Rule of Thirds





1/3 sky or 1/3 ground

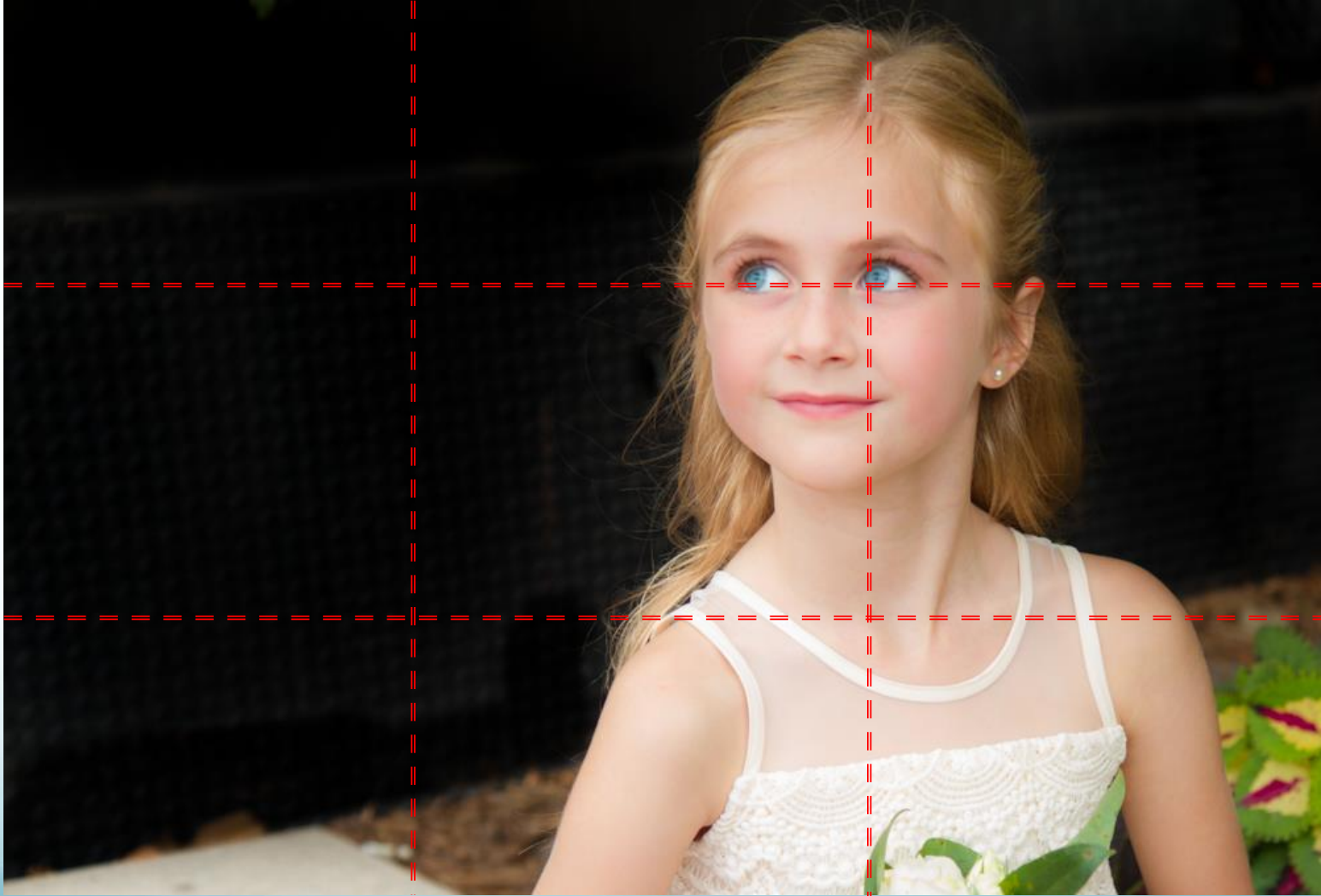


Portraits



- Afghan Girl by Steve McCurry
- Dominant eye is centered in the picture,
- Or dominant eye could be on the rule of thirds line
- Eyes in focus

Have eyes conform to the rule of thirds



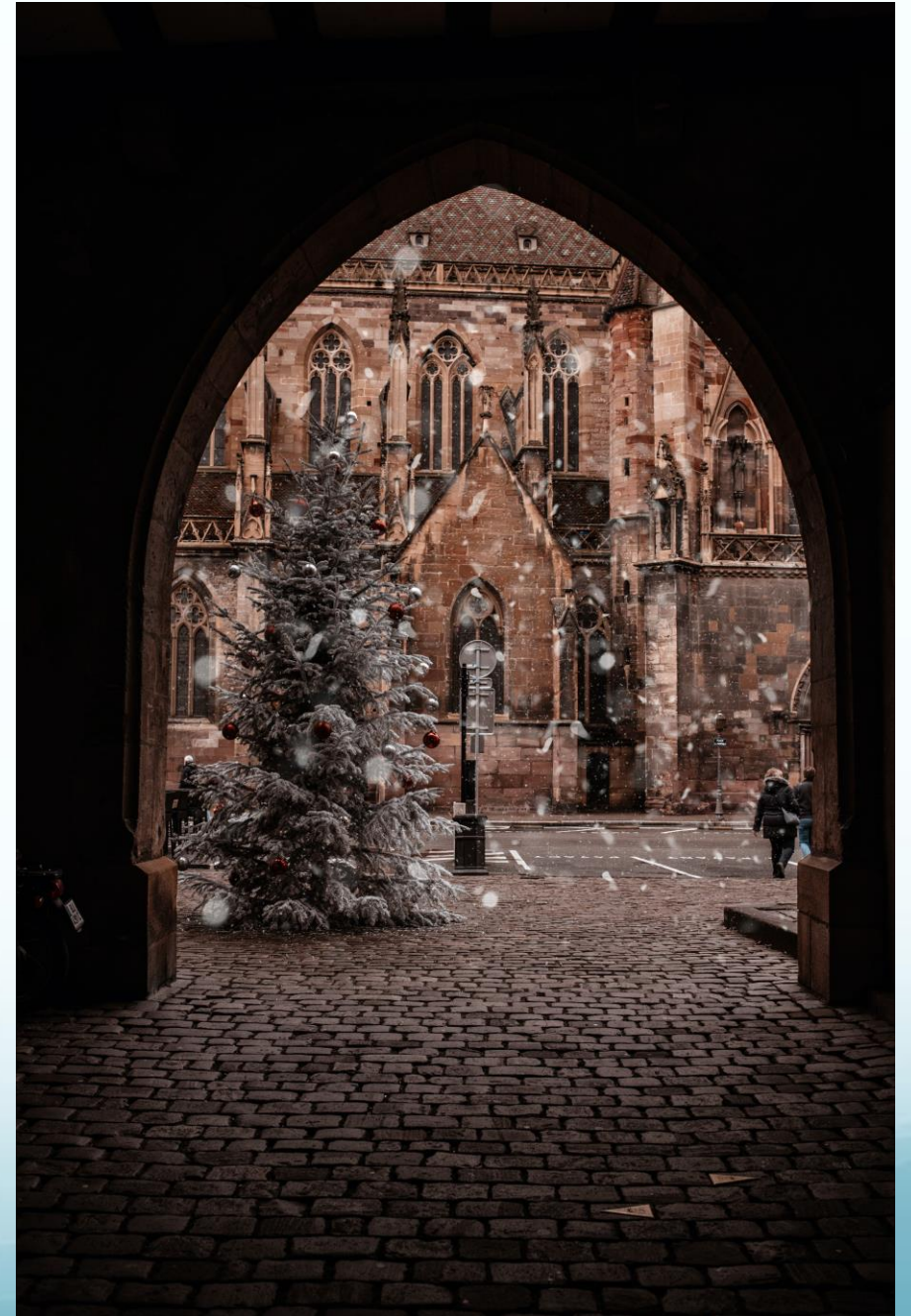
To isolate the subject

- Have the background out of focus/blurry with the subject in focus
- Vignette your subject
- Use a natural frame

Framing

- Can be a doorway, an archway, the branches of a tree or the mouth of a cave
- This helps to isolate your subject from the rest of the image, leading the viewer's eyes straight to the place you want it to go
- Gives the image depth
- Adds interest

Framing





Vignette



Landscapes

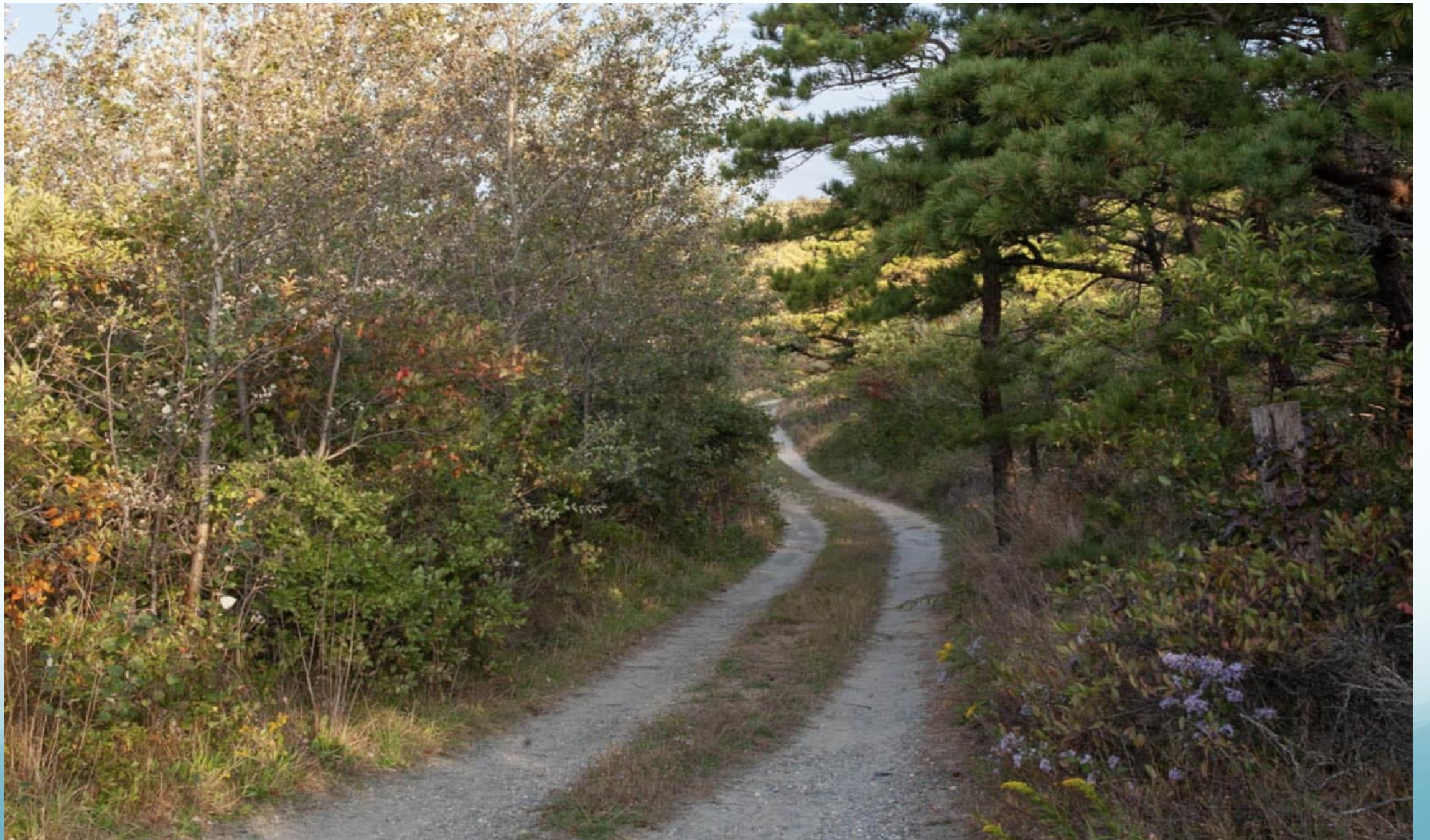
- Should have a foreground, middle ground and distance
- All of the photo should be in focus
- Use lights and darks to highlight your center of interest
- Make sure the horizon line is straight!
- Avoid placing the horizon in the middle of the painting unless you are photographing a reflection





Leading Lines

- The human eye is drawn into a photo or painting along lines—whether they are curved, straight, diagonal
- Diagonal lines create drama and give a sense of depth
- Can be curved or straight, natural or man-made
- Take the eye somewhere or tell a story
- Lines can convey perspective

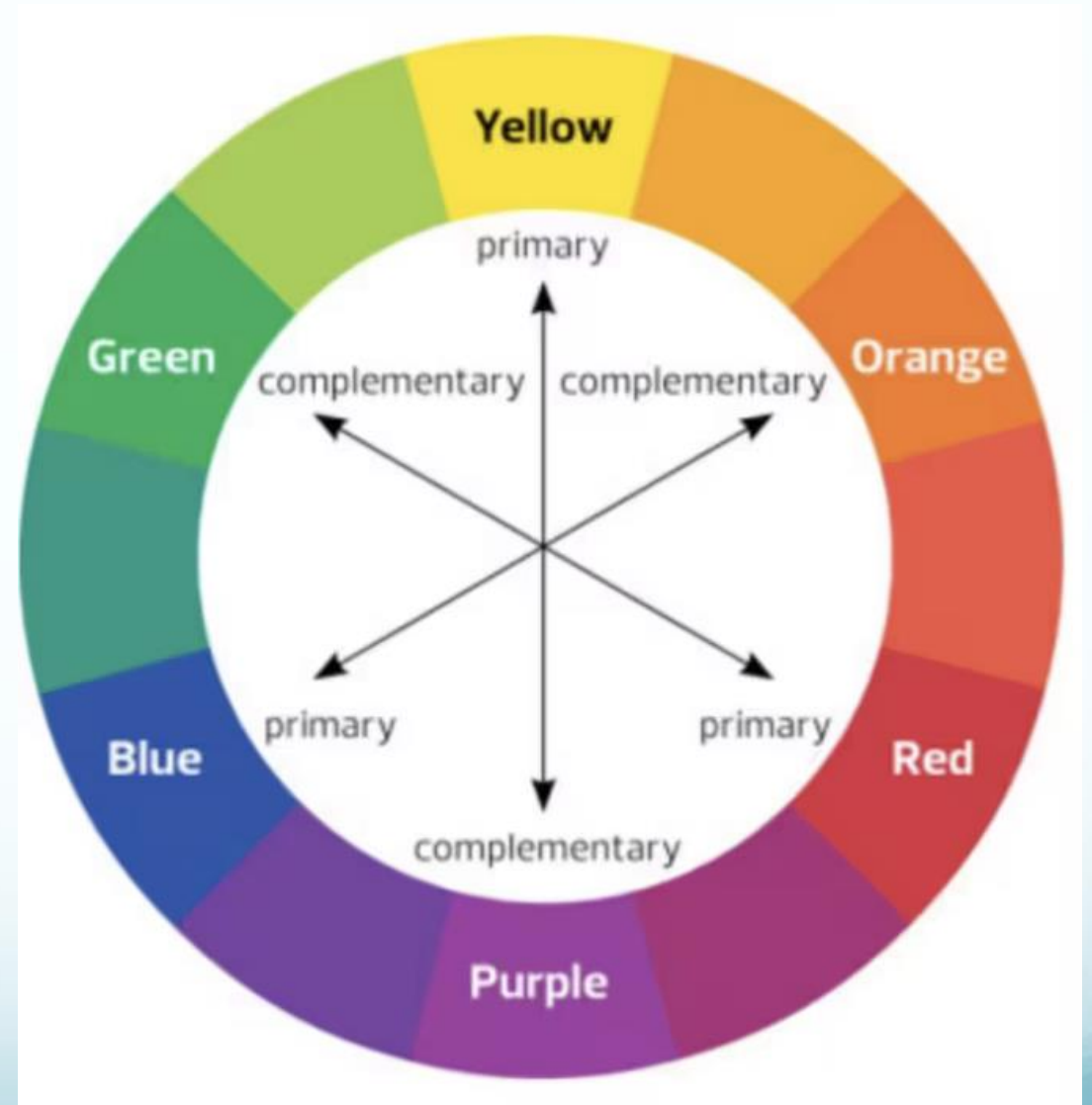






Color

- Can be cool or warm colors
- Colors create a mood



Opposites attract



Viewpoint

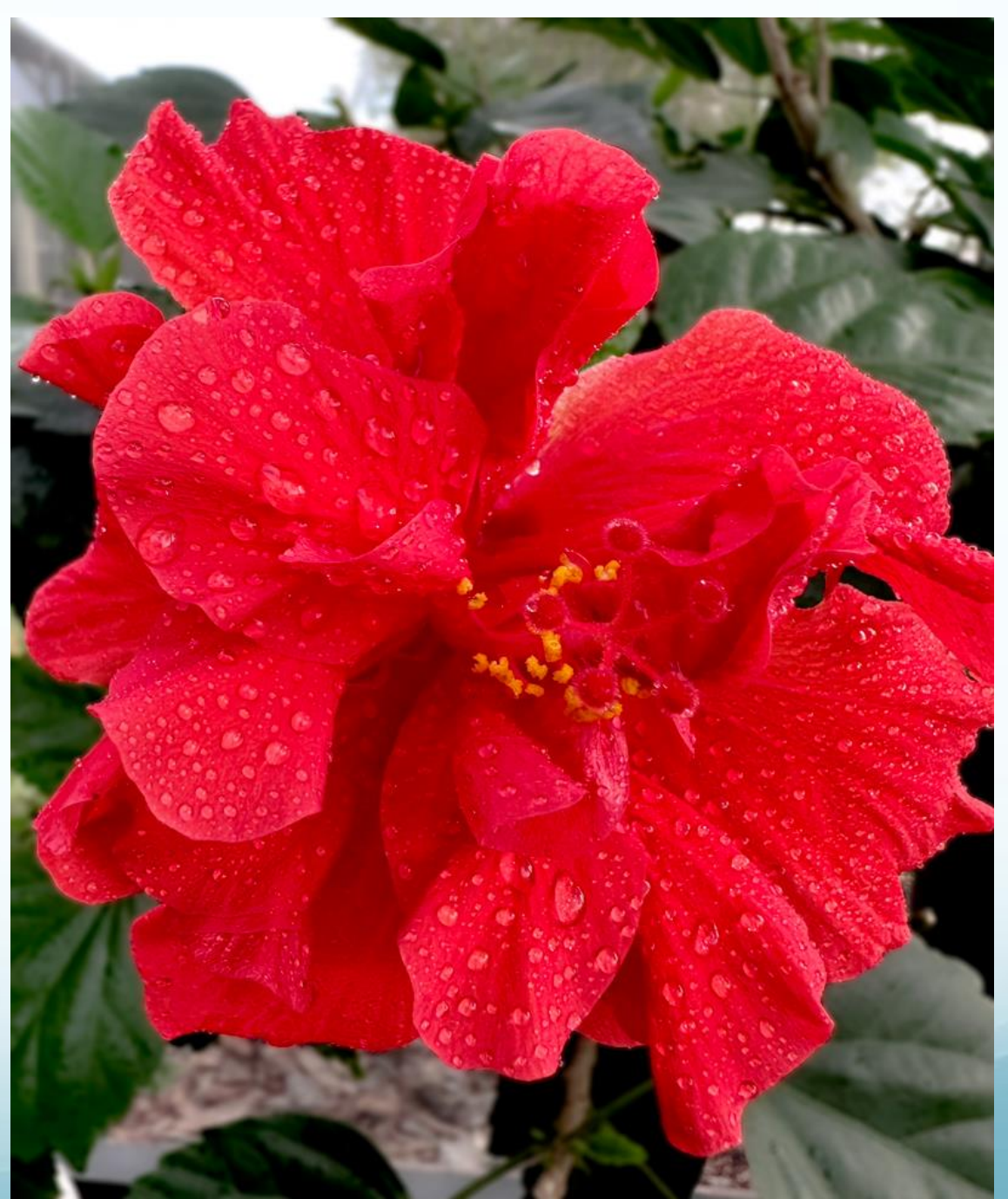
- Shooting up or down
 - Get to the level of a pet or child
 - Shoot up to emphasize the height of trees or buildings
- Depth
 - Include something in the foreground of a landscape for perspective and interest





Macro photography

- Often of flowers or insects
- Best done early or later in the day when the sun is less harsh
- Narrow area of focus
- Can simulate dew drops with a spray bottle



Lighting

- Photographer paints with light
- Golden hour photography
- Natural lighting is always better than a flash
- Cloudy day is the best for portraits
- Side-lighting is also great for portraits - light from a side window
- Bright mid-day light creates harsh shadows

Side lighting



Window lit portrait



Cloudy day – Golden hour



Lighting can be your subject



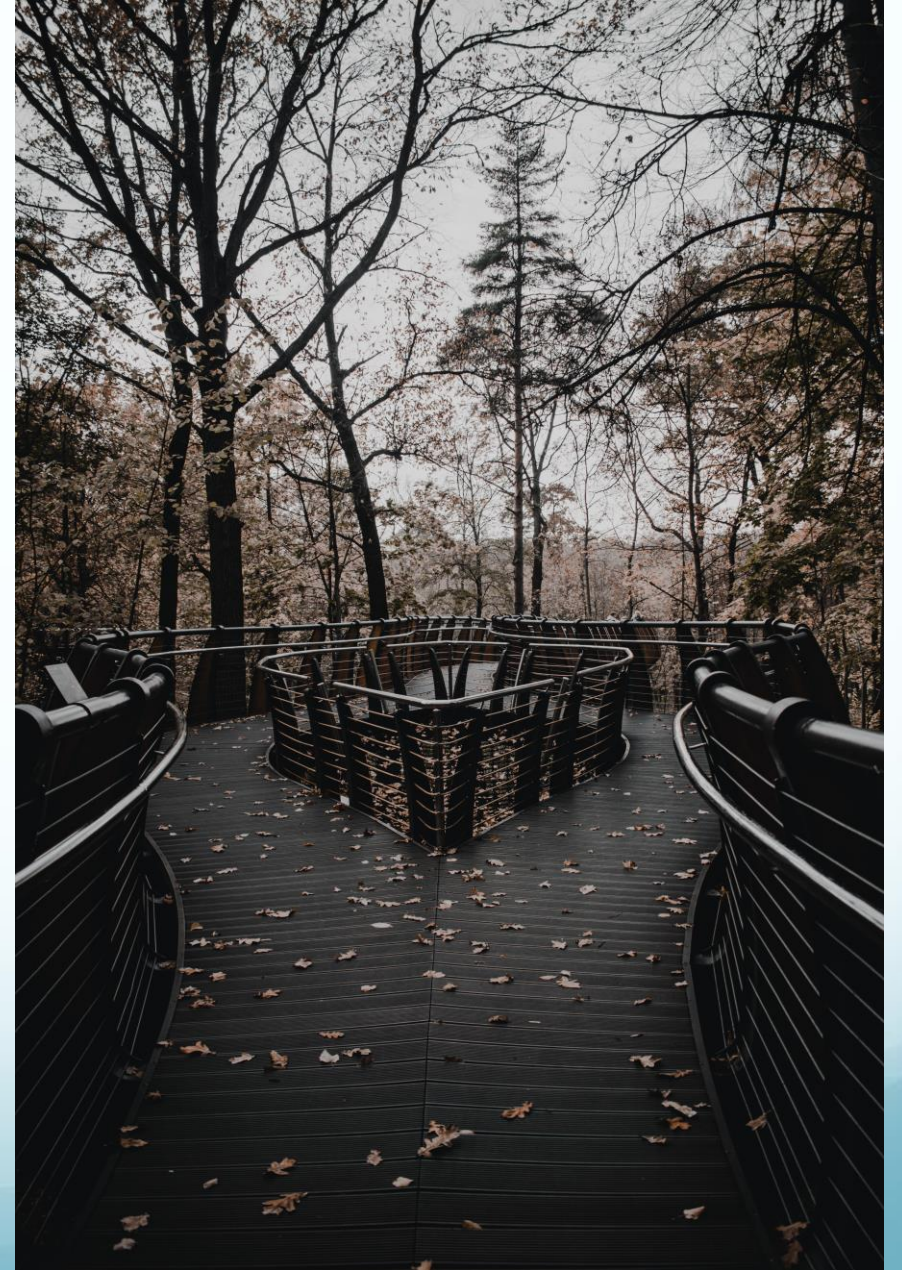
Lighting can add drama



Symmetry

- Some photos look best if there is balance on the right and left and with point of interest in the middle
- A time to break the rule of thirds

Symmetry



Reflection = symmetry



Diagonal lines or triangle composition

- Adds interest
- Balances the photo



Remember, the best camera is the one you have with you

