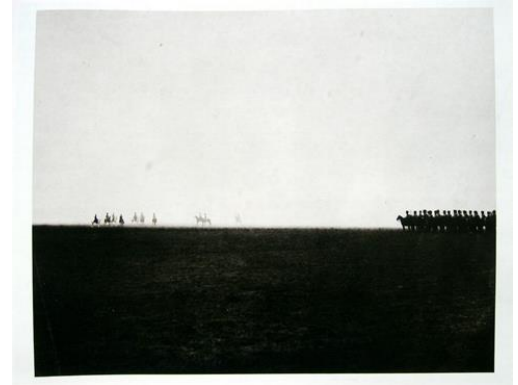


Photography

Composition is all about how you choose to order and frame the visual elements in your picture. Think of composition as the foundation of your photographic images.

Horizontal lines in photographs help the image to be 'read' easily, as we can scan it from left to right comfortably. Compositions featuring a horizontal line give the feeling of calm, stability and weight.

In this example by Gustave Le Gray a war scene has been pacified through the use of this compositional approach.



Task 1

Decide upon an uneasy subject matter, for example excessive littering, and then take a series of photographs (approx. 30) in which the subject matter seems calm and stable. Your aim is to visually contradict the subject theme.

Within a photograph, vertical lines can express strength and power, and are often emphasised in photographs of important buildings and structures.

The photographer Joel Merewyowitz chose to emphasise the resilience of NYC as he photographed the site of the Twin Towers, depicting this with an abundance of tall and vertical structures.



Task 2

Select a subject matter typically perceived as weak and vulnerable, and photograph this to emphasise vertical lines. Your aim is to strengthen the way we see this subject. For example, you might photograph a series of burnt matches, but show them standing tall and proud. Aim for 30 photographs.



This photograph by Shomei Tomatsu demonstrates a use of visual weight. A red paint splat dominates the image, rendering all other details as lesser.

Task 3

Choose a colour (red and yellow are best) and take a series of photographs in which these colourful elements dominate the frame. Vary your subject matter and scale, with the aim of the photographs working on mass and when seen together.

