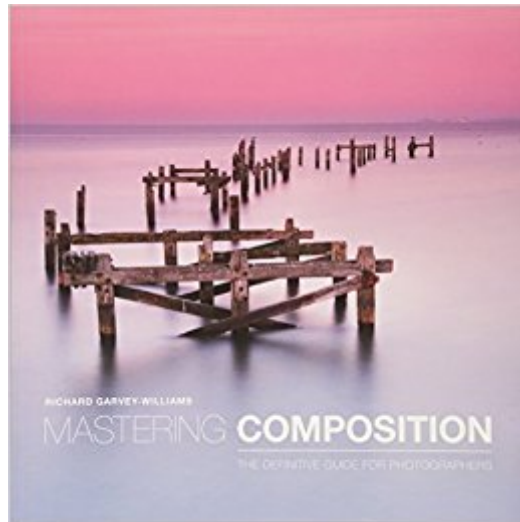




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Mastering Composition: The Definitive Guide For Photographers



Synopsis

Going beyond the rule of thirds, this offers invaluable tips and tools to help the photographer take control of the creative process with emphasis on four elements: an impactful subject, dynamic composition, effective use of lighting, and an ability to invoke an emotional response in the viewer. What makes a great photo? Flicking through the pages of popular photography magazines you might get the impression that there's only one rule of importance—the rule of thirds. Indeed it appears that some will judge the merit of a photograph based almost solely on this. Rarely do you hear discussion about visual weight, balance, negative space, depth, and so on. Author and professional photographer Richard Garvey-Williams argues that success lies in a combination of four elements: an impactful subject; dynamic composition; effective use of lighting; and, perhaps the most crucial, ability to invoke an emotional response in the viewer. Citing examples gleaned from a study of history—the Ancient Greeks' Golden Rule; Fibonacci's mathematical ratio; and the principles known as the Gestalt theory—the author analyzes the concepts, rules, and guidelines that define successful composition in photography and offers practical guidance to achieving great results. In clear, concise, and jargon-free text he also considers the role of tone and color in good composition, and offers invaluable tips and the tools to help the photographer take control of the creative process. The book is illustrated with examples of the author's own beautiful nature photography, along with diagrams and notation to explain techniques most clearly. A final chapter in this definitive guide for all serious photographers discusses photography and its relationship to art before offering a considered conclusion to the exploration of this fascinating topic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Garvey-Williams is a photographer. In addition to exhibiting prints and publishing his work, he regularly teaches workshops and tutorials and leads photographic safaris and landscape photography workshop vacations internationally.

First of all this is an extremely well written book and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm an intermediate photographer that loves to travel for outdoor photography. I would often study many photos of the same scene that I have taken that are just slightly different. But however how close they appear to be at first glance one will usually stand out as more pleasing but I never knew why necessarily. This book explains really well, with nice pictorial examples, the why. This book now helps me look at a scene more analytically and abstractly and to take a step back from the extreme details of a scene and look at the general basic shapes, tones, curves and lines of a scene before I take a shot. Such a valuable book and fun read.

I'm new to photography and was told by a number of friends who do it for a living that the best thing I could do to improve my skills on a budget was read as much about the subject as possible. This is probably the 8-9th photography book I've read since December 2015. It's very in depth and informative. The example pictures are wonderful and help drive the talking points home. Some of it is honestly a little over my head but that's not anything against the author. It's just something I'm going to have to go back and re-read after I've put some of the lessons into practice. I highly recommend for anyone who feels their pictures would benefit from better composition.

If you are as confused and ignorant about what constitutes good composition as I was, get this book. Don't try to absorb it in one sitting. Browse and think about the topics and look at the pictures.

For those of you that wants to know what it takes to be a renown photographer you have to understand the psychology of how people see. If you have taken a class in "Intro to Psychology" you will enjoy this book. The author breaks it down to simple terms on how this is achieved. I learn a lot about composition from this book that I didn't take into consideration before. Like neutral space

and balance in a photo. It has changed my view on compositions considerably. I didn't know I was already using this idea in architectural photography, but for some reason the concept didn't carry over into landscapes with me. Now I have a better idea on how to convey the message I want to create when I photograph the ocean or desert and how other people will see my work as opposed to what I see.

Great book, great photos and great ideas for thinking about composition before you push that button.

Very thoughtful and thought provoking discussion about composition. Should be on one's short list of book for this topic (also check out Freeman Patterson's books).

loved it! Please write more.

Great book. I love to read these books from the masters. Recommended reading from beginner on.

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