

COMPOSITION OF THE IMAGE...

Everything we will state about "composition of the image" will be other than exhaustive but, we repeat, we wish to help you using your camera, of any type they are, and to try to make some pictures; with time and experience you will learn all "techniques" of composition.

A picture to be beautiful not only needs a correct exposure, cioè a correct diaphragms and time - this is a camera task. Good exposure invece depends on photographer, that is there will be a correct relation among all elements present in the frame,... a correct composition.



Fig. 1 : in some cameras of last generation composition is driven. In case of a portrait

To understand how to get a "correct relationship" it will be enough to learn few rules and to take some pictures test.

To give an idea of elements balancing inside frame is more simple to apply to a

direct experience; we can accogere if a picture has a correct composition just looking at it.. People whose take a subject try to transmit their feeling; despite this our look is captured only from some pictures and not from others.



A picture is considered wrong, when all elements are only on a same side; if they are distributed, for instance, all on the right side we will have a picture with an "empty space" on the left... our attention won't be captured.. that empty space will give us a sense of disturbance produced by striving to find in it a "contents."

Fig. 2: an image not well composed in space division...too much empty

An harmonious composition is not naturally based on rigid geometric rules, but we have to consider some fundamental

elements.

If we want to reproduce a landscape, it is opportune to follow a line that captures eye, as can be that of the horizon, a line that "will attract us" our look dissuaded it from remained picture: it is necessary to avoid shooting monotony .

Framing a field of wheat, further to insert our line (horizon or the limit of the field), it will be possible to frame a different element from it as a tree on the foreground, a bird that flies, or a person at work..Obviously ours "line" it won't necessarily to develop only in horizontal.



Before take a picture you need to look for the best point of view, you try to frame with camera on horizontal first and then, without moving you, you look at the same thing rotating you camera of 90°, this is enough to change picture characteristic.

One of the most common errors living beings portrait , and therefore also in macrophotography, it is that to place our subject at the center of our frame without capture it totally; in these cases photographer's mind keeps on perceiving that he has seen before approach camera to eye considering it as a "complete" image.

Fig. 3: presence of a line that captures our eye...diagonal of mountain profile from the left low angle to that tall right

It won't be however so for who will look at the picture, with the result that a subject will appear ' "unpleasant" to his sight. try , for instance to look at person picture to which the feet have not been taken: you will warn a sense of bother of which we have spoken to you. Obviously the same will happen in macrophotography

Before to release, therefore, you will keep calm, then you make eye flowing along all sides of the image, as if you looked at the picture: in most of cases you will observe that simply rotating camera, a very pleasant image will be composed, and also your photos will recall all feelings.

We will speak now about some fundamental rules for a correct composition of the picture.

Thirds rule

When you look inside of VIEWFINDER or digital monitor, try to hypothetically trace four equidistant lines, two horizontal and two vertical (as in graphic of tris game), so that to compose 9 panels.



Some digital cameras make to appear these lines in the monitor... so that a principal subject of your picture will be placed in one of the intersections formed by lines.

Fig. 4: lines on which third rules is based. To compose images a principal subjects must be positioned on them

Guide lines

It would be useful sometimes to insert in the frame some lines that drive our look toward principal subject of our picture, a line of trees, a road, a shade projected from a house or from a bell tower.

These lines drive eye to capture attention, they bring us toward a subject; it is better if these lines comes from left to right; in fact our system of writing goes from left to right normally.



Fig. 5: “diagonal line” represented by a flower stem, culminates and “it conducts” to the principal subject: a butterfly

Natural frames

Other times what it seems to be can be represented pleasant just framing it; if you try to photograph your subject through the natural scene of the branches tree or through a fence, this technique will give a great depth to picture. For this reason we can use it in macrophotography; vegetation often helps us to find some "natural frames".



Fig. 6: panorama picture have more “depth” and “breath” thanks to branches and trees in the foreground. In the second picture a flash illuminates a tree branch that is used as a natural frame

Unusual perspectives

To take a picture of a church, a monument can be original, look first at the postcards in sale that portray your subject, after that try to withdraw him/it from not sight perspectives you will make your picture different.



Fig. 7: an unusual perspective...shooting by lower part so that subject is valorized...we can understand its thoughts