

# Composition

*“There is a creative fraction of a second when you are taking a picture. Your eye must see a composition or an expression that life itself offers you, and you must know with intuition when to click the camera. That is the moment the photographer is creative. Oop! The Moment! Once you miss it, it is gone forever.”*

Henri Cartier Bresson

# Background

Composition is one of the cornerstones of all Art and Design practice; photography is no exception. Look through any photographers contact sheets and it's clear that the photographs chosen might have the right light, the right expression but they will also have the right composition. But what do we understand about composition?

Put simply composition is the arrangement of elements, (shape) within the frame of a viewfinder. In photography, there are no hard and fast rules however there are recommendations that if followed will help you achieve better photographs. In time these 'rules' will become second nature and you will use them easily without thought but with the same beneficial results.



# Task

Over the summer months, we would like you to concentrate on two particular compositional 'rules'; Rule of thirds and 'leading lines'. Both offer you significant opportunities to both research aspects of composition and practically explore your subject. The subject matter is entirely up to you, it needs to fit into your life and lifestyle, but I would suggest that further reading and viewing around your subject matter would be helpful and encourage you to look at more photography.

This project will form part of your mark for your first project, 'Compositional Elements'. It is important that you keep the results of your image making and are able to present them at the start of your first term.

