

COMPOSITION

the arrangement of elements within a work of art

'I just walk around, observing the subject from various angles until the picture elements arrange themselves into a composition that pleases my eye.' Andre Kertesz



Rule of Thirds - if you divide your composition into thirds, both vertically or horizontally, and then place focal areas of your scene at the meeting points of them, you will get a more pleasing arrangement and layout for your compositions.

Edgar Degas, Dancers practicing at the Barre



Paul Cezanne, Still Life with seven apples, 1878

Focal Point - A focal point is that area of a picture that attracts the eye. The center of interest acts as an "attention getter." It commands the viewer's curiosity or mental concentration, and it's the part of the picture that we find naturally fascinating and want to know more about. It is often found at the intersection of the rule of thirds as seen with the red apple here.



Leading lines - A leading line is a line in the picture that leads your eye from one part of the scene to another. The strongest composition is usually achieved when the lines lead your eye towards the main subject or focal point within the scene.

David Hockney, Landscape Tunnel, 2005

Different styles of Composition

