

# RULES OF TAKING PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES

Learning the Basic “Rules” allows  
you to “break” them creatively as  
your expertise increases!

# What are You??

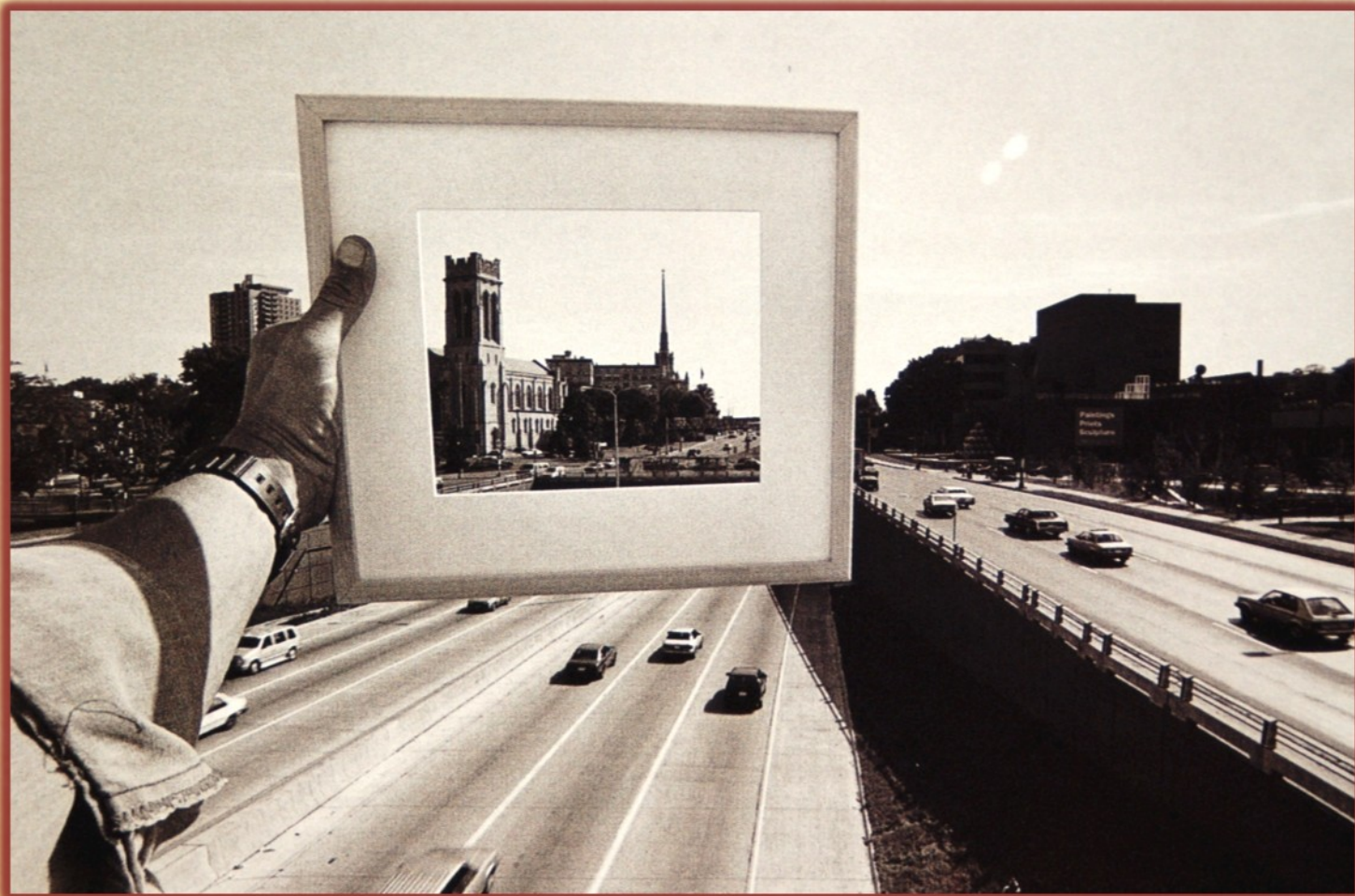
If you're thinking you could never be an artist I have good news for you - you already are.

Whether you believe it or not you are an artist.

By the end of this class I hope that each one of you will accept that as a reality of your life!

# Why do you want to take pictures?

- ♦ You may want to share with others how you see the world around you
- ♦ You may want to document your life
- ♦ Or the life of the people you love
- ♦ You may have a desire to create images that blow other people away.
- ♦ Document stories for journalism
- ♦ Make a political, social or artistic statement
- ♦ Whatever the reason you have decided to express yourself with photographic images.



## Start Looking Around at Your World

Students often benefit by looking through a view finding device to begin to see the possibilities of composing their photographs.

# The "Rules" of Composition

The first "golden" rule is the "Rule of Thirds".

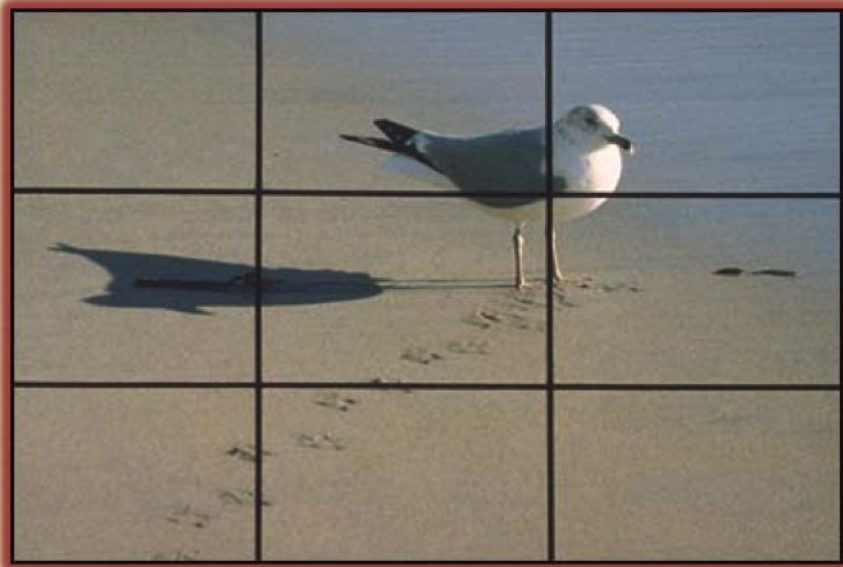
It affects the placement of the main subjects in the photo.

You need to consider the composition:

The main subject should lie on one of the four

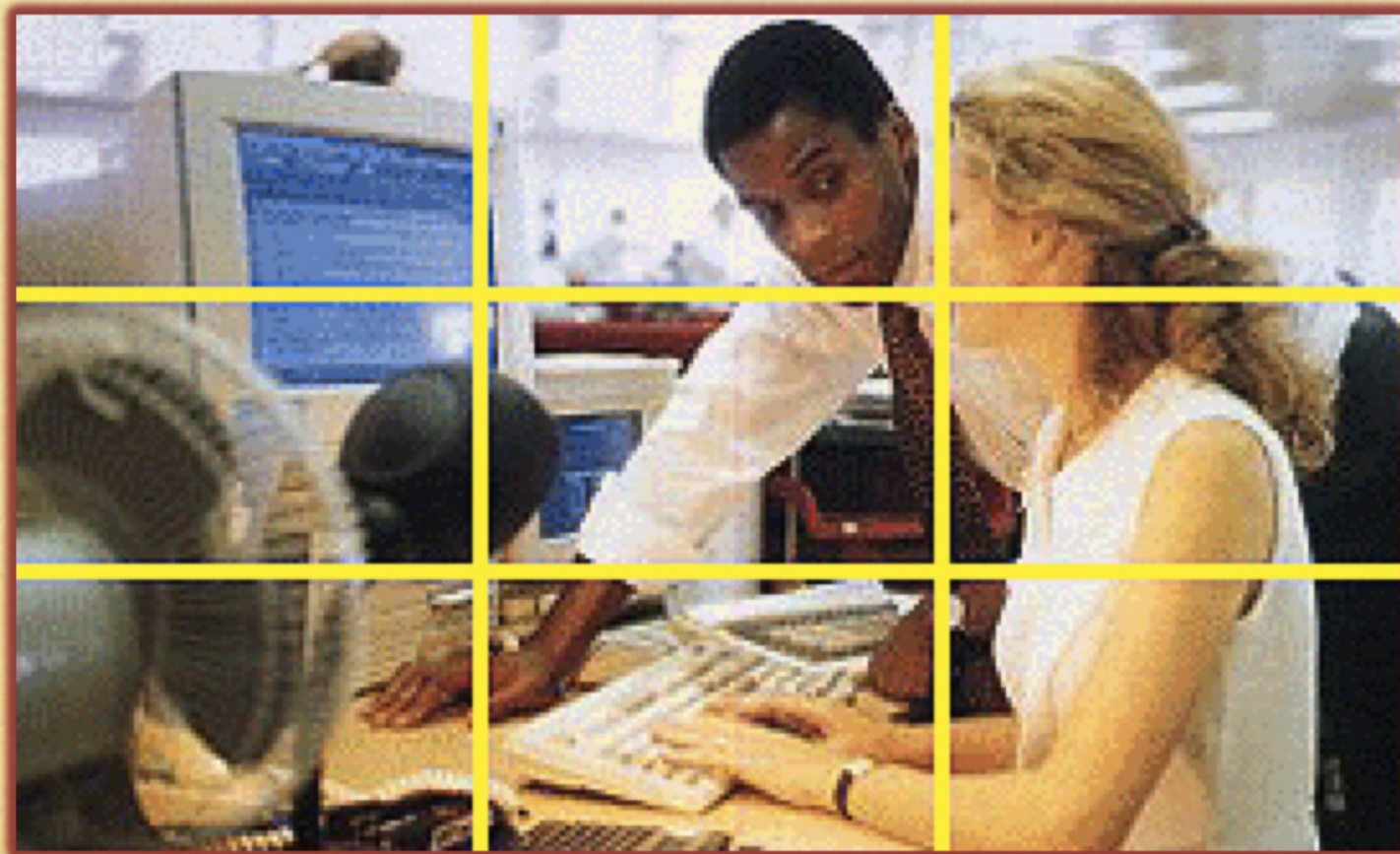
lines or four intersections (for example the subject's eye ).

# RULE OF THIRDS



- ◆ Avoid the center of the frame
- ◆ Greater interest for the viewer if the subject is off-center
- ◆ Imagine
  - ◆ Three vertical sections
  - ◆ Three horizontal sections
  - ◆ 9 total sections
  - ◆ 4 section intersection points
- ◆ *Place subject at section intersection*

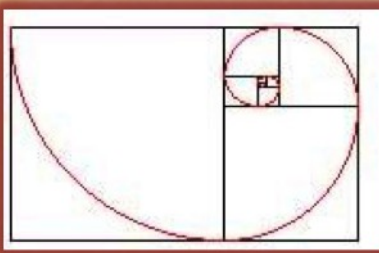
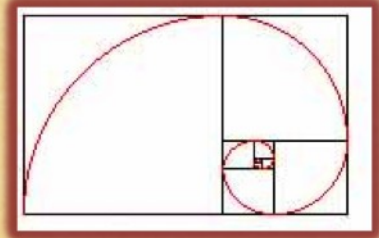
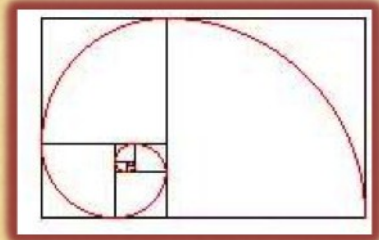
# Rule of Thirds



In photographic compositions when a subject is directly in the middle of an composition it creates “static” or a “boring” image.

However, we all know that “rules” are made to be broken! There are occasions when smack dab in the middle is where you want your subject





## *Golden Spiral & Golden Rectangle*

- ♦ Another rule is a "Golden Spiral" & "Golden Rectangle"
- ♦ There should be something, leading the eye to the center of the composition. It could be a line or several subjects.

Another rule is the "*Golden Triangles*". It's more convenient for photos with diagonal lines.

There are three triangles with corresponding shapes. Just roughly place three subjects with approximate equal sizes in these triangles and this rule would be kept.

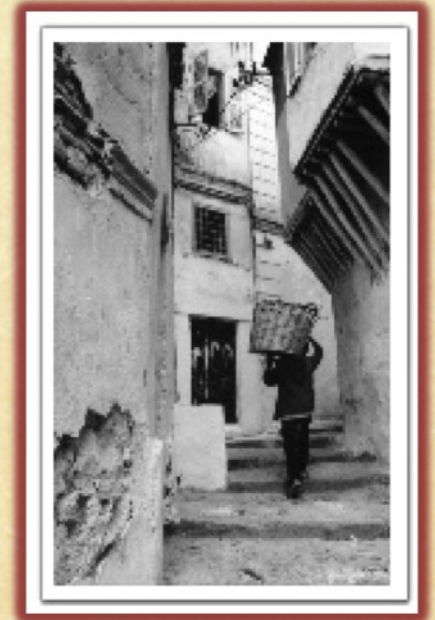


# Fill the Frame



# Perspective

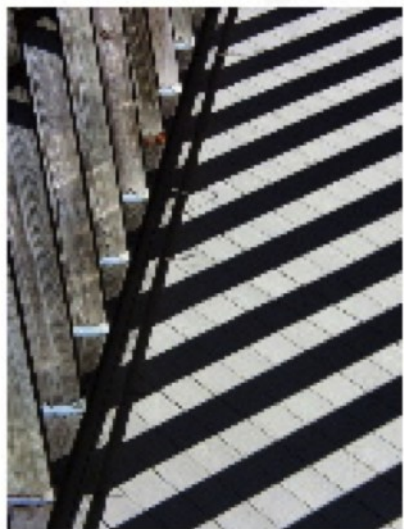
Look at the scene you are shooting and position yourself so that you demonstrate the depth or space in the scene.



Leading lines, overlapping objects or people or objects placed in the composition to give the viewer a sense of the “scale” of the whole scene.



# Unique Angles



# Look for Reflections

LOOK FOR REFLECTIONS



# Vertical Subject? Shoot Vertical



# Look for Shadows



Recompose and reshoot the same subject or composition using several different “angles” or “points of view” this can also change the direction of the light , shadows and contrast in your composition.



# FRAMING THE IMAGE

- ♦ Move the camera around each shot to observe what small changes in the framing or point of view will do for the composition.
- ♦ Pay attention to what is visual the corners (top, bottom, sides) of the frame as well as the middle part.
- ♦ Remember the rule of thirds and incorporate it into your “framing” of the subjects.
- ♦ Get in close to the focal point or subject.
- ♦ Only include background when it is needed to tell your story or if you are shooting landscape, seascape, etc.

# LIGHTING THE IMAGE

- ♦ Think about how light makes energy.
- ♦ Observe the different types of light....harsh, soft; hot, warm, cool; morning, evening, hazy, bright; etc.
- ♦ What direction is the light coming from?
- ♦ What is the source of the light?
- ♦ Is it natural or artificial?
- ♦ Does that effect your focal point or center of interest?
- ♦ What does light do to stimulate the space within the frame and your focal point?
- ♦ Is it creating space or flatness on your subject?
- ♦ What are the shadows doing?

# Questions / Answers

