

Words of Wisdom from John Perret a Saskatoon Photographer

We had the pleasure of having John Perret visit the grade 8 art class and talk about composition. He shared with the children many ideas and they are as follows.

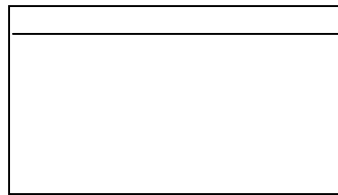
If you were asked to draw a horse, how would you draw it? After some discussion the children agreed that they would probably draw it in profile. A horse is 3D so therefore has 360 different ways that it can be drawn. Often people will chose the composition that is common rather than looking for the angle that is more interesting.

Artists need to be creative in finding a new way to surprise the audience or themselves .

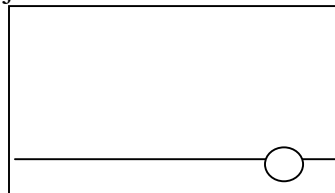
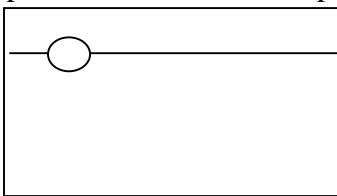
Landscapes are a wonderful place to experiment with composition. Again many people will place the horizon line half way down the page, the ordinary.



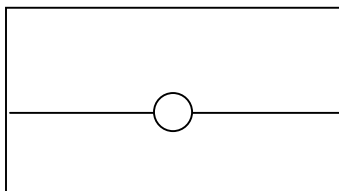
However, if an artist uses the ideas of 1/6 or 1/5 to divide land and sky it is more interesting.



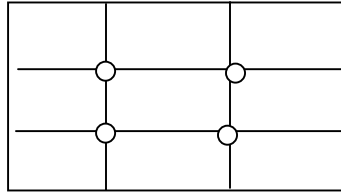
The artist must also choose to place their subject in a spot that is not ordinary. The ordinary versus the extreme makes an interesting piece. The circles in the following compositions show extreme placement of subject.



The following shows the ordinary placement of subject, that which happens often with the amateur photographer.



The rule of thirds can also be applied when placing a subject in an interesting focal point. The image area divided into thirds both way, and the intersecting lines being a great place to put the focal point.



John Perret said that he will sometimes swing his camera around until he finds the pleasing composition.

Give the subject somewhere to go

With action figures such as a person bicycling he places them entering the one side of the image with space for them to move across the page. The biker needs space in front of the bike so as not to appear crushed or pushed into the space.