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Photography is a liberating experience where you get to see the world through the creativity of a camera. But, there are compositional rules that serve to guide the process of capturing images. These rules also support photographers in establishing the best practices to achieve stunning photos. Weve covered many of these rules here on Shotkit to
guide you on your creative journey. The rule of thirds is one example that comes to mind. The rule of thirds requires you to imagine your composition rules
exists around symmetry in photography. And in some cases, the rule of thirds may be redundant to achieve photography? And what are the different types of symmetry used in photos? Thats what were about to find out.
Lets dive in. You achieve symmetry when photos appear to have equal weight or value on each side instead of off-centre weight to one side. It can be a horizontal or vertical split and is just as valid in portrait as landscape orientation. (For a more detailed look at orientation in photography, check out our article here.) Symmetrical photos dont have to
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compositions to test that understanding. A great way that symmetry guides your compositions is through the use of leading lines or edges. By lining up your shot with leading edges to guide you, youll add depth and interest to your photo. Before you know it, youll stop consciously searching for compositions with symmetry and subconsciously use them
in your work. It will have far-reaching impacts on your landscape, street, cityscape and even formal work. Compare to asymmetry in photography, and I encourage you to take a shot at all of them. As mentioned above, one of the benefits of symmetry photography is the
enhancement of your overall composition skills. Lets take a close look at each of the symmetry in photography to understand them better. Vertical symmetry in photography. We naturally see and seek symmetry in our minds,
even without a camera in hand. This type of symmetry involves splitting your field of view in half by drawing an imaginary line vertically through the exact centre of your composition, youll have equal weight or value of objects on each side of your line. Youll know if youve hit the mark as the images will be far more appealing than
if you imagine that same line further to one side. In vertical symmetry, you have my permission to ignore the rule of thirds! A great use for, and a brilliant way to practice, vertical symmetry is with cityscape and architectural photography. Using vertical symmetry to capture a single building or a row of buildings on either side of the street, your
visually representing their size, shape and placement within the composition. For example, while standing before a building to either side of the buildings corners. If youve positioned yourself correctly, there should be equal amounts of the buildings corners. If youve positioned yourself cornectly, there should be equal amounts of the buildings corners.
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in landscape photography. Imagine a gorgeous distant line of pine trees with tall snow-capped mountains standing in the background. The reflection of the trees and mountains forms the second half of the horizontal symmetry and creates
balance across the frame. Consider a large rock formation jutting from the ocean in the middle of a bay. The water reflects the same scene in the bottom half by framing the scene with the rock occupying the top half of the portrait orientation frame. Its a popular landscape shot for many photographers and a simple way to find symmetry in nature. Of
course, you can also create symmetry horizontally in other genres of photography. Your creativity is the limit. See also: how to use line, shape and form in photography composition. Radial symmetry as it does not involve splitting your frame. In radial symmetry, the main object
within the composition is circular and occupies most of the frame. Or, its such a strong visual element that it sits in a prime place within the frame. The point of this kind of symmetry in photography is to draw the viewer into the scene. The circular object attracts the eye, and your view travels around the frame in a circular motion. Radial symmetry
appears in photos where ripples radiate outwards in pools of water. Going back to our mountain landscape scenario from above, the body of water could be interrupted by a series of ripples radiating outwards from the centre. Your pulled into this section of the composition as it tries to ascertain if the water is rippling. Photographing flowers top-down
is another example of radial symmetry or radial balance. In these shots, the flower petals circular and would look great in images. Car wheels, truck tires, drone shots of a circular building and even an attractive dinner
plate as long as theres a circular form with a repeating pattern, youre on the right track. Reflective Symmetry, reflective symmetry, reflective symmetry involves using reflective symmetry. But with reflective
symmetry, you can use the reflections found in any reflective surface at any scale. A glass of orange juice sitting on a glass table will case a reflection if the cameras angle and the available light are just right. Alternatively, you can achieve reflective symmetry by using a glass building to act as a mirror to reflect the scene immediately next to it or one
from a distance. Its possible to capture a scene with the right surface and portray it as perfectly symmetrical to the viewer even though its a trick of the eye. It can apply to whole scenes or a single object. Glass is a brilliant reflect the
light and not the details of a scene work with this to achieve a shot thats suggestive of the reflection. Examples of symmetry in photography are everywhere especially once you know what youre looking for. The thing about symmetry is that its such a common part of our daily visual experience that we stop noticing strong examples. Here are a few
examples of symmetry in photography.1. Symmetry in Wildlife PhotographySymmetry is not exclusive to human-made objects with symmetrical properties. In nature, there are examples of every type of symmetry is not exclusive to human-made objects with symmetry is not exclusive to human-made objects w
their antlers interlocked, or a pair of elephants with their trunks linked in a lovers knot. Another example of symmetry in wildlife photography is where the reflection of a still lake. The eagle is reflected in the lake, adding drama and interest
to the photo. Macro photography is another perfect genre to try out your vertical symmetry techniques. With a macro lens, you can get in nice and close to an insect or arachnid to frame it and achieve a perfect balance on either half of the vertical line. Imagine a macro photo of a flys eyes or all eight eyes of a spider. Splitting the frame vertically
creates perfect symmetry and draws the viewer into the photo. While symmetry creates calm and balance in most cases, any photo with a spider involved tends to have the opposite effect so its a great way to create contrast. If your establishment you may come across opportunities to photography mixed symmetry. Its a rare type of symmetry that
has taught me to look up more often. In the example above, you can see that the timber ceiling and frame are creating horizontal symmetry. But the addition of the antier-chandelier in the example of mixed symmetry at play.
The radial symmetry of the chandelier draws the eye. But the pitched ceiling creates depth and pulls you deeper into the image. Looking for leading lines as your primary composition technique, you can frame a vertical
symmetry shot. Leading edges are the strong sharp-lined elements within a scene. These can include the edges of buildings, roads and pavements, train lines, power lines, and even a bridges supports. Generally, leading edges in architecture converge on each other at a point in the distance. This gives your photos depth and forces you to
focus on that point. If you take a walk through your local neighbourhood or city streets, chances are youll see a lot of leading edges. Vertical lines exist all around us and not just in architecture. Fallen trees or naturally leaning boulders can form leading edges in your photos. A simple pathway or country laneway has leading edges that are a little softer
than those found in the city. If your eitching for a new drone project, consider using your new expensive toy to capture some symmetry photos. Pro photograph architecture. Where permissible, fly your drone over various subjects to spot and photograph different forms of
symmetry. Imagine a top-down view of a two-laned black road with a dotted white line in a vertical symmetry by shooting top-
down over circular structures such as domes, fenced paddocks and even silos. Thanks to the use of symmetry, your drone photography can take off, reach new heights and fly ahead of the competition. (Sorry, but the puns were begging to be used.) As it turns out, symmetry is all around us. It exists as a part of nature, and as a result, weve
incorporated various forms of symmetry into how weve built our civilisation. The reason is simple: symmetry provides a balance and peace of mind occur when symmetry forms a critical compositional element in photography. As weve discovered, training yourself to look for
symmetry in photography is a great way to build upon your skills. Regardless of hunting for leading edges in the city streets or how a flower spreads its petals in a country field, youll develop an eye for using symmetry. Oh and make sure to look up now and then. What are your thoughts on using symmetry? How do you apply photography symmetry to
types of symmetry in photography. But even a small amount of knowledge on the subject can improve your photography results. Symmetry is everywhere. You can find symmetry in all types of photography. Whether
youre interested in portrait, architecture, or food photography, you can use symmetry to strengthen your compositions. This article explains what symmetry in photography is. We look at each type of symmetry in photography is. We look at each type of symmetry in photography is.
photography. eBooks and Courses for Everyone The Importance of Symmetry in PhotographySymmetrical photos stand out because theyre attractive to the eye. Humans are drawn to certain types of visual aesthetics and compositions that promote a sense of harmony. Symmetry does exactly that. It gives an image a harmonious feel, which draws the
viewers attention and holds their gaze. A simple photo of an apple might not be too exciting for you. But you can turn a simple fruit still life into an engaging composition with the help of your knowledge of symmetry. Visual attraction isnt the only thing that makes symmetry so important. With symmetrical photography, youll be able to find potential in
the simplest things. You might get inspired by a symmetrical plant even if you dont shoot still-life photography, for example. A little knowledge of symmetry everywhere, so its a matter of finding it and knowing how to use it. In the photography, for example and the prove your composition and help you find interesting shots in everyday situations. You can find symmetry everywhere, so its a matter of finding it and knowing how to use it. In the photography, for example and the prove your composition and help you find interesting shots in everyday situations.
below, the leading lines coming from the bottom corners of the photo naturally lead the eye to the lighthouse. As the lines are the same on both sides, they provide some symmetry. Even though the clouds in the background arent perfectly symmetry. But
you also have the light at the top of the lighthouse shining on the left side, but not on the right. Its a small point of asymmetry that makes the image feel more alive. Symmetry isnt always about perfection, but it can be used to enhance compositions of all kinds. In fact, having elements of asymmetry can improve composition, adding more tension.
vitality, or humour to your shots. Another benefit to understanding symmetry is knowing how to use lines, shapes, and patterns also helps you add depth and meaning to your photos. Instead of looking flat, your compositions will
have shape and meaning. This makes your symmetrical images stand out even more. Once you learn how to take symmetrical photos, you can use symmetry to create powerful compositions with reflections. Ivars Krutainis Most Common Types of
Symmetry in PhotographySymmetry exists in different forms, from simple rotational symmetry to more complicated fractal symmetry to more common ones that many photographers like to use to enhance their photos. Vertical Symmetry is the most common ones that many photographers like to use to enhance their photos. Vertical Symmetry is the most common ones that many photographers like to use to enhance their photos.
type of symmetry. Draw an imaginary vertical line at the center of your composition. If both sides are symmetrical, your photo will look visually appealing. Vertical symmetry doesnt always have to focus on the center of your composition. Take a look at the photo of the books below. Theyre located at the bottom of the photo, which makes the photo
asymmetrical on the horizontal plane. But you can take a more conventional approach and make sure that your subjects are centered. Vertical symmetry is often used in architectural photography. It emphasizes the size, shape, and design of buildings. Horizontal Symmetry Take your imaginary line and place it horizontally at the center of your
composition. Horizontal compositions are often used in landscape photography. And theyre perfect when a body of water is present. This can be confused by metry doesn't necessarily have to feature a reflective symmetry always does. Radial Symmetry If youre mesmerized by
circular shapes, youll love radial symmetry. This type of symmetry usually involves shapes that go around and around with the same patterns. This is often associated with ripples. But it can also be used to photograph succulents, domes, wheels, etc. You can also combine several kinds of symmetry to take your photos to the next level. For example, the
photo below features both radial and vertical symmetry. Reflective Symmetry is all about reflections. You can find reflections in water, glass surfaces, and buildings. Look at the photo is the photo below. The left side of the photo is the actual highway, while the right side of the photo is the highway reflected off the glass of
the skyscraper. Artificial Symmetry in PhotographyYou can create symmetry with the help of an app or an editing program. Artificial symmetry is fun to work with. Especially if youve already taken photos that arent symmetry in photography too often. It may
stop you from improving your skills and finding creative potential elsewhere. But its a great technique to use from time to time. In architecture photos, for example, airplanes and birds are often added to symmetrical photos. This emphasizes symmetry and fills the negative space. Symmetrical Photography Inspiration Here are a few ideas to spark your
creativity. Use them as inspiration to embrace symmetry in photography. Look for Symmetry at an EventYou should definitely experiment with architectural, landscape, and still-life photography when you take symmetry photography. But you should definitely experiment with architectural, landscape, and still-life photography when you take symmetry photography. But you should also try to be spontaneous, especially when your at live events. The unpredictability of events can lead
to a lot of unexpected photo opportunities. Look at the photo below. The photographer created symmetry using fireworks, which usually last a few seconds. This is a great example of horizontal and reflective symmetry using fireworks, which usually last a few seconds. This is a great example of horizontal and reflective symmetry. Make Your Own Symmetry using fireworks, which usually last a few seconds. This is a great example of horizontal and reflective symmetry using fireworks, which usually last a few seconds.
mini studio and take symmetrical photos at any time. Make a DIY light box or create a flat-lay background and emphasize symmetrical photography skills. Using a DIY studio like this will also help you become a better studio photographer. Take a Symmetrical Self-
PortraitSymmetry in photography is often associated with non-living objects like buildings. But it can also include people. Self-portraiture is a fantastic way to get better at finding good compositions without always being behind the camera. If you dont want to show your face in your self-portraits, you can take photos of your silhouette, like in the photography is often associated with non-living objects like buildings.
below.To make the process easier, make sure you use a sturdy tripod and a remote. Since youll have to focus on posing and symmetry at the same time, try to simplify the rest of the photo. The more comfortable you want to challenge
 yourself even more, focus on finding symmetry in animals. If you dont have easy access to wild animals, you can take photos of pets instead. Animals can be very difficult to work with because they dont pose for the camera. This will make your photo shoot harder. But it will also make your successful shots more unique than a simple still-life photo
 Many animals have perfectly symmetrical faces, which makes them the ideal subjects for vertical symmetry. Take a Photo of Your Favorite BuildingYou cant get into symmetrical photography without experimenting with architectural photography at least once in your life. Even if buildings dont inspire you, try to see potential in them. Take the time to
find patterns and space and incorporate them into your photos. The best way to achieve this is to photograph a building that makes you feel happy. Focus on colors, height, depth, and details. Take photos of the building at different times of the day. Your
results will not only reflect your skills but also capture something that means a lot to you. This quaint building stands out from the crowd are the perfect subjects for symmetrical photography. Challenge Yourself by Taking Photos With Your
Smartphone CameraSmartphone photography is becoming more and more popular. This is thanks to technological advances and social platforms like Instagram. This doesnt mean you have to ditch your beloved camera equipment and become a smartphone photographer. But temporarily replacing your DSLR with a smartphonemight help you look at
the world from a new perspective. If you dont like smartphone photography, you can still use it to your advantage. If you travel a lot, you can take snapshots of locations that you want to revisit later. You can then observe your results to come up with compositional ideas. And then you can return to the locations fully prepared. Conclusion Using
Symmetry in Photography Symmetrical photography will show you how to add more depth, vibrance, and clarity to your entire career. But give it a try at least once, especially if youre stuck in a photography rut. Your skills will improve, and youll have fun trying to find symmetry in your
surroundings. eBooks and Courses for Everyone Symmetry can make for some stunning photos, no matter what kind of photography you practice, you can use it to bring a photo together. Find it in nature, architecture or a persons face and it will improve a photo. Symmetry generally conveys two primary meanings. The first is an imprecise sense of
harmonious or aesthetically pleasing proportionality and balance; such that it reflects beauty or perfection. The second meaning is a precise and well-defined concept of balance or patterned self-similarity that can be demonstrated or proved according to the rules of a formal system: by geometry, through physics or otherwise. In todays roundup post
will be taking a look at some stunning photos which use symmetry late-night study in symmetry late-night study in symmetry by [phil h] The Drongo Love Happy Valentines Day by VinothChandarunderground symmetry II underground symmetry II by [phil h]Old Men SwimmingOld Men Swimming by Jonathan
Kos-ReadThe Bullet Lost in BeijingThe Bullet Lost in Beijing by Sprengben [why not get a friend] Milano Fashion Symmetry by MorBCNMy Most Treasured Gift by -Gep-Setting Sails In Berlin Potsdamer PlatzSetting Sails
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Structuration: A Question of Generation by Gilderic Photographyhexocular by mugleyLifelong FriendLifelong FriendLifelong Friend by Wurzeltod(\/) by wecandBig X is fooling UBig X is fooling UBi
 Photographic Blog.from Wherever you are right now, take a moment to look around. What patterns and shapes do you see? What objects, scenes, buildings, or other designs just look like they make sense? Now, take a look at whatever you identified and imagine a line cutting it in half, horizontally or vertically. Chances are good that youll find two
halves of a mirror image created by the line in at least one case. If not, then find an object that fits these criteria. Youre noticing symmetry, where one half of something is the mirror image of the reasons that many buildings, cars
clothes, and even foods have symmetry. It also happens to be a very important part of composition in photography, and its a very important part of how a photography, and its a valuable tool that can greatly enhance your compositions. This article will explore
symmetry from many different angles in the context of photography. Table of Contents Types of Symmetry in Photography. Table of Symmetry in Photography. Table of Symmetry are named based on their lines of symmetry in Photography.
This means that different types of symmetry are defined by the lines (and sometimes shapes) that create the symmetry are defined and the symmetry is very clear. In other instances,
such as wildlife or landscape photography, symmetry can exist without perfection. For example, many landscapes with reflections can be horizontally symmetry occurs when a horizontal line passes through an image to
make two upper and lower mirror halves. In this case, a horizontal line is the axis of symmetrical image, while puddles or even water droplets can create horizontal symmetry in just part of an image. If you really want to play
with horizontal symmetry, the next time you find a puddle (or make one on your own), get your camera as close to it as you can. Play with the perspective and try to make it appear that youre next to a lake. If you can make the reflection created by the puddle take up the entire foreground of your image, you can often give the illusion that its a large
body of water. It helps if theres no wind to create ripples on whatever body of water youre using, but you can sometimes get away with a slight breeze. Vertical Symmetry often shows up in animals, other aspects of nature, and tools (such as
instruments). Humans generally have vertical symmetry, which is also called bilateral symmetry in biology (bi- meaning side). Its also common way to create vertical symmetry in your compositions is by using paths or roads. Never put
yourself or others in danger, but using road lines or paths extending into the distance to divide your image into left and right halves is a simple way to add vertical symmetry. Really, any leading line can create some sort of vertical symmetry. Really, any leading line can create some sort of vertical symmetry.
sky, lamp posts, and even power lines provide vertically symmetry in architecture Vertical symmetry in everyday things Radial Symmetry is some sort of line to bisect the image vertical symmetry in everyday things Radial Symmetry is some sort of line to bisect the image vertical symmetry in architecture Vertical symmetry in everyday things Radial Symmetry in architecture Vertical symmetry in architecture Vertica
Photo: Depositphotos Instead of using a line to create symmetry, a central point can act as the point of symmetry from the
top and inside. Since radial symmetry is somewhat difficult to find, challenge yourself to create unique images by using radial symmetry. Other Types of Symmetry Horizontal, vertical, and radial arent the only types of symmetry. Since
symmetry is a concept defined by lines and shapes, just about any line or shape could make some sort of symmetry in the line o
Photography Ultimately, you dont need much other than a camera and a careful eye to use symmetry in your compositions. However, if you want to create perfectly symmetrical images, there are a few pieces of camera equipment that might help. 1. A sturdy tripod and a good ball head. This will help you finely adjust your composition to capture the
scene as you intend to. Tripods also help you keep your image still and free of camera shake when you activate the shutter, which helps with consistency. 2. A bubble level. If your tripod head doesnt already have one of these built in, bubble levels are very useful when trying to get lines of symmetry to be straight. If your camera is perfectly parallel to
a horizontal line of symmetry, then your image will have horizontal symmetry. Some cameras also have built-in levels, although theyre not always the easiest to use. Check with your cameras manual to see if your cameras also have built-in levels, although theyre not always the easiest to use. Check with your cameras manual to see if your cameras also have built-in levels, although theyre not always the easiest to use.
relies on lines being mostly straight for the compositional elements to work well together. Lenses with high amounts of distortion can still capture symmetry, but its not always as clean as intended. The best lenses to capture symmetry have low amounts of distortion. If you do have some distortion, this can usually be corrected in a post-processing
software such as Adobe Lightroom. Using a level can help you capture symmetry when the ground is not level. Creating Artificial Symmetry Especially with the increasing power of computational photography using smartphone cameras and apps, artificial symmetry can also be fun to experiment with. Smartphone apps such as KaleidaCam and
MirrorArt will add artificial symmetry to your smartphones camera. These apps are especially fun because you can change the pattern of symmetry and find what looks most interesting. This is a fun way to take an ordinary scene and transform it into something unique. These apps also allow you to play with different symmetrical patterns in
videography, which can be a great creative outlet. Another option for creating artificial symmetry is by using post-processing software such as Photoshop. Image transformations and rotations allow you to create symmetry out of any scene, even though it wont always look natural. Think of this as a way to get creative with your images when you cant
be out shooting. Learning from the Opposite: Asymmetry Now that youve learned about symmetry in photography, its important to give some thought to compositional possibilities when purposefully can add interesting elements to an image. Purposefully
breaking the symmetry in a photo can add interest to the composition. Photo by dr_zoidberg and licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0. Asymmetry in the image if the two sides are similar, yet clearly not symmetrical. This makes the image more
appealing because the brain feels challenged in trying to form a pattern. Asymmetry is typically most powerful when there are distinct sections in an image, and one of those sections takes priority over the rest. While symmetry is typically most powerful when there are distinct sections in an image, and one of those sections takes priority over the rest. While symmetry is typically most powerful when there are distinct sections in an image, and one of those sections takes priority over the rest. While symmetry is typically most powerful when there are distinct sections in an image, and one of those sections takes priority over the rest.
to images. Next time youre out photographing, challenge yourself to purposefully shoot with symmetrical images might have on a viewer versus the effects the symmetrical images might have. Are the symmetrical ones more calm and in-place? Does asymmetry seem more obscure and on-edge, or
something else? Compositional exercises like this dont require much in terms of subject matter, and theyll help you develop compositional skills for your future photography endeavors. Conclusion Were so used to symmetry in our daily lives that we sometimes forget to use it purposefully in photography. Whether youre photographing architecture,
landscapes, people, wildlife, or just about anything else, symmetry can add compositional complexity to your images that will make them stand out. If everyones taken the same picture of a mountain range, why not try to photograph it with some element of symmetry to show a unique perspective? Better yet, utilize both symmetry and asymmetry in
your photography. Then, you can decide which composition conveys your intended meaning best. Becoming a better photographer often starts with composition, and being aware of symmetry in your compositions is a guaranteed way to start making better images. Image credits: Header photo by Michael Zhang. All other photos, unless otherwise
noted, by Justin Hein Photography is a liberating experience where you get to see the world through the creativity of a camera. But, there are compositional rules that serve to guide the process of capturing images. These rules also support photography is a liberating experience where you get to see the world through the creativity of a camera. But, there are compositional rules that serve to guide the process of capturing images.
here on Shotkit to guide you on your creative journey. The rule of thirds is one example that comes to mind. The rule guides your placement of the horizon line and points of interest. Another set of use thirds and then use this grid to guide your composition. The rule guides your placement of the horizon line and points of interest. Another set of use thirds are used to guide your composition.
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theyre attractive to the human eye. Compositions that achieve visual perfection draw us in; the feedback we get from our minds is a sense of calm and correctness. Plus, using symmetry in photography can be a great aid in your ongoing understanding of composition. By being aware of how symmetry in photography works, youll be on the lookout for
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photography is the enhancement of your overall composition skills. Lets take a close look at each of the symmetry types and how to use symmetry is probably the most common form of symmetry and often appears in still life photography. We naturally see and seek
far more appealing than if you imagine that same line further to one side. In vertical symmetry, you have my permission to ignore the rule of thirds! A great use for, and a brilliant way to practice, vertical symmetry is with cityscape and architectural photography. Using vertical symmetry to capture a single building or a row of buildings on either side.
of the street, youre visually representing their size, shape and placement within the composition. For example, while standing before a building with a wide-angle lens, point the buildings corners. If youve positioned yourself correctly, there should be equal amounts of the buildings corners.
wide-angle creates a dramatic distortion effect, with the buildings base filling the lower half of the frame. The top of the building will form a point. The vertical symmetry should be as close to exact on each side as possible. The photo has balance thanks to vertical symmetry should be as close to exact on each side as possible. The photo has balance thanks to how you have composed the shot with the line of symmetry down the middle. Thanks to vertical symmetry should be as close to exact on each side as possible.
symmetry, youre drawn into the images and up to the point where the leading edges converge on one another. Horizontal symmetry runs horizontally through the frames centre rather than vertically. The most common use of
horizontal symmetry is in landscape photography. Imagine a gorgeous distant line of pine trees with tall snow-capped mountains standing in the background. The reflection of the trees and mountains forms the second half of the horizontains of the horizontains forms the second half of the horizontains standing in the background. The top half of the frame isnt balanced with the bottom half unless theres a large body of water in the foreground. The reflection of the trees and mountains forms the second half of the horizontains forms the second half of the horizontains forms.
symmetry and creates balance across the frame. Consider a large rock formation jutting from the ocean in the middle of a bay. The water reflects the same scene in the bottom half by framing the scene with the rock occupying the top half of the portrait orientation frame. Its a popular landscape shot for many photographers and a simple way to find
symmetry in nature. Of course, you can also create symmetry horizontally in other genres of photography. Your creativity is the limit. See also: how to use line, shape and form in photography composition. Radial symmetry is entirely different from vertical and horizontal symmetry as it does not involve splitting your frame. In radial
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rippling. Photographing flowers top-down is another example of radial symmetry or radial balance. In these shots, the flower petals circular form fills the frame and draws the viewer into the centre of the image. A similar approach applies to many subjects that are circular and would look great in images. Car wheels, truck tires, drone shots of a
circular building and even an attractive dinner plate as long as theres a circular form with a repeating pattern, youre on the right track. Reflective symmetry involves using reflections to build a symmetry involves using reflective symmetry involves using reflective symmetry.
horizontal symmetry. But with reflective symmetry, you can use the reflections found in any reflective surface at any scale. A glass of orange juice sitting on a glass table will case a reflective symmetry by using a glass building to act as a mirror to reflect
the scene immediately next to it or one from a distance. Its possible to capture a scene with the right surface and portray it as perfectly symmetrical to the viewer even though its a trick of the eye. It can apply to whole scenes or a single object. Glass is a brilliant reflective surface, but some metals, plastics and even organic materials will reflect. In
some cases, a surface may only reflect the light and not the details of a scene work with this to achieve a shot that suggestive of the reflection. Examples of symmetry in photography are everywhere especially once you know what youre looking for. The thing about symmetry is that its such a common part of our daily visual experience that we stop
noticing strong examples. Here are a few examples of symmetry in photography. 1. Symmetry in Wildlife Photography Symmetry is not exclusive to human-made objects with symmetry is not exclusiv
full display. A pair of bucks facing off with their antlers interlocked, or a pair of elephants with their trunks linked in a lovers knot. Another example of symmetry in wildlife photography is where the reflection of a still lake. The eagle is
reflected in the lake, adding drama and interest to the photo. Macro photography is another perfect genre to try out your vertical symmetry techniques. With a macro lens, you can get in nice and close to an insect or arachnid to frame it and achieve a perfect balance on either half of the vertical line. Imagine a macro photo of a flys eyes or all eight
eyes of a spider. Splitting the frame vertically creates perfect symmetry and draws the viewer into the photo. While symmetry creates calm and balance in most cases, any photo with a spider involved tends to have the opposite effect so its a great way to create contrast. If your super observant, you may come across opportunities to photography
mixed symmetry. Its a rare type of symmetry that has taught me to look up more often. In the example above, you can see that the timber ceiling and frame are creating horizontal symmetry. What do you get when you combine the two? You
get a brilliant example of mixed symmetry at play. The radial symmetry of the chandelier draws the eye. But the pitched ceiling creates depth and pulls you deeper into the image. Looking for leading lines as your primary
composition technique, vou can frame a vertical symmetry shot. Leading edges are the strong sharp-lined elements within a scene. These can include the edges of buildings, roads and pavements, train lines, power lines, and even a bridges supports. Generally, leading edges in architecture converge on each other at a point in the distance.
This gives your photos depth and forces you to focus on that point. If you take a walk through your local neighbourhood or city streets, chances are youll see a lot of leading edges. Vertical lines exist all around us and not just in architecture. Fallen trees or naturally leaning boulders can form leading edges in your photos. A simple pathway or country
laneway has leading edges that are a little softer than those found in the city. If youre drone over various subjects to spot
and photograph different forms of symmetry. Imagine a top-down view of a two-laned black road with a dotted white line in a vertical symmetry composition. The road itself creates a perfectly symmetry composition is to use your drone to take photos
of radial symmetry by shooting top-down over circular structures such as domes, fenced paddocks and even silos. Thanks to the use of symmetry, your drone photography can take off, reach new heights and fly ahead of the competition. (Sorry, but the puns were begging to be used.) As it turns out, symmetry is all around us. It exists as a part of
nature, and as a result, weve incorporated various forms of symmetry into how weve built our civilisation. The reason is simple: symmetry provides a balance that our minds can accept and feel at peace within. The same balance and peace of mind occur when symmetry forms a critical compositional element in photography. As weve discovered, training
yourself to look for symmetry in photography is a great way to build upon your skills. Regardless of hunting for leading edges in the city streets or how a flower spreads its petals in a country field, youll develop an eye for using symmetry? How do you apply
photography symmetry to a composition? What tips do you have for using composition techniques to spot photo opportunities? Join the conversation going. Photography is a liberating experience where you get to see the world through the
creativity of a camera. But, there are compositional rules that serve to guide the process of capturing images. These rules also support photographers in establishing the best practices to achieve stunning photos. Weve covered many of these rules also support photographers in establishing the best practices to achieve stunning photos. Weve covered many of these rules also support photographers in establishing the best practices to achieve stunning photos. Weve covered many of these rules also support photographers in establishing the best practices to achieve stunning photos. Weve covered many of these rules also support photographers in establishing the best practices to achieve stunning photos.
mind. The rule of thirds requires you to imagine your composition split horizontally and vertically into thirds and then use this grid to guide your composition. The rule guides your placement of the horizon line and points of interest. Another set of composition rules exists around symmetry in photography. And in some cases, the rule of thirds may be
redundant to achieve photography? And what are the different types of symmetry used in photos? Thats what were about to find out. Lets dive in. You achieve symmetry when photos appear to have equal weight or value
on each side instead of off-centre weight to one side. It can be a horizontal or vertical split and is just as valid in portrait as landscape orientation. (For a more detailed look at orientation in photography, check out our article here.) Symmetrical photos dont have to be a mirror image, with one half being the exact same as the other. They can involve
different elements in the frame on each side, but appears symmetry do in Photography, using symmetry do in Photography.
photograph. Why is Symmetry important? Some folks need absolute symmetry in their lives their view of the world is far more pleasing if everything is in place and symmetrical. How you prune a tree or hedge, how you decorate a room and how you arrange items in your home. Regardless of your level of OCD, theres a need to use symmetry in our
acceptance of visual experiences. Symmetry creates a sense of balance across the field of view. It has a psychological impact on the viewer as their brain has no trouble finding balance in what its seeing. Symmetrical photos are far more appealing as theyre attractive to the human eye. Compositions that achieve visual perfection draw us in; the
feedback we get from our minds is a sense of calm and correctness. Plus, using symmetry in photography can be a great aid in your ongoing understanding. A great way that symmetry guides your
compositions is through the use of leading lines or edges. By lining up your shot with leading edges to guide you, youll add depth and interest to your photo. Before you know it, youll stop consciously searching for compositions with symmetry and subconsciously use them in your work. It will have far-reaching impacts on your landscape, street,
cityscape and even formal work. Compare to asymmetry in photography, and I encourage you to take a shot at all of them. As mentioned above, one of the benefits of symmetry photography is the enhancement of your overall composition skills. Lets take a close look at
each of the symmetry types and how to use symmetry in photography to understand them better. Vertical symmetry in symmetry in our minds, even without a camera in hand. This type of symmetry involves splitting
your field of view in half by drawing an imaginary line vertically through the exact centre of your composition. In your composition, youll have equal weight or value of objects on each side of your line. Youll know if youve hit the mark as the images will be far more appealing than if you imagine that same line further to one side. In vertical symmetry,
you have my permission to ignore the rule of thirds! A great use for, and a brilliant way to practice, vertical symmetry is with cityscape and architectural photography. Using vertical symmetry to capture a single building or a row of buildings on either side of the street, youre visually representing their size, shape and placement within the
composition. For example, while standing before a building with a wide-angle lens, point the lens up at one of the buildings corners. If youve positioned yourself correctly, there should be equal amounts of the buildings base filling the lower
half of the frame. The top of the building will form a point. The vertical symmetry should be as close to exact on each side as possible. The photo has balance thanks to vertical symmetry, youre drawn into the images and up to the point where the leading edges
converge on one another. Horizontal Symmetry, the same process applies as to vertical symmetry, the same process applies as to vertical symmetry is in landscape photography. Imagine a gorgeous distant line of pine
trees with tall snow-capped mountains standing in the background. The top half of the frame isnt balanced with the bottom half unless theres and mountains forms the second half of the horizontal symmetry and creates balance across the frame. Consider a large rock formation jutting
from the ocean in the middle of a bay. The water reflects the same scene in the bottom half by framing the scene with the rock occupying the top half of the portrait orientation frame. Its a popular landscape shot for many photographers and a simple way to find symmetry in nature. Of course, you can also create symmetry horizontally in other genres
of photography. Your creativity is the limit. See also: how to use line, shape and form in photography composition. Radial symmetry as it does not involve splitting your frame. In radial symmetry, the main object within the composition is circular and occupies most of the frame.
Or, its such a strong visual element that it sits in a prime place within the frame. The point of this kind of symmetry in photography is to draw the viewer into the scene. The circular motion. Radial symmetry appears in photos where ripples radiate outwards in pools of water.
Going back to our mountain landscape scenario from above, the body of water could be interrupted by a series of ripples radiating outwards from the centre. Youre pulled into this section of the composition as it tries to ascertain if the water is rippling. Photographing flowers top-down is another example of radial symmetry or radial balance. In these
shots, the flower petals circular form fills the frame and draws the viewer into the centre of the image. A similar approach applies to many subjects that are circular building and even an attractive dinner plate as long as theres a circular form with a repeating pattern,
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at any scale. A glass of orange juice sitting on a glass table will case a reflection if the cameras angle and the available light are just right. Alternatively, you can achieve reflective symmetry by using a glass building to act as a mirror to reflect the scene immediately next to it or one from a distance. Its possible to capture a scene with the right surface
and portray it as perfectly symmetrical to the viewer even though its a trick of the eye. It can apply to whole scenes or a single object. Glass is a brilliant reflective surface, but some metals, plastics and even organic materials will reflect. In some cases, a surface may only reflect the light and not the details of a scene work with this to achieve a shot
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PhotographySymmetry is not exclusive to human-made objects with symmetrical properties. In nature, there are examples of every type of symmetry is on full display. A pair of bucks facing off with their antilers interlocked, or a pair of elephants with their
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