

# Some thoughts on Composition 101: a historical document



a zine by Emily  
aka JadedTwin

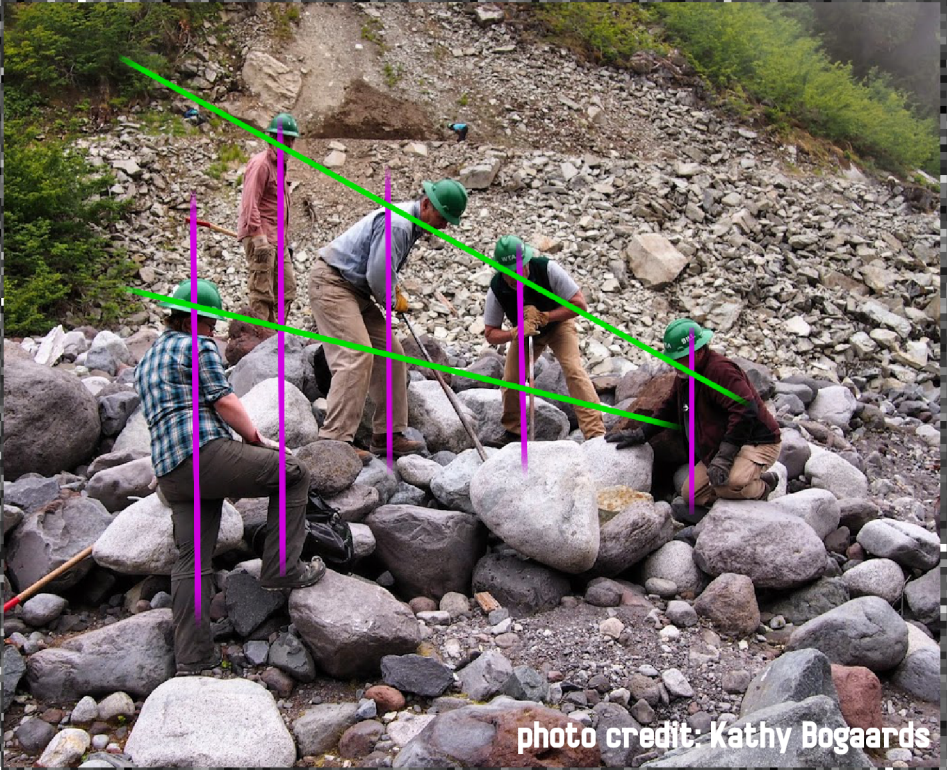
**The words in this zine were originally written by me in 2013/2014 to help inspire more thoughtful photography and art.**

**I am no longer that person who wrote these words. but I still stand by them.**

**Some of the following has been edited**

# Composition:

things that you should be ignoring, because beauty is dumb



Let's start with this image here. It's a workcrew moving some rocks or some crap. I dunno. Oh hey, someone put lines over this image.

What a jerk!

**OMG! I'M THE JERK! WHAT HAVE I DONE!?**

I did a little mischief to help explain some things in this image lol

First: The green lines indicate the flow of the image. Basically where your eyes tend to move while staring at something. There's a lot more than the two lines I highlighted, but for simplicity and out of extreme laziness it's just the two lines. Focus on the helmets and see how they create a line that moves your eye.

**clutch copy/paste so you don't gotta flip  
the page back and forth**



photo credit: Kathy Bogaards

**Second: The purple lines (because they contrast well with green. Color Theory!) show the rhythm of the figures. This really helps drive the flow along the photo and gives a sense of pacing.**

**Bonus Combo +5, crit damage! Rule of Odds unlocked. I am told that humans enjoy odd numbers. Especially the prime numbers 3 and 7. A glance at the info dispensary informs me something about creating balance or something dumb like that.**

**Whoa, another picture! What is this? Some kind of gallery?**

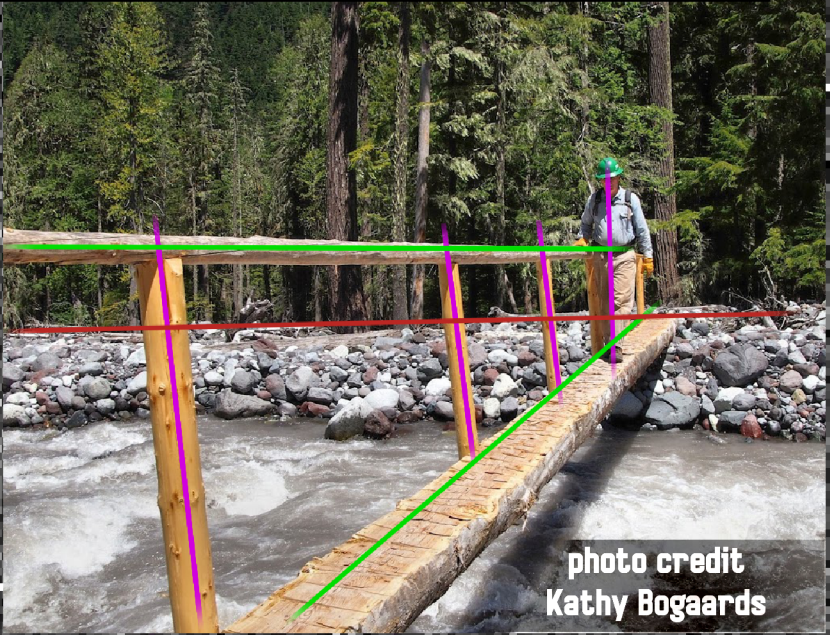


photo credit  
Kathy Bogaards

**This one is of a worker crossing a bridge. Before addressing the treachery I have wrought, I want to quickly address the Rule of Thirds.**

**There. I did it.**

**Ok, fine. Starting from one side of the screen take a marker and draw 2 vertical lines at 1/3 and 2/3 away across the screen. Do the same horizontally and you'll find the worker at roughly the upper right crossing point of these lines. It's like magic and now you have sharpie on your screen. Way to go you. (Unless you have the print version of this lolololol)**

**Starting with purple because. Same thing as the previous image, but no Rule of Odds at play. So I guess not done as strongly? Oooooohhh.....it's the railing AND the worker that create rhythm. Probably shoulda started with that.**

**The green ones! Yay! This time they're literal lines instead of metaphorical ones. Nice.**

**Bonus Combo +Red Line, call back edition. Rule of....horizon lines? The red line is the horizon. It is said that humans are used to having one. I am unsure as to why or how though. This particular line is created by the harsh juxtaposition of the green trees and the grey rocks and river. It helps create a sense of scale, I think?**

**So I hope you've gotten a better sense of how you can use elements in your photos to make the whole of the image better. Basically, don't put something in the image that detracts from what you're trying to show. Some of what I say, well most, can and should be ignored. It's good to understand some of the fundamentals, but sometimes breaking the rules to prove a point can make a more profound image.**

### **Civil disobedience for art :P**

**If you wanna just stick to the "basics" then by all means do it. You don't have to be profound. A photo of 5 cats, roughly Fibonacci units apart, looks way better than a picture of your cat's butt. Or maybe it doesn't. Show the world your cat's butt.**



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