

CHALLENGE 1

USING FOREGROUND

For this challenge we are going to be placing something in the foreground to obstruct your subject.

Try using different objects as frames to create interesting shapes around your subject.

MATERIALS

A device to take pictures with (Camera, smart phone, or tablet)

A friend or family member to be your subject

Objects to use in the foreground (decorative fan, frame, toy)

EXAMPLES



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STEPS

Vocab

- **Foreground** - the front of your image or whatever is closest to the camera
- **Background** - what is happening furthest away from the camera
- **Obstruction** - something that is blocking or in the way of what you taking a picture of

Shoot

- Head out into your neighborhood and look for interesting pops of color or shapes
- This could be fun plants and flowers, or brightly colored fences
- Place your subject (the person you are taking pictures of) behind this object
- Look in your house for interesting shaped objects or things that are partially transparent

Tips

- Test out focusing on different parts of the image! You can have the entire picture in focus, or just focus on the person's face and make your foreground blurry
- Have your subject hold different objects in front of their face, like a flower or a fan
- Shoot outside in the shade for even lighting

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Upload your photos and tag MOPA on Instagram @MOPASD.

CHALLENGE 2

ELEMENTS OF ART AND PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

The elements of art and principles of design are visual tools that can help you create an interesting artwork, and help you make a dynamic composition.

Artists of all mediums will combine multiple elements of art into one image. This can be daunting because there are a lot of them to learn and practice using!

MATERIALS

A device to take pictures with (Camera, smart phone, or tablet)

EXAMPLES



JO WHALEY, *OVERRIPE POPULATION*, 1994,
PIGMENT INK PRINT



ALFRED STIEGLITZ, *GRAND CENTRAL STATION*, 1929

STEPS

Vocab

Elements of Art

- **Line-** Can be vertical, horizontal, curved or jagged. Examples: roads, sunsets, bridges
- **Color-** Using warm or cool colors to set a mood
- **Texture-** how a surface feels (rough, smooth, wet or dry, soft or hard)
- **Shape-** shapes are generally flat, two-dimensional objects that can be characterized by their recognizable shape (circle, square, star, figure). They can be geometric or organic.
- **Space-** Either negative or positive space can be used to make a statement

Principles of Design

- **Emphasis-** The center of interest in an image
- **Balance-** The visual weight is equally distributed (can be symmetrical or asymmetrical)
- **Proportion-** Using the size of an object to give it more or less importance
- **Movement-** how the viewer looks at the photo when they approach it for the first time
- **Rhythm-** Dictates the recurring or organized/disorganized distribution of visual elements throughout an image
- **Pattern-** An element that is repeated throughout the image

Shoot

- Pick an element of art or principle of design to focus on
- Take a walk around your house or community and look for that element
- EX: if you pick texture walk around and practice taking pictures of different types of textures you see
- Once you have mastered your element, try combining it with challenge 1! You could use the texture of tree bark in your foreground while your subject is in the background

Tips

- Elements of art are more simple and easier to understand for beginners
- Once you have mastered the elements of art, move on to the principles of design
- Then, you can start combining them together! Really talented photographers and artists use multiple elements of art and principles of design in each artwork they create
- Look up examples online, they can be photographs, paintings, drawings, or sculptures. All art forms use these elements and principles

SHARE

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