COMPOSITION

Andrew Crome Photography

What is Composition?

- How the elements of a photo are arranged

- Can be made up of multiple elements or just a few

- How an artist tells a story within the confines of a single frame

Humans and Images

- Brightest element

- Most saturated colour

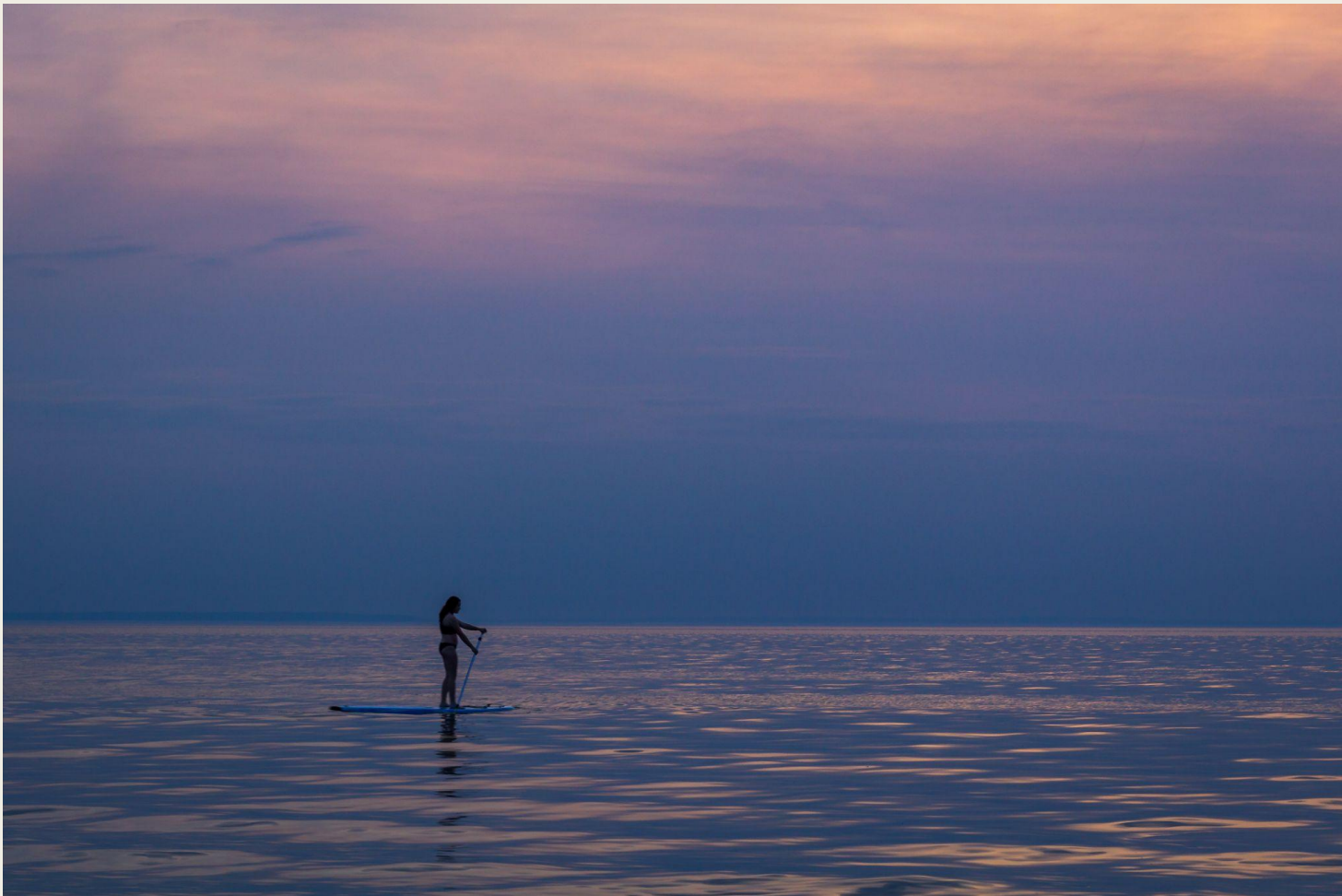- Area of highest contrast

- Human face

Negative Space

- The area surrounding the main subject, which is left unoccupied

- Helps draw the eye to the main subject - less distraction

- Portrays a sense of scale and adds impact to the image

- Frame your subject closer to the edge of the frame

- Use a shallow depth of field to blur the background

f/ 11, 1/250 sec, ISO 100, 50mm

f/11, 1/13 sec, ISO 100, 50mm

f/11
1/25 sec
ISO 100
50mm

f/3.5, 1/3200sec, ISO 100, 33mm

Perspective

- The sense of depth or spatial relationship between objects in a photo

- By changing perspective, subjects can appear much smaller or larger than normal

- Up and down

- Get high or low

- Fill the frame - get close

- Place something in the foreground

- Look for reflections

f/5.6
1/40sec
ISO100
10mm

f/3.5
1/80sec
ISO 400
26mm

f/2.8
1/4000sec
ISO 100
50mm

f/8, 1/1000 sec, ISO 100, 50mm

Leading Lines

- Line that directs the eye into the frame, leading to the subject

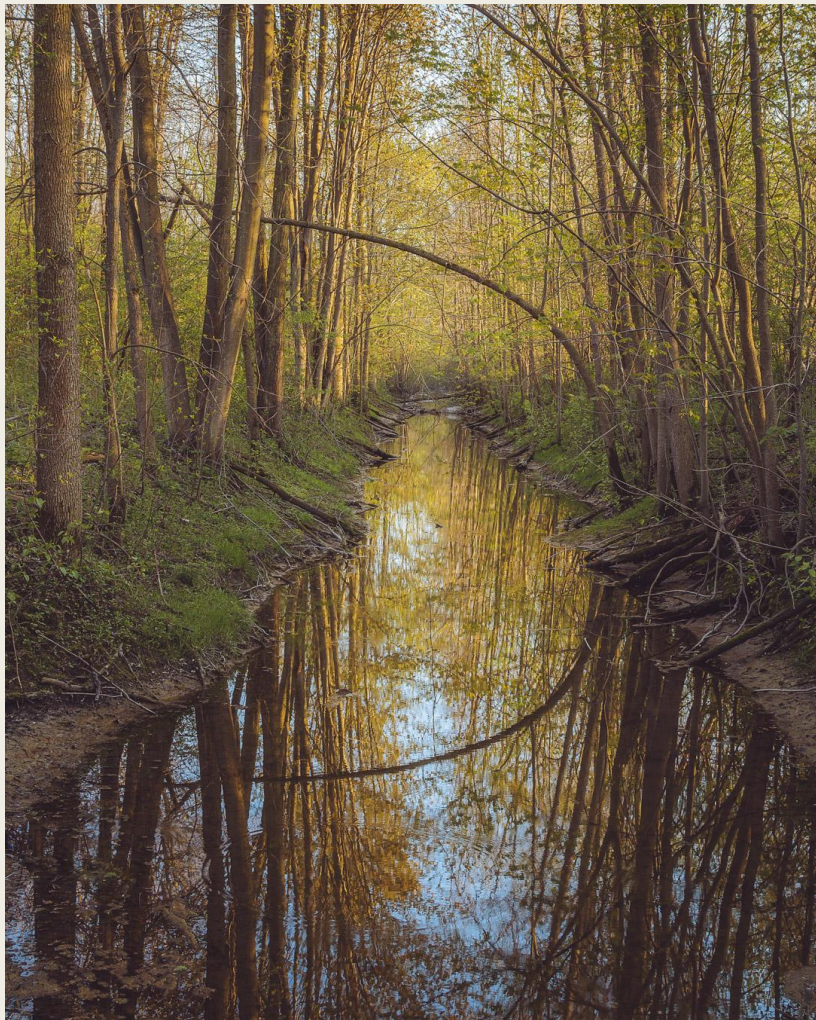- Best if coming from the corners

- Rivers, streams, paths, walls

f/ 11, 1/160 sec, ISO 100, 15mm

f/ 16,
1/320 sec,
ISO 100,
15mm

f/ 7.1   1/320 sec   ISO 100   50mm

f/7.1
1/20 sec
ISO 100
26mm

Foreground Interest

- Can create a more dynamic and interesting photo

- Can lead the viewer's eye into the shot

- Adds depth and perspective

- Get low to accentuate the foreground

f/5.6, 1/640 sec, ISO 200, 18mm

f/8.0
0.6sec
ISO400
13mm

F/ 8
1/1000 sec
ISO 100
18mm

Framing

- Add interest to other parts of the image

- Draws attention to the subject

- Shoot through a window, door, archway

- Adds depth, layers, context

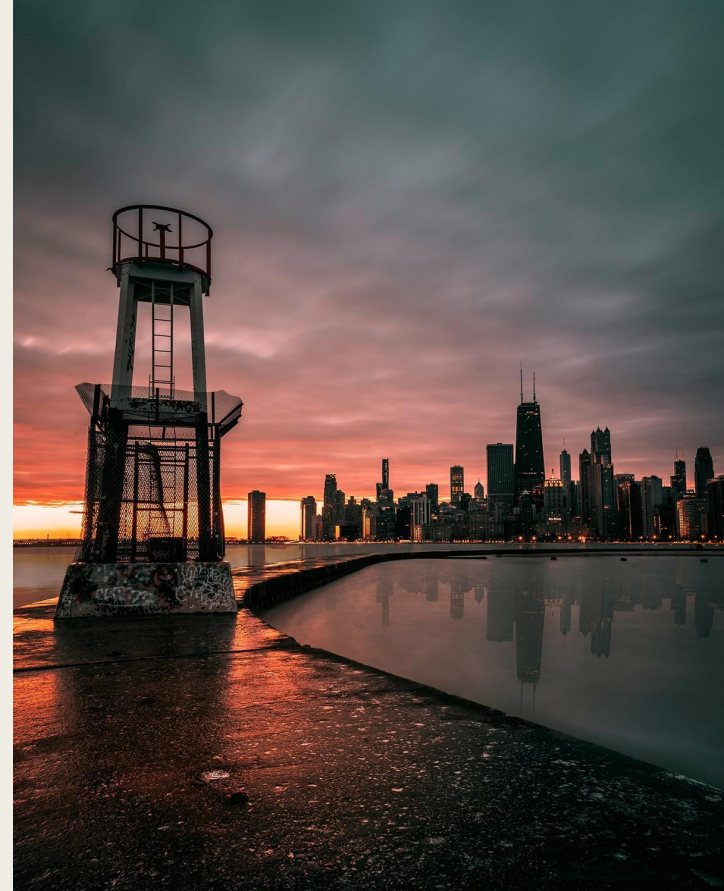f/ 11, 1/200 sec, ISO 100, 15mm

f/8
1/60 sec
ISO 100
18mm

f/ 8
1/25 sec
ISO 100
50mm

f/ 2.8
1/800 sec
ISO 100
50mm

General Composition Tips

- Keep horizon straight

- Don't just settle for your first composition

- Check your edges

- Look for balance – symmetry, complementary colours, asymmetry

- Keep it simple

Question time!