

MINIMALISM

BLUEPRINT

The first thing you need to understand about minimalism is that it is – despite its simplicity – highly complex. Less is more is not that easy to achieve.

Minimalism requires high comprehension of composition, and it emphasizes (in extremely radical simplification) form by using basic shapes, monochromatic palettes, and simple lines.

Composing with the aid of negative space is a very useful way of working things out if you want to start creating some beautiful minimalist images. Here you'll be contrasting a single object against a larger (neutral colored) area or space or minimally invasive context. The important thing is to contrast the subject's high visual impact versus the almost absent presence of the background.

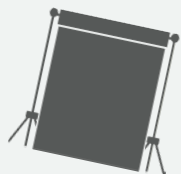
The best images convey a story, a message, a mood and even a concept. Minimalism is not the exception and it should have some deeper substance or intention in order to make it more meaningful for the audience. Just like abstract art, minimalism can be quite subjective as long as you keep things simple.



Examples of minimalism in photography

1 USE A PLAIN BACKGROUND

Shooting against a plain background is extremely important for minimalist photography. You don't want any distracting objects or patterns competing for attention with your subject!



A plain wall or floor is perfect. Alternatively, you can use some drapes or sheets if you're shooting at home. If you want a white background, you can place a white sheet on the ground and position your object in any way you want.

TIP:

If you're shooting outside, it can be difficult to find a neutral background. In this case, you can use the sky as your background.

2 PLAY WITH COLORS

You should make sure that the color of your subject contrasts with the color of the negative space, so that the subject is isolated against the background.



All you have to do is decide what you want to shoot and which colors you want in the image. Check out the image above - this yellow paper boat stands out really well against the vivid blue background, creating a striking and vibrant minimalist image.

TIP:

You can look out for interesting geometric patterns and combine them with contrasting colors to create abstract minimalist images.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 MAKE IT MYSTERIOUS

For interesting minimalist photos that create a sense of mystery, you can experiment with including only a small part of your subject in the frame.



The more negative space you include and the less you see of the subject, the greater the mystery. You can also use this technique with larger subjects when shooting from a distance.

TIP:

Try out this technique when shooting creative portraits. For instance, include only your model's arm and hand in the frame.