

RADIAL COMPOSITION

BLUEPRINT

It is valuable to look for radial patterns to aid your composition.

Radial balance is any form of representation that achieves a visual balance through circles. This is achieved when parts of an object or picture are regularly arranged and radiate from the central point.

The radial pattern does not have to take up the whole frame - it can be used in part of the frame or it can be repeated multiple times in the frame. You can arrange the visual elements of your composition to give you the interpretation of the scene you want to present to your viewers. Fluid radial elements create a harmonious flow throughout the image, whereas sharp, erratic lines generate a scene of energetic movement.

One common example of radial composition is the wheel, with spokes radiating away from the central hub.

Another example would be flowers, with petals fanning out from the flower head.



Examples of radial composition in photography

1 SYMMETRY

Radial composition can be used to enhance the sense of symmetry of your subject or its background.



Because of its visual appeal, radial compositions have been an enduring presence in visual art and culture. Eyes, flowers, snail shells, doorways, fireworks, tree ring - there is an abundance of opportunities to capture radial subject matter! Radial balance is symmetry in several directions. Often, radially balanced designs are circular. Other shapes lend themselves to radial balance too - squares, hexagons, octagons, etc.

TIP:

You should choose an adequate background that will complete your radial composition in terms of colors, lines and so on.

2 COLORS

A basic knowledge of color theory can help you make better radial patterns.



While lines, circles, and spirals are most commonly used to achieve radial balance in an image, you don't need lines at all to create it. You can have a central figure surrounded by radiating colors, textures, or even a distribution of objects. If you use colors to enhance your radial compositions, also consult the color wheel and experiment with various color combinations in the foreground and background.

TIP:

For instance, you can use contrasting or complementary colors to frame your radial composition.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 LEADING LINES

Lines can add even more interest to a radial composition by guiding the viewer's eyes through the frame.



Radial balance comes from the idea of creating balance by using radially orientated lines, shapes or forms that draw the eye towards a central focal point of an image. This means that combining leading lines and radial composition can lead to incredibly bold and captivating images.

TIP:

You can use diagonal or curved lines to direct the viewer's attention toward the center of the image.