

JUXTAPOSITION

BLUEPRINT

Juxtaposition in visual arts is created when we put two opposite things together and the contrast of those two things becomes interesting.

If we use physical objects as a juxtaposition, they must each have a strong presence within the frame. Our eyes must be drawn to each of them individually.

In photography, we use composition, forced perspectives or props to convey the contrasts in the picture. Photographs can also rely on cultural ideas and identities of the viewers.

The best way to create an effective juxtaposition is to keep it simple - take two different elements or two different subjects and put them next to one another in a frame. You can also look for a juxtaposition between the subject(s) and background.

For instance, you can put dark colors next to light colors or circles next to rectangles. If you want to make it more complex, you can create a juxtaposition between something static and dynamic or old and new.



Examples of juxtaposition in photography

1 NATURAL VS MAN-MADE

The staggering contrast between natural and manmade objects can be found in just about any urban area nowadays.



Try framing scenes that incorporate natural elements versus man-made structures. For instance, you can photograph your car or bicycle in the middle of the forest. You can also photograph your models outdoors and bring laptops or TVs as props. Natural vs man-made elements usually come in very different colors which contributes to the already existing contrast.

TIP:

Urbex photography will give you plenty of opportunities to explore the juxtaposition of natural and man-made elements.

2 ANCIENT VS MODERN

A contrast between ancient and modern has a great storytelling potential. You will find many examples of such contrast in any major city nowadays.



Architectural photography is the perfect occasion for showing the juxtaposition of modern and old. We can see the array of different architectural styles in many cities all over the world and capture these different styles in a unique way. Besides architecture, you can also show the difference between old and new technology, for instance old and new telephones.

TIP:

Images that show old and young people together are also great examples of this type of juxtaposition.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 SMALL VS LARGE

A difference in size is a basic kind of juxtaposition that will surely catch your viewer's attention.



For example, a very large building or skyscraper next to a tiny house, a very tall person next to a short person are good examples of this type of juxtaposition. The emphasis on the relationship between the two also strengthens and adds the value to visual juxtaposition.

TIP:

If you use wide-angle lenses, you can make this kind of juxtaposition even more pronounced.