

CENTERED COMPOSITION

BLUEPRINT

One of the most common composition tips that any beginner photographer receives is to get the subject out of the "dead center". Does that mean that one should never center the subject?

Of course not - it's just that centered composition is something easy to do but hard to do really well. If your subject isn't symmetrical, there's a chance that your entire photo will be disorganized and potentially unappealing to the eye.

However, whenever you can create a photo with symmetry, the symmetry takes over the image and becomes the main theme. It actually replaces the rule of thirds and gives your image its own kind of spacing. Luckily, it's not that hard to achieve symmetry in various genres of photography

Centering your subject can increase the feeling of isolation. If you have leading lines in your shot that would guide the viewer's eye to your subject, this will additionally contribute to a striking image! Centering your subject also works great when you use frames.



Examples of centered composition in photography

1 SYMMETRY

Centered composition is used to enhance the sense of symmetry of your subject or its background.



In a symmetrical composition, the two halves of the image are mirror images of each other. Such a composition automatically creates a sense of harmony and aesthetic balance—an easy way to achieve a beautiful centered shot! Symmetry is an often overlooked tool. It allows us to create a harmonious image with aesthetically pleasing proportions.

TIP:

You should choose an adequate background for your centered composition - for instance, a pathway in between 2 trees or 2 rocks.

2 FILL THE FRAME

Keep in mind that a centered composition and tight framing go well with each other.



When you fill the frame with your subject, you fill the entire photograph with the subject. So you're making a clear statement of what's most important in the photo. As the subject takes up most, if not all of the image, the viewer is immediately drawn to it. If your subject is neatly centered while it fills the frame, the image will be more pleasing to the eye.

TIP:

Get close to the subject of your centered composition and try to fill the entire frame with it!

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 LEADING LINES

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



Leading lines pave an easy path for the eye to follow through different elements of a photo. Usually, they start at the bottom of the frame and guide the eye upward and inward, from the foreground of the image to the background, leading towards the main subject in the center.

TIP:

For instance, you can use diagonal or curved lines to direct the viewer's attention toward the center of the image.