

BRENT MAIL presents...

PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

ISSUE 69 | NOVEMBER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

SEVEN ELEMENTS
OF PHOTOGRAPHY

— ★ PHOTO ★
**BOOT
CAMP**
ACADEMY —



IN THIS ISSUE

- Seven Elements of Photography **04**
Members' Images **09**
Featured Artist - Nick Ellis **18**
Members' Images **24**
Acknowledgments **34**
Calling All BootCamp Recruits **35**



Photographer: **RON DU BOIS**

Country: **GREAT BRITAIN**

f/10 1/400sec ISO200 | 50mm

My 5 years with Bootcamp anniversary shot. Back to the Antarctic. Nature's sculpture – hard to beat. I think this shot includes some of the seven elements. The shot also gives a sense of the metal-like texture/sheen of the water that was a striking feature – almost like mercury. Although there is no audio to this image, I think it gives a sense of the utter tranquillity of the continent that we experienced and which the image alone cannot fully convey. Shot from the sea surface level from a zodiac inflatable boat.

DRILL INSTRUCTOR'S MEMO

WELCOME TO ISSUE 69 OF PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE!

Photography is more than just an art form—it's a powerful way to tell stories through visuals. By mastering the foundational elements of photography, you can guide the viewer's eye, create emotion, and build stronger, more engaging compositions. Each element—from line and shape to colour and tone—works together to transform simple snapshots into impactful images.

In this issue of *Photo BootCamp Magazine*, we'll explore the 7 essential elements of photography and how to apply them to elevate your work. Whether you're capturing sweeping landscapes, detailed textures, or striking portraits, understanding these visual tools will help you shoot with greater intention and creativity. Let's dive in and start building a stronger photographic foundation—one element at a time!



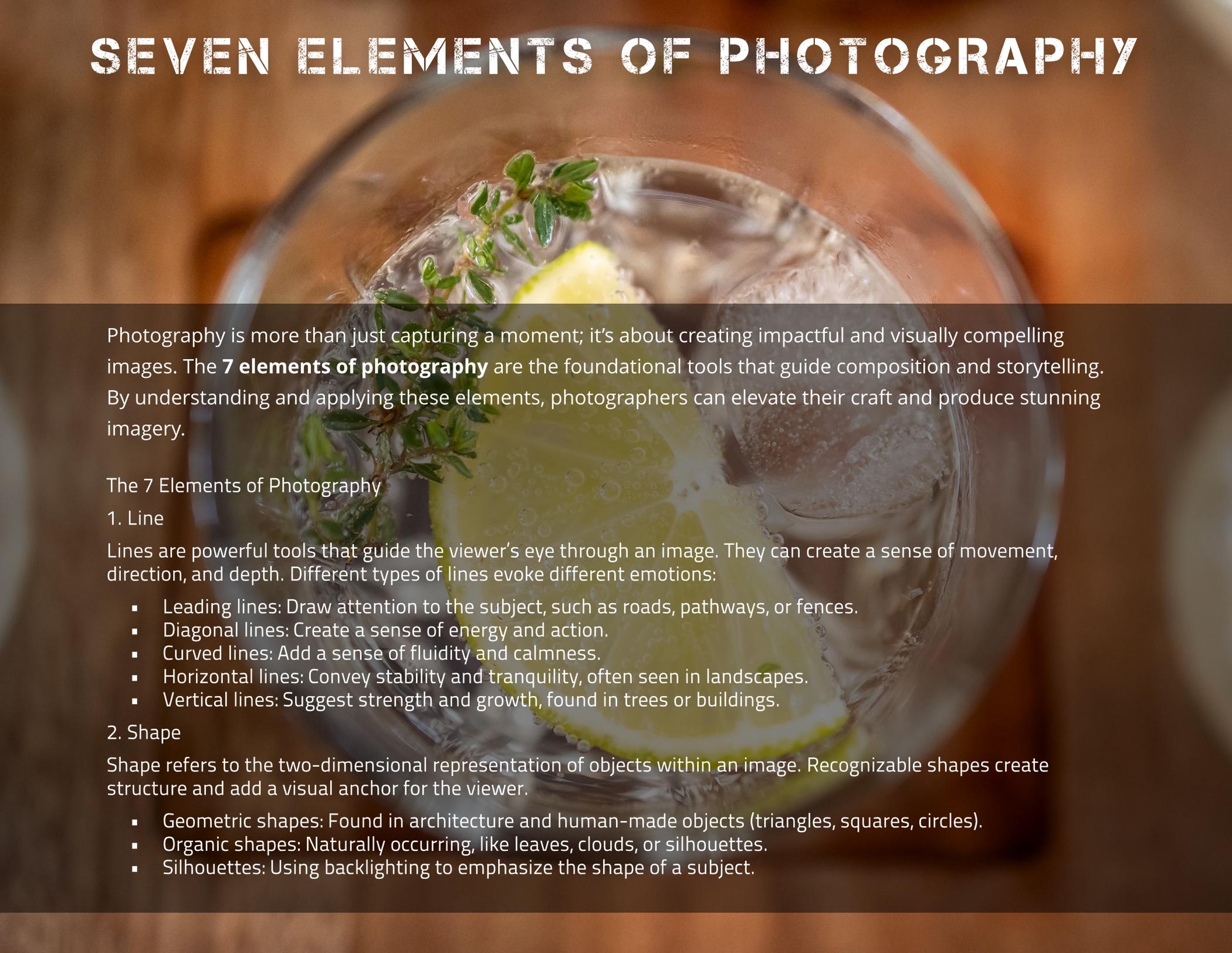
Brent Mail

**SEVEN
ELEMENTS OF
PHOTOGRAPHY**

SEVEN ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

"Photography is the art of observation. Through line, shape, form, texture, color, space, and value, we don't just capture a moment—we compose a story."

SEVEN ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

A top-down view of a glass containing water, ice, a lemon slice, and a sprig of thyme. The glass is set against a blurred wooden background. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey band across the middle of the image.

Photography is more than just capturing a moment; it's about creating impactful and visually compelling images. The **7 elements of photography** are the foundational tools that guide composition and storytelling. By understanding and applying these elements, photographers can elevate their craft and produce stunning imagery.

The 7 Elements of Photography

1. Line

Lines are powerful tools that guide the viewer's eye through an image. They can create a sense of movement, direction, and depth. Different types of lines evoke different emotions:

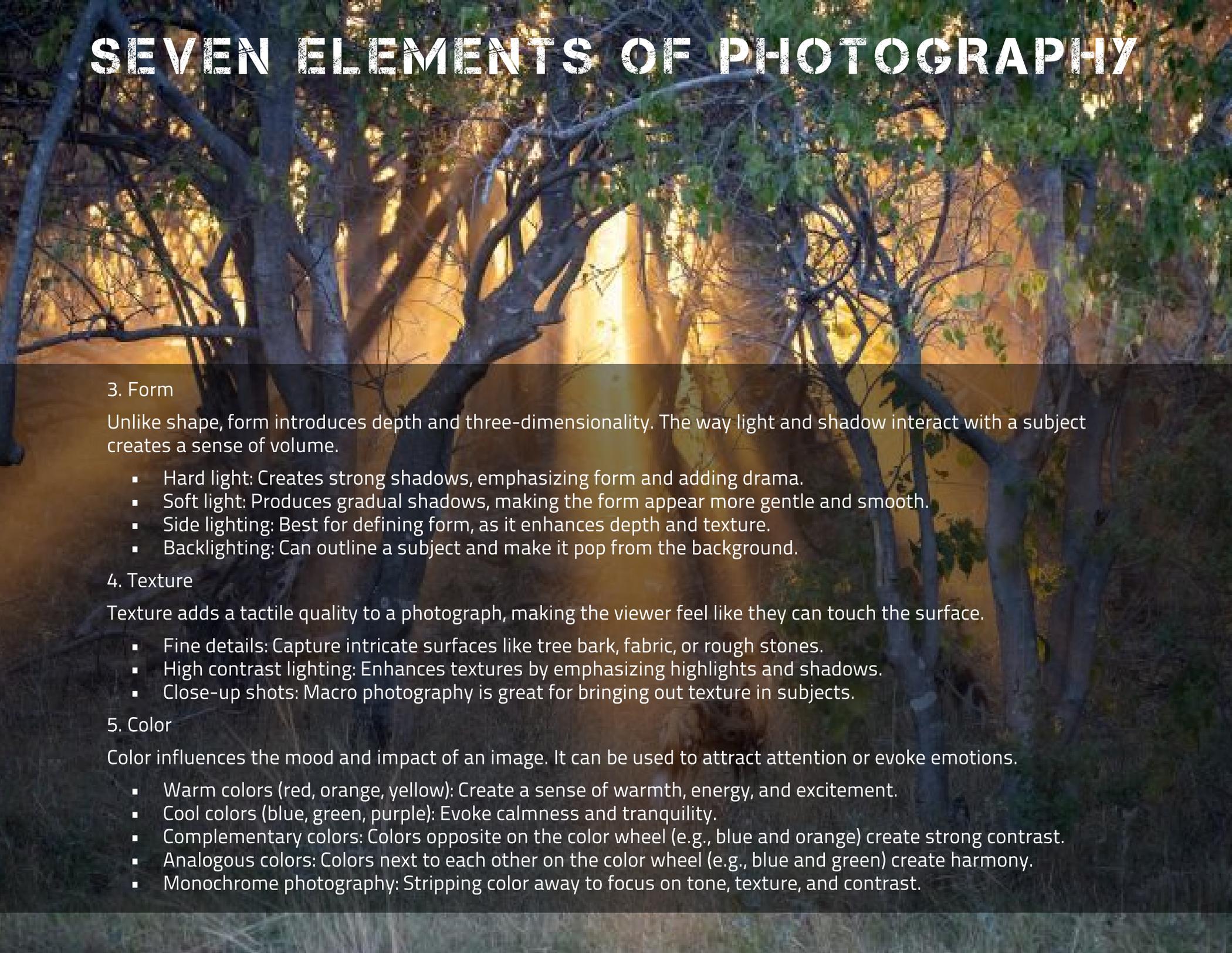
- Leading lines: Draw attention to the subject, such as roads, pathways, or fences.
- Diagonal lines: Create a sense of energy and action.
- Curved lines: Add a sense of fluidity and calmness.
- Horizontal lines: Convey stability and tranquility, often seen in landscapes.
- Vertical lines: Suggest strength and growth, found in trees or buildings.

2. Shape

Shape refers to the two-dimensional representation of objects within an image. Recognizable shapes create structure and add a visual anchor for the viewer.

- Geometric shapes: Found in architecture and human-made objects (triangles, squares, circles).
- Organic shapes: Naturally occurring, like leaves, clouds, or silhouettes.
- Silhouettes: Using backlighting to emphasize the shape of a subject.

SEVEN ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY



3. Form

Unlike shape, form introduces depth and three-dimensionality. The way light and shadow interact with a subject creates a sense of volume.

- Hard light: Creates strong shadows, emphasizing form and adding drama.
- Soft light: Produces gradual shadows, making the form appear more gentle and smooth.
- Side lighting: Best for defining form, as it enhances depth and texture.
- Backlighting: Can outline a subject and make it pop from the background.

4. Texture

Texture adds a tactile quality to a photograph, making the viewer feel like they can touch the surface.

- Fine details: Capture intricate surfaces like tree bark, fabric, or rough stones.
- High contrast lighting: Enhances textures by emphasizing highlights and shadows.
- Close-up shots: Macro photography is great for bringing out texture in subjects.

5. Color

Color influences the mood and impact of an image. It can be used to attract attention or evoke emotions.

- Warm colors (red, orange, yellow): Create a sense of warmth, energy, and excitement.
- Cool colors (blue, green, purple): Evoke calmness and tranquility.
- Complementary colors: Colors opposite on the color wheel (e.g., blue and orange) create strong contrast.
- Analogous colors: Colors next to each other on the color wheel (e.g., blue and green) create harmony.
- Monochrome photography: Stripping color away to focus on tone, texture, and contrast.

SEVEN ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

6. Space

Space refers to how objects are arranged within the frame, including the relationship between positive and negative space.

- Positive space: The subject or area of focus in an image.
- Negative space: The empty or open area around the subject, used to emphasize the main element.
- Minimalism: Using negative space effectively can create a clean, modern look.
- Depth of field: Adjusting focus to control how space appears in an image.

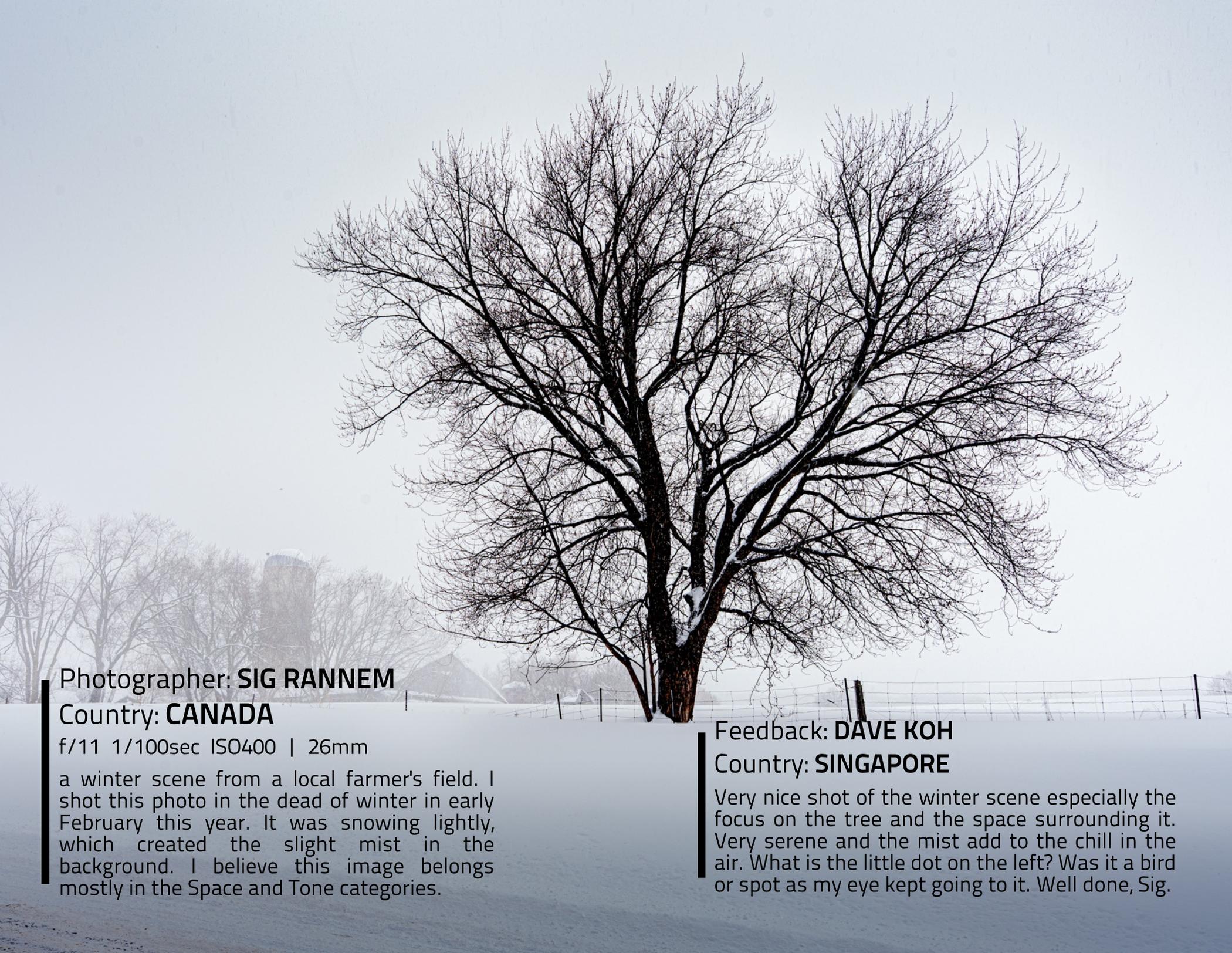
7. Tone (Value)

Tone, also called value, refers to the lightness or darkness in an image. It helps define shape, depth, and mood.

- High-key images: Bright, airy photos with minimal contrast, often used in fashion and portrait photography.
- Low-key images: Dark, moody photos with deep shadows, often used for dramatic effect.
- Strong contrast: Makes an image more impactful by emphasizing differences between light and dark areas.
- Gradual tonal range: Creates a softer, more natural look with smooth transitions.

MEMBERS' IMAGES





Photographer: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

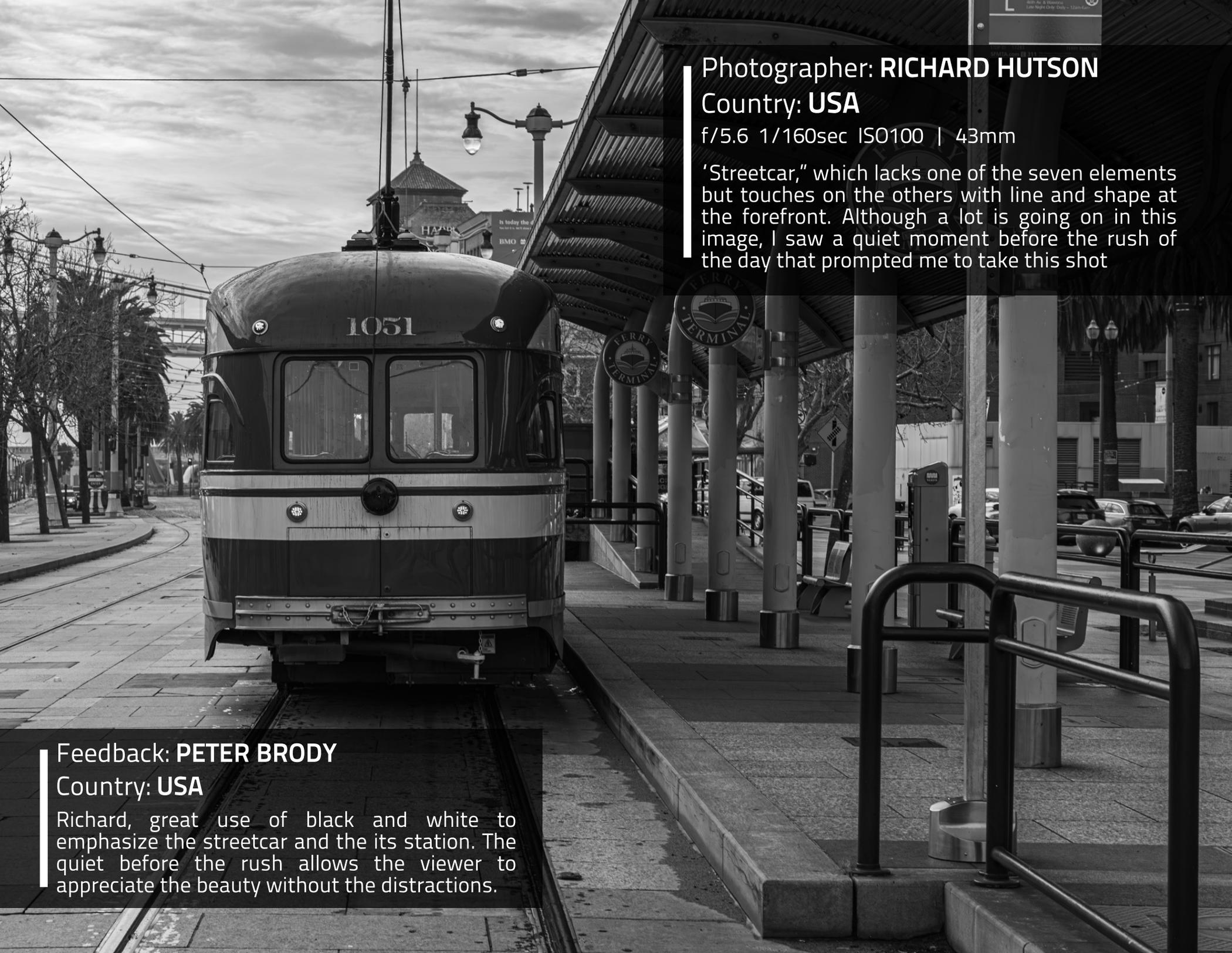
f/11 1/100sec ISO400 | 26mm

a winter scene from a local farmer's field. I shot this photo in the dead of winter in early February this year. It was snowing lightly, which created the slight mist in the background. I believe this image belongs mostly in the Space and Tone categories.

Feedback: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

Very nice shot of the winter scene especially the focus on the tree and the space surrounding it. Very serene and the mist add to the chill in the air. What is the little dot on the left? Was it a bird or spot as my eye kept going to it. Well done, Sig.



Photographer: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

f/5.6 1/160sec ISO100 | 43mm

'Streetcar,' which lacks one of the seven elements but touches on the others with line and shape at the forefront. Although a lot is going on in this image, I saw a quiet moment before the rush of the day that prompted me to take this shot

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Richard, great use of black and white to emphasize the streetcar and the its station. The quiet before the rush allows the viewer to appreciate the beauty without the distractions.



Photographer: **PAUL FULLER**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/8 1/400sec ISO400

Every year we visit one of our friends at Old Bar N.S.W. Her Daughter is a single mum raising triplets. We usually take bubble wands and games for them to play. They always say to their mum when are the fun people coming back.

Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Yes, gorgeous shot filled with colour, contrast, textures, et al.



Photographer: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

f/1.9 1/1200sec ISO40 | 2.2mm

I was doing some walking along a park connector in another town and came across this nice structure, which have many of the elements for this challenge. I only have my mobile with me, and so capture this perspective image just in time before the end of this challenge.

Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Dave, a leading line party here. What a good spot for this challenge, and then the old truth, the best camera is the one you have with you. Great thinking.

Photographer: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

This image is from my trip last year through the Rockies from Vancouver through to Banff along the Columbia Ice Parkway, the most spectacular mountain drive I have ever seen. We returned to do it again after first experiencing it many years ago. We were lucky enough to be travelling at the end of September, Fall colours in full display, the air getting very cool, ice on the mountain tops, and the road signs warning that winter tires would be required less than a week later, in order to be allowed to traverse this route. We had sleet and light snow, sunshine and everything in-between except...bears. So so sad not to have seen even one. But the vistas, breathtaking. Shot from the moving car as we travelled the parkway. I hope this embodies some of the seven elements. I think it does.



Feedback: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Breathtaking, and to get this while moving Laura, now that takes talent too. I honestly just can't get over that scene. Stunning!!

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

James, this is a priceless photo. Yes, it hits many of the seven elements, but more importantly, it tells a story.



Photographer: **JAMES HERRICK**

Country: **CANADA**

f/7.1 1/1000sec ISO1000 | 135mm

It's only been a week since the snow started to disappear here, so it's hard to find a new scene worthy of this challenge - so I've gone back a couple of years to a "summery" image. We took our grandsons to a nearby park where they have kid-friendly steps to climb up to the "giant slide". The youngest did not want to be left out, so off to the stairs he went. I believe it contains many of the 7 elements of the challenge.



Photographer: **GREG SKEHAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Canon 5D Mark II

f/11 1/250sec | 80mm

This image was taken over 10 years ago when I was travelling through Hungary. It is a memorial to the many Jews who were killed in Hungary during WW2. Google "Shoes on the Danube Bank" if you want to find out more about this tragedy. I chose this image for the challenge as I wanted one that had several of the 7 key elements - eg leading line, different textures and shapes, some negative space, and most importantly for me is that it told a story. The actual events that inspired the creation of these sculptured shoes are quite disturbing, but also a reminder of the futility, pain and despair of war.

Feedback: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

Greg, yes, this photo does indeed tell an impactful story! I really like the way you have composed the scene with the diagonal lines. The image also includes space, tone, texture, form, shape and colour, so all the seven elements are represented. Great work! I have also been there and seen this memorial, and it had a strong impression on me.

Photographer: **SUSAN ROBINSON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5 1/50sec ISO200

I went out for a walk on April 2 and spotted this bottle brush. I was intrigued by the warped shape, and so I took a picture. It has lines, texture, and colour. The green background is a nice contrast. Taken with a Nikon camera.

Feedback: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

Susan, quite a different angle from most of the bottle brushes I have seen. Lovely tone and textures.

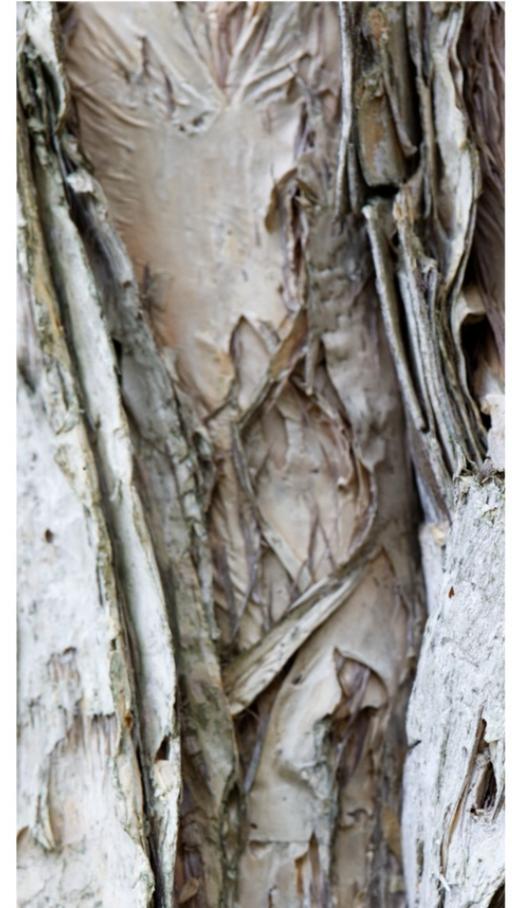


**FEATURED
ARTIST**



FEATURED IMAGE

NICK ELLIS
AUSTRALIA



Photographer: **NICK ELLIS**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5 1/400sec ISO400 | 100mm

f/5 1/400sec ISO400 | 100mm

f/5 1/160sec ISO400 | 100mm

I've finally dusted off the trusty Canon, affixed the 100 mm macro and had a leisurely wander around the local streets. Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*). Thought this might cover the texture and tone aspects of the challenge. And because I could not decide which one I liked more, I turned three of the pics into a triptych.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FEATURED ARTIST:

NICK ELLIS | AUSTRALIA

Brent: *How did you first become interested in photography?*

Nick: *Dad did a lot of photography, he used a Minolta SR-2 I believe. I still have his light meter. There are numerous family photos dating back to the early 1900s documenting my family's life. I bought my first SLR in 1980. And I still have my first photo taken with a box brownie when I was about 8 or 9.*

Brent: *Who has influenced your photography the most? Are there any photographers you admire or consider mentors?*

Nick: *Ansel Adams, I'm in awe of how he captured the sheer grandeur of landscapes. Also Max Dupain, some of his photos are iconic, I particularly like his B&W magnolia photo. there are others, I take inspiration where I can get it.*

Brent: *What does photography mean to you?*

Nick: *I get a joy and sense of fulfillment out of photography - it is my creative outlet.*

Brent: *In your opinion, what makes a photograph stand out from the rest?*

Nick: *A subject that is eye catching and an interpretation that grabs the soul.*



**FEATURED
ARTIST**

**NICK ELLIS
AUSTRALIA**

Brent: *What types of photography do you enjoy the most?*

Nick: *I'm attracted to Landscapes and like macro. I am also drawn to flora photography, leaves, bark, flowers*

Brent: *Tell us about your featured image: What inspired it? What was your approach to capturing it? How did you edit it in post-processing?*

Nick: *I was looking for texture so I hunted around my local area for interesting bark and wandered down a street I hadn't walked down before and found the paperbarks. Just what I needed. I'm fascinated with the textures and colours within the bark. I took a number of photos and picked those three which I made into a tryptich. I do post in Affinity Photo, generally a bit of contrast and maybe some sharpening. I also adjusted the brightness as I tend to underexpose. I also generally use the curves adjustment.*

**FEATURED
ARTIST**

**NICK ELLIS
AUSTRALIA**



Brent: *How would you describe your photographic style?*

Nick: *Studied. I think some of my neighbours think I'm crazy standing half a metre from a tree slowly circling it with camera pressed to my face!*

Brent: *What do you hope your audience takes away from your images?*

Nick: *An awareness of the diversity of life and nature.*

Brent: *What post-processing tools or software do you use?*

Nick: *I use Affinity Photo and need to put more work into using its features. I also do my first sort using Fast Raw Viewer*

FEATURED
ARTIST

NICK ELLIS
AUSTRALIA

Nick's favorite inspirational quote:

*"The best camera is the one you
have in your hand."*

– Chase Jarvis



MEMBERS' IMAGES

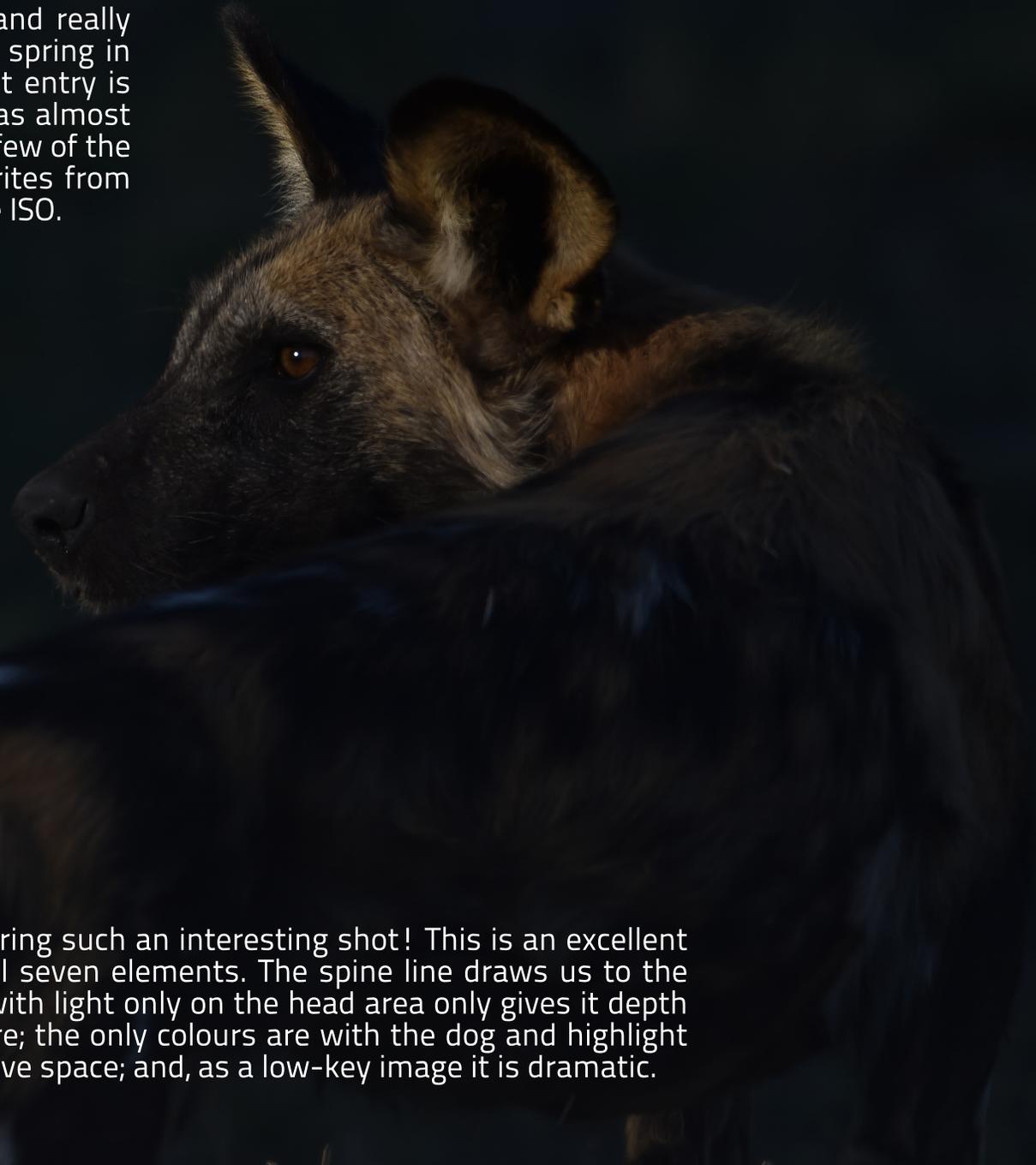


Photographer: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

f/6.3 1/800sec | 600mm

Sorry, it has been so long since I have posted and really commented. I was in a funk, now I am not. It is spring in Minnesota! The image I have picked for my first entry is one from Africa last May—so hard to believe it was almost a year ago. One of the wild dogs we saw. It fits a few of the elements of this challenge. It is one of my favorites from Africa that isn't a leopard! I can't seem to find the ISO.



Feedback: **JAMES HERRICK**

Country: **CANADA**

Hi Sara! I'm glad you're out of your funk and sharing such an interesting shot! This is an excellent choice for this challenge. I can see how it fits all seven elements. The spine line draws us to the head; the dog is the organic shape; capturing it with light only on the head area only gives it depth (form); the fur is visible enough to provide texture; the only colours are with the dog and highlight its potential for action; half of the image is negative space; and, as a low-key image it is dramatic.

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

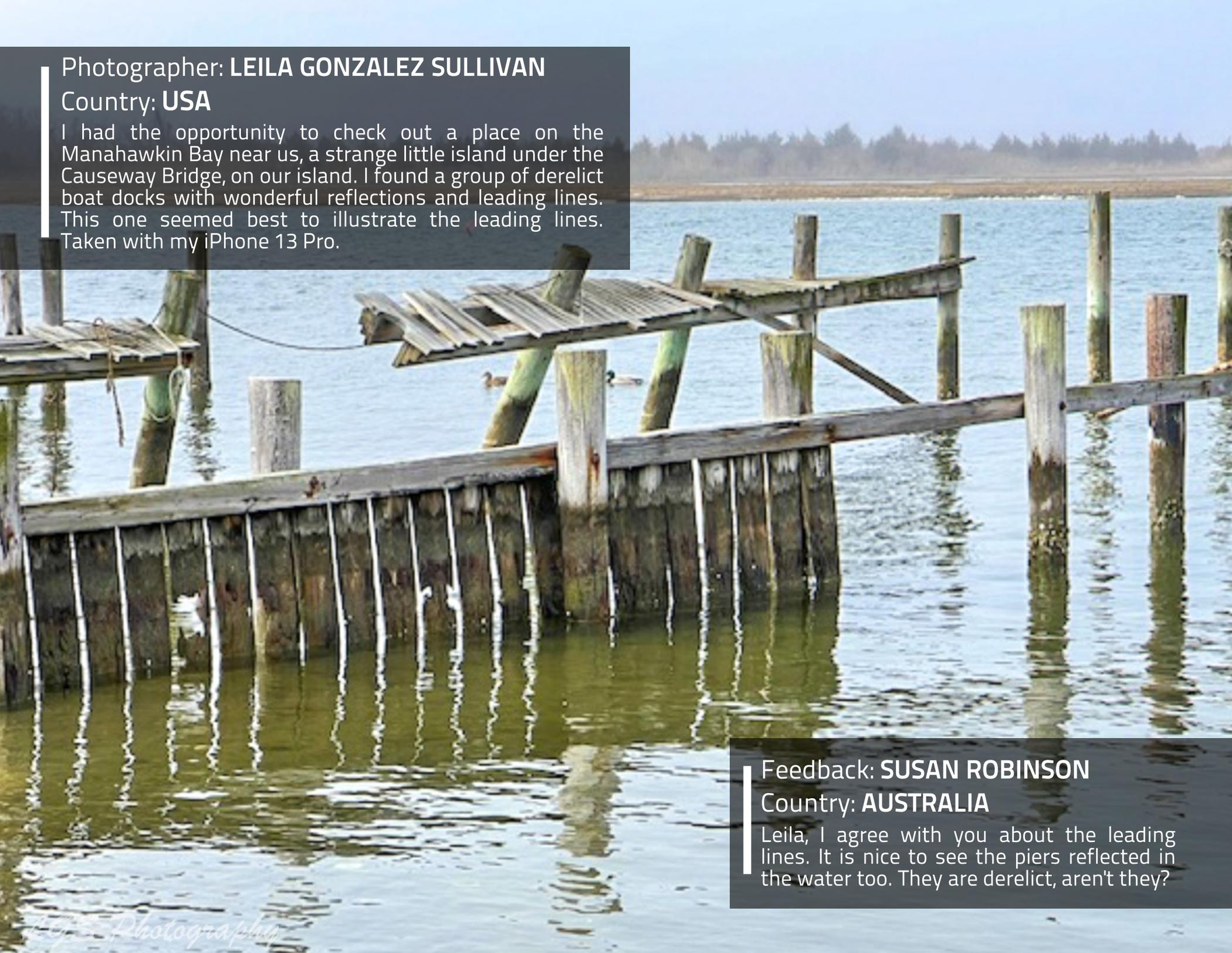
Leila, very nice representation of textures, lines, and space.



Photographer: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

Here is a constructed image that offers many of the seven elements. I was experimenting with a small light tool and liked the way it highlighted the texture of these dried leaves on a white surface. I did blur the background a bit so the leaves were the subject and resized for Bootcamp.



Photographer: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

I had the opportunity to check out a place on the Manahawkin Bay near us, a strange little island under the Causeway Bridge, on our island. I found a group of derelict boat docks with wonderful reflections and leading lines. This one seemed best to illustrate the leading lines. Taken with my iPhone 13 Pro.

Feedback: **SUSAN ROBINSON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Leila, I agree with you about the leading lines. It is nice to see the piers reflected in the water too. They are derelict, aren't they?



Photographer: **JENINE TRACEY**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

This is my take on using negative space. The image was taken with my Google Pixel 6 Pro mobile phone when I was walking my dog around the lake. We currently have 10 pelicans who have moved into this area and they are there every morning for a breakfast of salmon. Their huge size and their ability to be able to fly are a constant source of amazement for me



Photographer: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

f/2.0 1/1700sec ISO80 | 15.7mm

The trails in the north woods are still skiable...
Shot with my iPhone 16 Pro Max, which is much easier to carry than a full-frame camera when you are out cross-country skiing.

Feedback: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

Lovely diagonal and curves with vertical lines of the trees, with a nice skier as the subject. If there is a space for a square image, showing slightly more of the tree trunks will be a great image. In itself, it is already a nice shot. Well done, Sig.



Photographer: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/8 1/640sec ISO200 | 24mm

shot just an hour from home & starting to show the autumn colors with sandstone steps & walls. I think I have covered several of the required elements for this challenge.

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

For me, it's the lines and the textures in this image that jump out at me. It's leading lines leading up the staircase and into the distance, and the textures from the stonework and the foreground. I do like the fall/autumn colours contrasted against the greens on the right-hand side. Well done. Brent



Photographer: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

This photo was taken on the safari last year. Sunset was approaching, as we paused to observe these zebras grazing. This photo reminded me of the "Heads and Tails" challenge. I was drawn into the scene with all the shapes and patterns of the zebras, then followed the starburst rays, leading me to the sun. The muted dusk added to the scene.

Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Peter. Nice shot. good atmosphere and I like the last off the Sun Rays coming in to rest on the Zebras. Well done.



Photographer: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/2.2 1/3000sec

I'm thinking tone for this one, but the river could be the leading line, leading you up to the Storey Bridge and the City of Brisbane. The curvature at the front is the rail off the city cat, which I spent some time on today for my birthday. No camera today, just my phone.

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Keri, the black and white sets the mood of the scene, as the darker cloud is about to battle the lighter cloud over downtown Brisbane! It would be best to stay safe indoors!



Photographer: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

I took this some time back, and it is a scene from one of our many public parks in Dublin. On the day I was just out on a walk about and it grabbed my attention. What do you think?

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

I think this is a beautiful image. Denis – I love those leading lines in the pathway and the hedges leading up to that tower in the background. Those clouds look quite stormy, and it adds an ominous mood to your image... make use of the beautiful day because a storm is brewing. Thanks for sharing, Brent

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TEAM

Creator.....**Brent Mail**



Art Director.....**Hazel Rivera**



Writer & Editor in Chief.....**Julie Powell**



About this publication:

Photo BootCamp Magazine was created to showcase the art, skills, and camaraderie of the recruits from the Academy. Each month, Brent leads members in a new drill, teaching them what they need to know to get out in the field and create images using their new skills.

About Photo BootCamp Academy:

Photo BootCamp Academy is a community of like-minded photography students who come together to learn in the fastest, most fun way - how to harness the magic of photography, improve their craft, gain confidence, and sometimes even win awards!

Join BootCamp here: <https://shareinspirecreate.com/join-bootcamp>

Copyright:

Share Inspire Create © 2025. All Right Reserved.

Artists in this magazine are responsible for their own works and any rights appertaining.

NOW RECRUITING

Join the Fastest, 'Funnest' Way to
Improve Your Photography!



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

shareinspirecreate.com/join-bootcamp

BRENT MAIL presents...

PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

ISSUE 69

NOVEMBER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

SEVEN ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

— ★ PHOTO ★
**BOOT
CAMP**
ACADEMY —

