6 Tips for Creating Leading Lines to Make Your Photos Stand Out More

In anticipation of the upcoming June competition “Converging Lines,” you may be interested in a few tips to bring out the best in your images. The following is an edited excerpt from a post by Jim Hamel at Digital Photography School website. For the complete article, visit: https://digital-photography-school.com/6-tips-for-creating-leading-lines-to-make-your-photos-stand-out-more/. To learn more about the author, visit: https://digital-photography-school.com/author/jimhamel/.

There is perhaps no more important tool in composition than lines. The eye will virtually always follow an actual or implied line across the picture. Because of this tendency, many lines are referred to as leading lines. They are actual, or implied lines that control the eye of the viewer through the frame.

1. Plan for opportunities
Lines that you can use to lead your viewer into the frame are everywhere, but you’ve got to look for them. In fact, it is a good idea to plan a few shots ahead of time so that you can consider what to use as a leading line. When you are thinking about possible lines leading into the frame, think about roads and paths, which work great. Plus they are everywhere so you almost never have to search for them. The edges of the road will converge in the distance, thereby pointing the viewer to the center of the frame.

2. Finding and using urban opportunities
In an urban environment, besides roads, you can use buildings and other structures. Keep your eye open for rows of streetlights, which we often overlook, but which can work great. In addition, don’t forget to look up, as the natural convergence of buildings toward the center of your frame (due to the distortion of your lens) can actually work for you in this context, and create lines that point to the center of the frame.

3. Opportunities in nature
When you are out in the wild, nature often provides you with the leading lines you seek. Patterns on the ground, whether it be paved, sand, or grass, can often provide markings that lead to the center of the frame. In addition, similar to the convergence of buildings mentioned above, looking up into tall trees will create the same effect.
Leading lines on the ground can be difficult if not impossible to see with the naked eye though. There are times you have to walk around with the viewfinder held to your eye (or looking through your LCD with the camera in Live View) in order to see the lines on the ground. Moving water can also provide lines toward the center of the frame. Again, however, these might not be visible to you. Frequently looking at a long exposure after the fact is the only way you can actually see these lines. Take test shots when you can.

4. Manufacture your own lines
Sometimes there are no leading lines to use and you have to make your own. There are many ways to do this. One of my favorites is by adding streaking lights that go into the frame. Taking a long exposure of moving water will also result in lines.

5. Stay cognizant of lines when shooting
Once you identify leading lines to draw your viewer into the frame, you need to take your picture in such a way that it will show them. We already mentioned shutter speed, which is particularly important when you are allowing lights or water to flow through your frame to show a leading line. But you will also want to keep an eye on your aperture setting. Most of the time you will want the entire leading line sharp, along with the subject that you are leading the viewer’s eye toward. You’ll want to use a small aperture in that case, which will create a large depth of field for your shot.

On occasion, however, you want to blur out the background by using a large aperture. In any case, the important thing is to have a plan for showing the leading line in the final picture.

6. Accentuate the lines in post-production
Finding and using leading lines to draw your viewer into the frame does not end when the shutter closes. Usually you can accentuate them in post-processing. The main way is through selective brightening and darkening. Oftentimes you will want to brighten your leading line to draw the viewer’s eye to it. Sometimes you might want to darken other parts of the frame for the same reason. You also might want to increase the contrast in, and around, your leading lines since the eye is attracted to contrast.

Effort and reward
The use of leading lines to draw the viewer into the frame is a great way to add depth to your pictures. Rather than looking at the picture the viewer is looking into the picture. But it isn’t always easy. It requires thought before, during, and after the shot. But with the right pre-planning, a little attention while shooting, and some accentuation during the post-processing, you can add an element to your photos that sets them apart.

Source for all content and images: https://digital-photography-school.com/6-tips-for-creating-leading-lines-to-make-your-photos-stand-out-more/
A Note from Ken Graulich

For several years now the Creative Camera Club has donated $150 dollars each year to the Kentucky State Student Recognition Program for the Arts. The subjects range from writing, dance, film, music composition, visual arts, theme search, and of course photography.

Donators may participate in the award ceremony and I was happy to continue the tradition of someone from the club helping to hand out awards in the photography section. I can't tell you how delightful it was to hand out these awards to a very excited and bright group of children ranging in age from elementary school to high school.

Seven children won $500 student scholarships. The Kentucky State PTA will now send 29 of the entries to the National PTA for further judging. We wish them luck!

Pictured below, one of the proud winners (left) and one of the entries (right).

CCC Exhibit Opportunities

St. Joe East

Club members have been invited to exhibit once more at St. Joseph East Hospital. John Snell will collect the prints at the First Thursday meeting on July 6th. There is room for only 10 prints to be exhibited, so you MUST contact John beforehand (john@johnsnellphoto.com or 859.229.6033) to sign up for the exhibit.

The work will be on display from July 12th until the first week of September. The theme for this exhibit is "Summer." Please choose images that will be suitable for a healing environment...uplifting, colorful, etc.

The prints cannot be wider than 24" (including frame), but they may be taller than 24". This is due to the limited linear wall space we're provided. Prints may be framed in metal or wood, or may be on canvas or metal. Limit one print per person.

Prints that were on exhibit from March through early May can be picked up at the First Thursday meeting on June 1st. If you need your print sooner, please contact John Snell to make arrangements to get it from him.

Christ Church Cathedral for Art

We are delighted to have another opportunity to partner with Christ Church Cathedral for Art at the Cathedral for the July Gallery Hop on July 14th. Our theme - Let There Be Light - is pretty open. Here are the particulars:

- All work must be framed and ready to hang with sturdy wire.
- Drop off is June 26, 4pm - 6pm.
- Limit of 2 entries.
- Include your contact information on the back. Indicate selling price or NSF (not for sale).

The club is responsible for hosting the reception. Members are asked to bring finger foods requiring no utensils, and preferably no goo. They should be delivered July 14. The hop runs from 5pm - 8pm.
Workshop

Lexington Photography School
400 Old Vine (Above Wines on Vine)
Lexington, Kentucky

Saturday, Jun. 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m
"Making Sharper Images" workshop. Go to Making Sharper Images Workshop for the registration form and additional information. Limited to 16 students. Instructor: John Snell

Club Outing

Our 2017 Blue Ridge Parkway trip is scheduled for July 27th-30th. A block of 20 rooms has been reserved at Maggie Valley Creekside Lodge at a special camera club rate of $20/night off the regular prices. Unsold rooms will be released by June 27th. You're encouraged to go ahead and reserve a room by calling 1-800-621-1260. There will be a sign-up sheet at meetings between now and the dates of the trip. Signing up does not commit you to go, but does ensure you'll receive any mailings with photo locations, where we’re meeting for any group meals, etc. Questions? Contact John Snell at 859-254-1929 or john@johnsnellphoto.com.

Are you doing something that members should know about?

Do you have photographic work that is being exhibited? Are you teaching a photography class or facilitating a workshop? Have you received recognition for your photography? Is there an event or something happening that you feel is relevant to club members? If you answered yes to any of those questions, fellow members would likely be interested in hearing about it. Please feel free to submit an article or copy for possible inclusion in the club newsletter. To do so, just send an email to Donna Farmer at dkbfarmer@gmail.com.

Outings, Exhibitions and Workshops are in Abundance!

Exhibitions

FRANK DÖRING: I Would Redesign That Udder
May 20 2017 to Aug 20 2017
The Art Museum
Singletary Center for the Arts
405 Rose Street | Lexington

ARTIST CONVERSATION: FRANK DÖRING
Friday, June 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
UK Art Museum, FREE

Frank Döring finds a microcosm of the human—and animal—condition at the state and county fairs that take place all summer long within a day’s drive of his Lexington home. While agricultural fairs draw more visitors than major league baseball games annually, there has been little serious examination of these rural events that celebrate the way of life in farming communities.

With empathy, sensitivity, and humor, Döring has been photographing the champion steers, greased piglets, sheep rodeos, and garish midways since 2011. In his images, children expertly guide farm animals around the show ring, teenagers use blow dryers to fluff up heifers, and whole families form tableaux vivants at concession stands and carnival games.

Döring, who is German born, came to the United States to earn a doctorate in philosophy at Princeton University. He worked as a cognitive science researcher at École Polytechnique in Paris, France, and a philosophy professor at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Cincinnati before giving up academia for photography in order to reach a wider and more diverse audience.

He has recently exhibited work at the San Francisco International Airport; the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, in The Netherlands; and Institute 193 in Lexington. His photographic mural Blades, made with Joel Feldman, will be installed this year at 21c Museum Hotel in Lexington.

History of Photography

May 27, 2017 - September 3, 2017
Opening Reception: June 3, 1-3 pm
Headley Whitney Museum of Art
4435 Old Frankfort Pike | Lexington

www.creativecameraclub.org
2017 Officers

President
Tom Myers
TomVMyers@gmail.com

Vice President
Parham Baker
parham@parhambaker.com

Secretary
Jan McKinney
jankmckinney@twc.com

Treasurer
Ken Graulich
keng6@aol.com

Newsletter Editor
Donna Farmer
dkbfarmer@gmail.com

Past President
John Snell
john@johnsnellphoto.com

Board of Directors

Jack McKinney
jackdmckinney@twc.com

Joe Omielan
joe.omielan@gmail.com

Darrell Gilbert
dwgilbert@att.net

Join Us!

The Creative Camera Club (CCC) can trace its roots back to the Lexington Camera Club of 1930s. We welcome anyone interested in the art and science of photography from amateur to professional. To learn more, please visit our website or contact one of our officers or directors.

2017 Calendar

January
5 First Thursday - Gear Petting Zoo & Swap/Sell - Cancelled/weather
7 Pick up prints from Annual Print Show / 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
19 Regular Meeting / Speaker: Phillips Mitchell

February
2 First Thursday, 7:00: Gear Petting Zoo & Swap/Sell
12 Competition Submission Closes
16 Competition, 7:00: WATER IN ANY OF ITS FORMS Critique by David Coyle

March
2 First Thursday: Using your Flash Workshop (Part 1)
16 Regular Meeting / Speaker: Pam Spaulding

April
6 First Thursday: Putting together a slide show (software and advice)
16 Competition Submission Closes
20 Competition: MOVING SUBJECTS

May
1 Drop off images at Vine Street Central Bank and Trust between 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
4 First Thursday: Table top close-up photography Bring images for CCC Exhibit at St. Joe East
5 Exhibit reception 4:30-6:00 p.m. - CCC Club Exhibition at Vine Street Central Bank and Trust
18 Regular Meeting: Andrew Fore/Concert & Music Photography

June
1 First Thursday: Arboretum Photo Shoot (meet at 6 p.m. at Visitor Center)
25 Competition Submission Closes
26 Drop off Christ Church Cathedral, 4 - 6 pm
29 Competition: CONVERGING LINES, critique by Dan Silvestri

July
6 First Thursday: Using your Flash Workshop (Part 2)
14 Gallery Hop, Club Exhibition at Christ Church Cathedral, 5-8 pm
20 Regular Meeting: Ben Childers/Drone Photography and Insect Salon
27-30 NC Blue Ridge Parkway Field Trip

August
3 First Thursday: Downtown Photo Shoot
13 Competition Submission Closes
17 Competition: IN YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD (*New Shots - MUST have been taken since Aug. 1, 2016 within a one mile radius of your house.)

September
7 First Thursday: Club Picnic at Jacobson Park
21 Regular Meeting: TBD

Stay tuned, more to come!