

Lecture regarding my 6 rules in photography to be successful

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1. Trust Your Vision: Personal Perspective in Photography

In photography, personal perspective refers to the unique way each photographer sees and interprets the world. It encompasses a combination of the photographer's experiences, emotions, beliefs, and artistic style. Trusting one's vision means relying on this unique perspective to create compelling photographs that are authentic and meaningful.

1.1. How Personal Perspective Shapes Compelling Photographs

1. **Unique Point of View:** Each photographer has a distinct perspective influenced by their life experiences and artistic inclinations. This unique point of view allows them to capture scenes, moments, and emotions in ways that others might not see or appreciate.
2. **Emotional Connection:** Photographs that are imbued with the photographer's personal perspective often evoke a stronger emotional response from viewers. By sharing their perspective, the photographer invites viewers to connect with their emotions and experiences.
3. **Storytelling:** Personal perspective can be a powerful tool for storytelling through photography. By capturing moments and scenes that resonate with their experiences, photographers can communicate narratives that are both personal and universal.
4. **Artistic Expression:** Photography is an art form, and personal perspective is the artist's voice. Photographers who trust their vision and express their unique perspective create photographs that are not just technically proficient but also visually captivating and emotionally resonant.

1.2. Examples of Personal Perspective in Photography

- **Street Photography:** Street photographers often capture candid moments that reflect their observations of everyday life. Their personal perspectives shape the scenes they choose to photograph and the way they compose and edit their images.
- **Portraiture:** Portrait photographers aim to capture the essence and emotions of their subjects. Their personal perspectives influence how they interact with the subjects, the poses they choose, and the lighting and composition they use.
- **Landscape Photography:** Landscape photographers convey their emotional response to the natural world through their images. Their personal perspectives are reflected in the scenes they select, the time of day they shoot, and the techniques they use to capture the mood and atmosphere of the scene.
- **Photojournalism:** Photojournalists document news events and stories. Their personal perspectives influence the way they choose to cover stories, the subjects they focus on, and the angles they adopt.

1.3. Developing Your Personal Perspective in Photography

- **Practice Regularly:** The more you practice photography, the more you will develop your personal perspective. Experiment with different genres, techniques, and subjects to discover what resonates with you.
- **Seek Inspiration:** Study the work of photographers you admire and identify elements of their style that you find compelling. Incorporate these elements into your own work while maintaining your unique perspective.
- **Self-Reflection:** Reflect on your experiences, emotions, and beliefs. Consider how these factors influence your photography and how you can use them to create more meaningful images.
- **Share Your Work:** Share your photographs with others and receive feedback. Constructive criticism can help you identify areas for improvement and refine your personal perspective.

Conclusion:

Trusting your vision and embracing your personal perspective is essential for creating compelling photographs that stand out from the crowd. By honing your unique point of view, connecting emotionally with your subjects, and using photography as a medium for storytelling and artistic expression, you can create images that resonate with viewers on a deeper level.

2. Bend the Rules Creatively

Explanation:

- **Bend the Rules Creatively:** This phrase encourages photographers to move beyond technical proficiency and embrace a more artistic and expressive approach to composition. It involves breaking away from traditional rules and experimenting with personal style.
- **Composition Techniques as Foundation:** While having a solid understanding of fundamental composition techniques is important, it's equally crucial to challenge and adapt these techniques to create unique and compelling images.
- **Experimentation and Personal Style:** The key to bending the rules creatively lies in experimentation. Photographers should explore different combinations of elements, perspectives, and styles to develop a distinctive visual language that resonates with their artistic vision.
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Examples:

Landscape Photography:

- **Rule of Thirds Variation:** Instead of always placing the horizon along the lines of thirds, try positioning it in the center or off-center to create a more striking composition.
- **Leading Lines Exploration:** Experiment with using natural elements like rivers, roads, or trees as leading lines to draw the viewer's eye into the image.
- **Foreground Interest:** Incorporate elements in the foreground to add depth and create a sense of perspective.
- **Long Exposure Techniques:** Use long exposure techniques to capture ethereal and dreamlike landscapes.

Portrait Photography:

- **Unconventional Angles:** Capture portraits from unusual angles, such as high above or low below your subject, to create a more dynamic and engaging image.
- **Selective Focus:** Use selective focus to draw attention to specific features or emotions in your subject's face.
- **Environmental Storytelling:** Use the environment as a storytelling element, incorporating elements like architecture and signage into your compositions.
- **Multiple Exposures:** Experiment with multiple exposures to create surreal and artistic portraits.

Abstract Photography:

- **Shapes and Textures:** Break away from traditional subject matter and focus on capturing abstract compositions that highlight shapes, textures, and colors.
- **Multiple Exposures:** Experiment with multiple exposures to create ethereal and dreamlike images.
- **In-Camera Techniques:** Use in-camera techniques like panning, zooming, and tilting to create dynamic and abstract compositions.
- **Light Painting:** Experiment with light painting to create unique and otherworldly images.

Street Photography:

- **Candid Moments:** Break the rule of not photographing people directly by capturing candid moments that convey the essence of street life.
- **Environmental Storytelling:** Use the environment as a storytelling element, incorporating elements like architecture and signage into your compositions.
- **Long Exposure Techniques:** Use long exposure techniques to capture the movement and energy of the streets.
- **High Shutter Speed:** Use high shutter speeds to freeze motion and create a sense of dynamism.

Wildlife Photography:

- **Close Encounters:** Instead of using a long lens, try getting close to your subject and capturing its details from a unique perspective.
- **Storytelling Through Behavior:** Observe the behavior of your subject and capture moments that reveal its personality and interactions with its environment.
- **Environmental Impact:** Include elements of the environment to convey the impact of human activity on wildlife and their habitats.
- **Long Exposure Techniques:** Use long exposure techniques to capture the movement of animals or the changing light conditions in their environment.

Macro Photography:

- **Focus Stacking Techniques:** Experiment with focus stacking techniques to create images with incredible depth of field and detail.
- **Abstract Macro:** Explore the abstract beauty of small objects by focusing on intricate patterns and textures.
- **Creative Lighting:** Use creative lighting techniques to create dramatic and artistic macro images.
- **Insects in Motion:** Capture insects in motion to create dynamic and visually appealing images.

Conclusion:

Bending the rules creatively is a liberating and empowering approach to photography. By challenging traditional norms and experimenting with composition and style, photographers can create images that are both visually striking and emotionally resonant.

It's important to remember that bending the rules doesn't mean disregarding the fundamentals of composition. Rather, it involves a deep understanding of these principles and the willingness to push boundaries and explore new possibilities.

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, embracing a creative approach to composition can help you develop your unique artistic voice and create images that stand out from the crowd.

3. Embrace Experimentation

Experimentation holds a profound significance. It represents a journey of discovery, innovation, and the pursuit of artistic excellence. By embracing experimentation, photographers and artists unlock their full potential and produce captivating images and visuals that transcend the ordinary.

Here are some of the key benefits of experimentation in photography and creative work:

1. **Fosters Creative Thinking:** Experimentation provides a fertile ground for creative thinking. It encourages photographers and artists to step out of their comfort zones, challenge conventional norms, and explore uncharted territories. This process leads to the generation of fresh ideas, unique perspectives, and innovative approaches to image making.
2. **Enhances Technical Proficiency:** Through experimentation, photographers and artists gain a comprehensive understanding of their tools, techniques, and materials. They learn to manipulate light, composition, color, and other elements with greater precision and artistry. Experimentation also helps them master post-processing software and editing techniques, expanding their technical repertoire.
3. **Develops a Unique Artistic Voice:** Experimentation plays a crucial role in the development of an artist's unique style and voice. By exploring different approaches, techniques, and subjects, photographers and artists discover what truly resonates with them and sets them apart from others. This process helps them create a cohesive and recognizable body of work that bears their distinctive signature.
4. **Enriches the Artistic Process:** Experimentation infuses the creative process with an element of surprise and unpredictability. It allows photographers and artists to embrace the unknown, let go of preconceived notions, and let their imaginations run wild. This can lead to unexpected and serendipitous outcomes that breathe new life into their work and challenge the boundaries of artistic expression.
5. **Promotes Artistic Growth and Evolution:** Experimentation is a catalyst for artistic growth and evolution. It encourages photographers and artists to continually learn, adapt, and refine their skills. By pushing their creative limits, they embark on a journey of self-discovery and artistic transformation, evolving their work over time.

Here are some examples of notable photographers and artists who have embraced experimentation in their work:

- **Ansel Adams:** Known for his iconic black-and-white landscapes, Adams experimented with long exposure times, multiple exposures, and darkroom techniques to achieve his signature style.
- **David Hockney:** A versatile artist, Hockney experimented with a wide range of media,

including painting, photography, and printmaking. His iconic photo collages and Polaroid experiments pushed the boundaries of traditional photography.

- **Cindy Sherman:** A conceptual photographer, Sherman is known for her self-portraits in which she transforms herself into various characters. Her work often explores themes of identity, gender, and representation.

Here are some practical examples of how experimentation has been used in photography and creative work:

- **Landscapes:** Ansel Adams used long exposure times and multiple exposures to create his iconic black-and-white landscapes. His experimentation with light and composition resulted in images that captured the grandeur and beauty of the natural world.
- **Portraits:** Cindy Sherman's self-portraits explore themes of identity, gender, and representation. Through her experimentation with costumes, makeup, and lighting, she creates images that are both visually striking and emotionally resonant.
- **Photojournalism:** Photojournalist Sebastião Salgado has documented the human condition in all its complexity. His work often takes him to remote and dangerous locations, where he experiments with different photographic techniques to capture the stories of the people he encounters.
- **Fashion photography:** Fashion photographer Tim Walker is known for his surreal and fantastical images. His work often involves elaborate sets, costumes, and makeup, which he uses to create dreamlike and otherworldly scenes.
- **Advertising photography:** Advertising photographer Annie Leibovitz has created some of the most iconic advertising images of all time. Her work is often characterized by its bold colors, striking compositions, and celebrity subjects.

Experimentation is a vital part of the creative process, and it can lead to remarkable results. By pushing the boundaries of their craft, photographers and artists can create images that are both visually stunning and emotionally powerful.

Experimentation is the lifeblood of photography and creative work. By embracing experimentation, photographers and artists can break free from creative constraints, expand their horizons, and produce remarkable works of art that captivate and inspire their audience. It is a journey of self-discovery, artistic growth, and the pursuit of excellence that continues to shape the landscape of contemporary photography and creative expression.

4. Find Your Inspiration

In the realm of artistic creation, inspiration serves as the vital spark that ignites the creative fire. It is the fuel that propels ideas forward, transforming them into captivating works of art. Finding inspiration is a continuous process, a journey that unfolds through diverse experiences, encounters, and reflections. Let's delve deeper into the intricate tapestry of inspiration and explore how to cultivate it for photography and creative work:

1. Embark on Visual Explorations:

- Immerse yourself in the work of master photographers, painters, sculptors, and other visual artists. Study their techniques, compositions, and the stories they convey.
- Visit museums, galleries, and exhibitions to feast your eyes on a variety of artistic expressions.
- Document your visual explorations through sketches, notes, or photographs to capture fleeting moments of inspiration.

2. Embrace the Wonders of Nature:

- Step into the embrace of nature and let its beauty envelop your senses. Observe the intricate patterns in leaves, the play of light on water, and the textures of rocks.
- Capture the grandeur of landscapes, the grace of wildlife, and the delicate details of flora.
- Use nature as a muse to create images that evoke a sense of awe, tranquility, or wonder.

3. Explore the Urban Canvas:

- Roam the streets and public spaces with your camera, capturing candid moments and everyday scenes.
- Look for unique perspectives, interesting characters, and compelling narratives that unfold before your lens.
- Street photography offers a rich tapestry of inspiration for capturing the essence of human experience.

4. Discover New Cultures and Perspectives:

- Travel to different countries, immerse yourself in diverse cultures, and encounter unfamiliar ways of life.
- Explore ancient ruins, bustling markets, and serene temples to gain fresh perspectives and expand your creative horizons.
- Document your travels through photographs that reflect the essence of the places you visit.

5. Delve into Literature and Cinematic Masterpieces:

- Immerse yourself in the worlds created by great writers and filmmakers. Pay attention to the imagery, metaphors, and storytelling techniques employed.
- Analyze how authors and directors use visual elements to convey emotions, build tension, and create unforgettable scenes.

- Draw inspiration from these literary and cinematic works to enhance your visual storytelling.
- 6. **Engage Your Senses:**
 - Listen to music that stirs your emotions and evokes vivid mental images.
 - Experiment with sound recording and incorporate ambient sounds into your photography.
 - Explore other sensory experiences, such as touch, taste, and smell, to create multisensory compositions that engage the viewer on a deeper level.
- 7. **Tap into Your Inner World:**
 - Reflect on your personal experiences, memories, and emotions. Use photography as a means of self-expression and self-discovery.
 - Capture and share your inner thoughts, feelings, and dreams through visual imagery.
 - Embrace vulnerability and authenticity to create deeply personal and moving photographs.
- 8. **Engage in Creative Collaborations:**
 - Collaborate with other artists, such as writers, musicians, or dancers, to create interdisciplinary works of art.
 - Combine different artistic mediums to produce unique and unexpected outcomes.
 - Collaborative projects can spark fresh ideas and challenge your creative boundaries.
- 9. **Seek Knowledge and Inspiration:**
 - Attend photography workshops, seminars, and online courses to learn new techniques and gain insights from experienced professionals.
 - Read photography books, magazines, and blogs to stay informed about the latest trends and developments in the field.
 - Engage in discussions with fellow photographers to share ideas, offer critique, and support each other's creative growth.
- 10. **Embrace the Serendipity of Life:**
 - Be open to unexpected moments and chance encounters that can spark inspiration.
 - Pay attention to the small details, the quirks of everyday life, and the beauty that often goes unnoticed.
 - Trust the flow of creativity and allow yourself to be guided by intuition and spontaneity.

Remember, inspiration is a fluid and ever-evolving force. It can be found in the most ordinary of moments and the most extraordinary of experiences. By cultivating a mindset of openness, curiosity, and receptivity, you can tap into the boundless wellspring of inspiration and create photographs that resonate, provoke thought, and leave a lasting impact on the world.

5. Practice Makes Perfect

In the realm of photography and creative work, consistent practice is the key to unlocking mastery. By incorporating regular practice into your routine, you can enhance your skills, develop your unique artistic voice, and create compelling photographs that resonate with your audience. Here are some practical examples of things you can do to practice and enhance your skills:

1. Daily Photo Challenge:

Dedicate a specific time each day, even if it's just a few minutes, to capture at least one photograph. This practice helps you stay engaged with your camera, observe your surroundings more closely, and experiment with different settings and compositions. It's a great way to keep your creative juices flowing and improve your technical skills.

2. Theme-Based Projects:

Choose a specific theme, such as street photography, portraiture, or landscapes, and create a series of images around that theme. This focused approach can help you develop a cohesive body of work and explore different aspects of a particular subject matter. It's also a great way to challenge yourself and push your creative boundaries.

3. Experiment with Techniques:

Photography offers a wide range of techniques to explore, such as long exposure, panning, or HDR photography. Experiment with different camera settings, filters, and editing software to expand your technical skills and create unique and visually appealing images. Don't be afraid to try new things and see what works best for you.

4. Study the Masters:

Analyze the work of renowned photographers and identify their unique styles and techniques. By understanding their approaches, you can incorporate elements into your work and learn from their experience. Studying the masters can help you develop a deeper understanding of photography and refine your own artistic vision.

5. Join Photo Clubs or Workshops:

Participating in photography clubs or workshops is a great way to connect with other photographers, learn from experienced professionals, and receive feedback on your work. It's also an excellent opportunity to share your ideas, collaborate on projects, and stay motivated in your creative pursuits.

6. Critique Your Own Work:

Periodically review your photographs and assess your strengths and weaknesses. Identify areas for improvement and set goals for your future work. Constructive self-criticism is essential for growth and development as a photographer.

7. Edit and Process Your Images:

Dedicate time to post-processing your photographs. Experiment with editing software to enhance the visual appeal and convey your artistic vision. Editing is an integral part of the creative process, and it allows you to fine-tune your images and bring your ideas to life.

8. Create Personal Projects:

Develop long-term personal projects that allow you to explore your creativity and tell stories through your images. Personal projects are a great way to challenge yourself, push your boundaries, and create a cohesive body of work that reflects your unique perspective.

9. Seek Feedback:

Share your work with fellow photographers, friends, or family members, and actively seek constructive criticism to refine your approach. Feedback from others can provide valuable insights and help you identify areas for improvement.

10. Attend Photo Exhibitions and Galleries:

Visit photo exhibitions and galleries to appreciate the works of established photographers and gain inspiration for your own practice. Seeing the work of others can help you stay motivated, learn about new trends, and develop a deeper understanding of photography as an art form.

By consistently practicing and engaging in these activities, you can refine your skills, develop your unique artistic voice, and create compelling photographs that resonate with your audience. Remember, becoming a skilled photographer takes time, dedication, and a willingness to learn and grow. So, keep practicing, stay curious, and enjoy the journey of capturing beautiful and meaningful images.

6. Share Your Passion: The Power of Photography to Connect with Others

Photography has the unique ability to capture moments in time and evoke strong emotions. When you share your passion for photography with others, you can create a sense of community and connection. There are many ways to share your passion for photography, including:

1. Photo Sharing Platforms:

- **Use social media:** Platforms like Instagram, Flickr, and 500px are great ways to share your photos with a wide audience.
- **Start a blog or website:** A blog or website can be a great way to share your photos and stories in a more in-depth way.
- **Join a photography forum:** Photography forums are a great way to connect with other photographers and share your work.

2. Contests:

- **Enter photo contests:** Photo contests are a great way to get your work noticed and win prizes.
- **Organize your own contest:** Organize a photo contest in your local community or online.

3. Volunteer Your Skills:

- **Volunteer for a cause you care about:** Use your photography skills to volunteer for a cause you care about, such as photographing events or creating a photo documentary.
- **Teach photography:** Volunteer to teach photography classes or workshops in your community.

4. Collaborate with Others:

- **Collaborate with other photographers:** Work with other photographers on projects, such as collaborative photo shoots or exhibitions.
- **Collaborate with businesses:** Partner with businesses to create marketing materials or provide photography services.

5. Give Back to the Community:

- **Donate your photos:** Donate your photos to local organizations or charities.
- **Host a photo exhibition:** Host a photo exhibition to raise money for a cause you care about.

6. Inspire Others:

- **Share your story:** Share your photography journey and inspire others to pursue their passion.
- **Mentor other photographers:** Mentor other photographers and help them develop their skills.

By sharing your passion for photography, you can not only connect with others but also make a positive impact on the world.

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