

The Luminous Landscape



The Luminous Landscape combines the photographer's eye with the great power and presence of light in nature. The most dramatic of images looks at light, composition and the photographer's point of view and intention. This special attention given to composition, lighting, framing, contrast, texture, and emotional content, all add up to photography at its best.

1) Creative Composition

Take a spontaneous reaction to what subject matter attracts your eye and allow time to study it, the different angles, how light changes as your vantage point is altered. Watch for interesting configurations of mass, lines and angles.

By perception control you can shoot high or low angles to make a more dynamic composition.

Watch the effect of placing light masses against dark ones, smooth textures against course, shiny surfaces against dull.

Frame your subject. If you are shooting a landscape, try using the branches of a nearby tree in the foreground.

Use the rule of thirds. Draw three imaginary lines horizontally across your photograph. Draw three imaginary lines vertically across the same picture. Where those lines intersect is where the most important part of your subject should be placed. Try taking a photograph using this principle. Try it by centering the subject. You'll see how much more drama the photograph that adheres to the "rule of thirds" holds.

Use diagonals. A strong photograph often composes the subject in a diagonal line. Look at classic paintings of still lifes to see how this is used best.

2) Making the Most of Light

Work through all light conditions, not only sunny days, but rain, clouds and mist can add a moody atmosphere.

Make use of long shadows of early morning and evening light, shadow adds pattern and dimension to your image.

If you are photographing in sunlight, try to position yourself so that the sun hits your subject from the side, this will give you a "modeling" or 3D effect.

Sunlight behind a subject can give a "backlit" effect, but use care not to get flare in the lens. By moving your camera at a slight angle you can avoid flare and create a dramatic backlit image.

Summary

Memorable photographs tell the viewer something more than just how something looks. They show more than the photographed subject. A truly good photograph says something about life itself and shares emotional content. It makes the viewer stop and think. Use your photographs to communicate things you know about life to be true. We can be in awe of the power in nature. How can you represent this in a photograph?

The Creative Puzzle Group Photo Project

Putting one photo from each workshop member together to form a multi-image photo. One place will be chosen for your individual photo to be taken. A photo tapestry will be created when all images are combined. Each photographer will receive a copy of this combined image, as well as MCP for exhibition.

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