

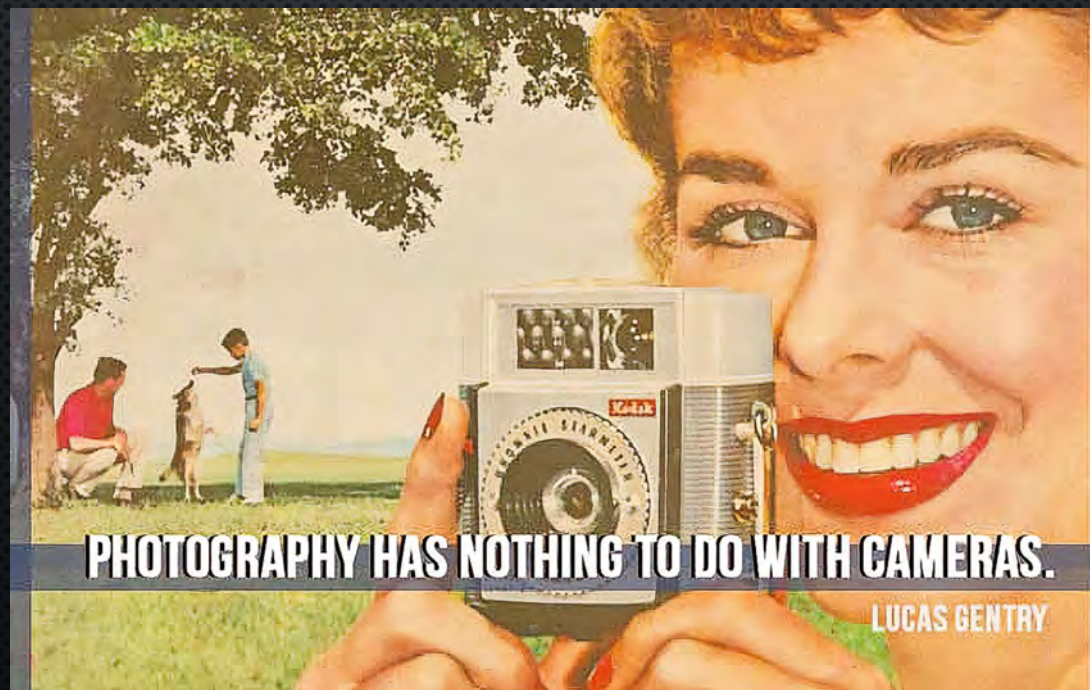
Lane Cove Creative Photography – Essential Skills program 2024

Questions you should ask yourself before making* a photograph

* Making or taking? - Taking implies the job is finished when you press the shutter.



But first, remember, photography is not about cameras,
it is about *ideas*



The Five Pillars of good photography:

Concept

Image Capture

Processing and Enhancement

Image Evaluation

**This presentation is all about the Concept –
before you press the shutter**

Output

SUBJECT

What is the subject of my photograph?

Or

What is it about?



Both pictures show the ocean, but is that the subject?

Subject - Pictures or maps?

Images made in front of the lens or behind the lens?

In front of the lens:

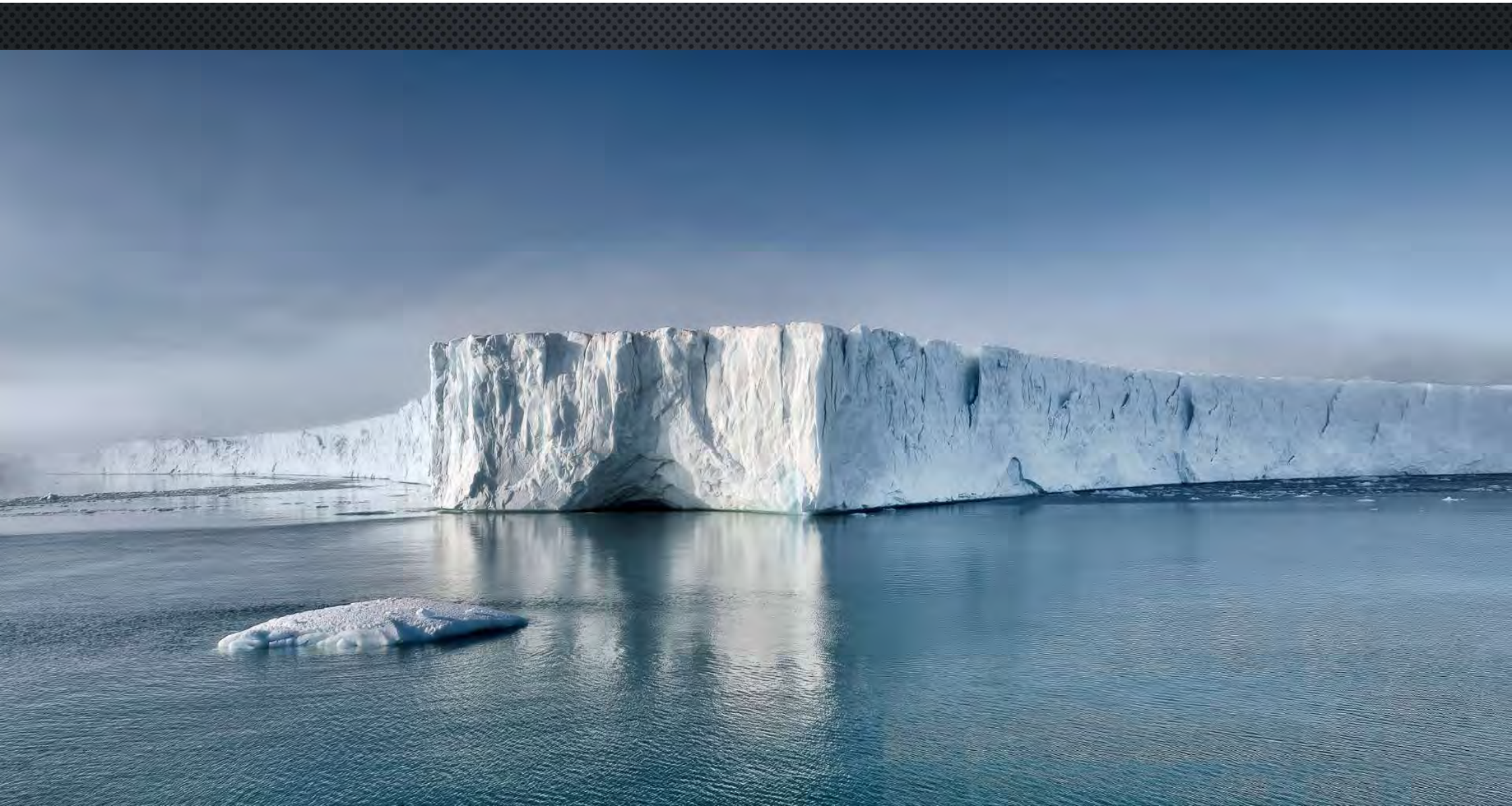
A *Picture*, document or portrait
that invites “Studium” (Barthes)

A literal, or eyewitness style of documentation that invites study
to appreciate their content







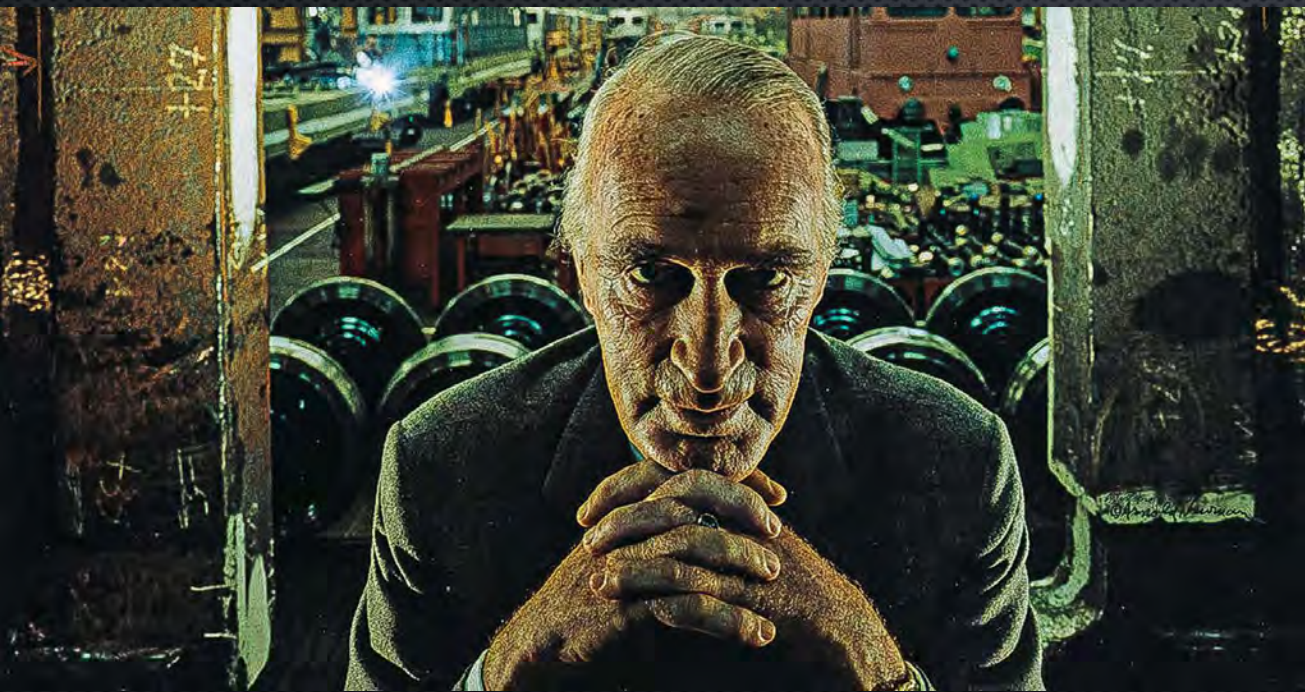


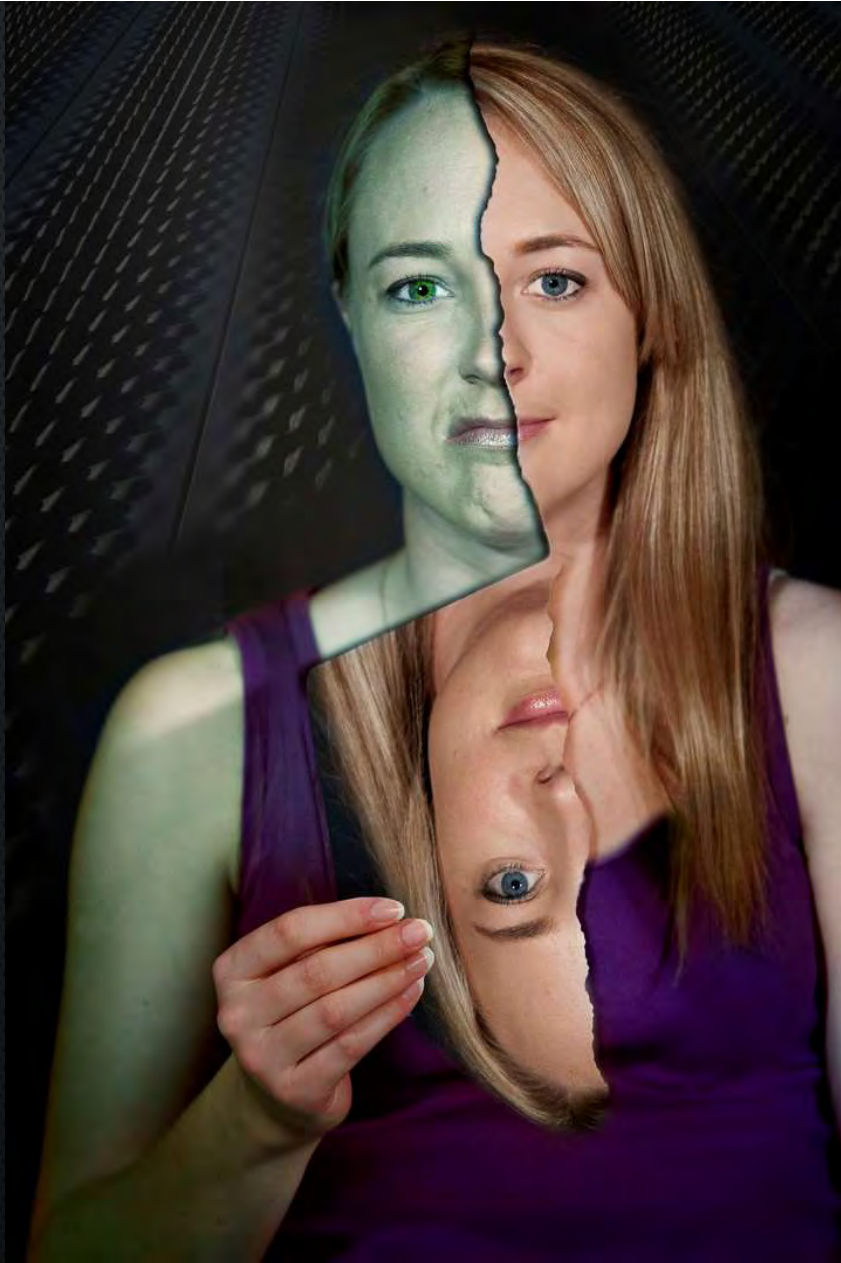
Photographs made behind the lens:

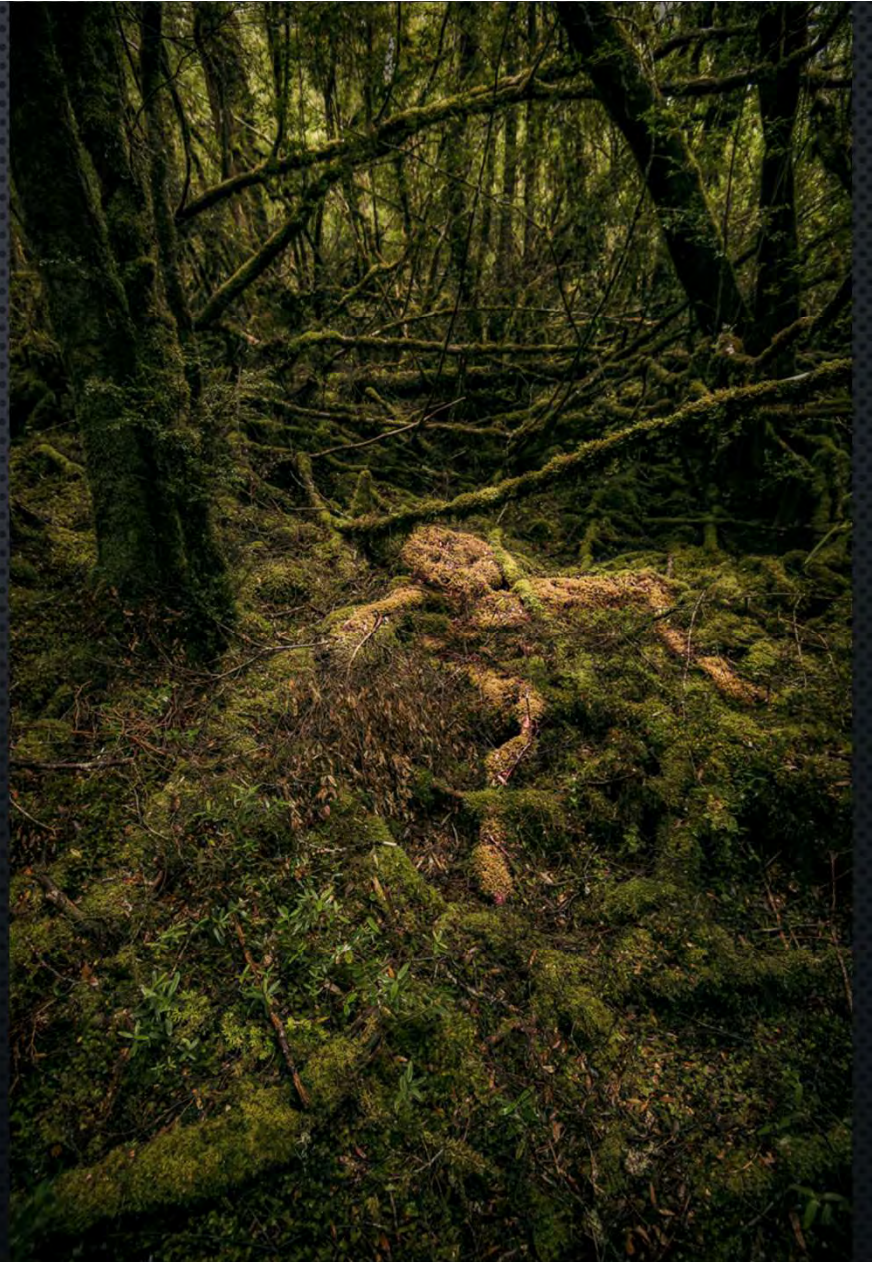
Portraits or *Maps* that have an emotional impact (Punctum)

Photographs that have a meaning beyond their factual content

Photos that evoke a response from the viewer









SUBJECT:

What is the subject of the photo you are about to make?

What do I want to say with the photo – is it a “Picture” or a “Map”

Does the scene before me say what I want to say?

How can I best highlight the relevant subject matter to illustrate my story or message?

Am I close enough to show the main subject matter, or do I need to leave more space to show context and “place”

Are there distractions in the scene in front or behind the important element/s?











SUBJECT:

Do I want the photo to generate a reaction ? Positive or negative ?

What is the feeling I am trying to communicate?

Has this photograph been done before, or am I creating something unique?

Is this an appropriate subject? Does it NEED to be taken?













SUBJECT:

Summary:

Know what it is you are photographing and whether it has meaning – is it a **Picture** or a **Map**?

Knowing what it is you are trying to do or say with the photo will help you to decide How to frame and expose the image content

If you are trying to make a statement with the photograph, make sure the message is clearly represented by the image content

FRAMING AND PERSPECTIVE:

Are there distractions within the frame that should be excluded?

Is there something outside the frame that should be included to add to the story/meaning?

Am I in the best position to take this photograph, would a different position tell a different story?

What is my viewpoint? Should I be higher or lower?

What is happening with the lines in my frame? Straight or angled

Do the lines (drawing composition) create a sense of direction or perspective?

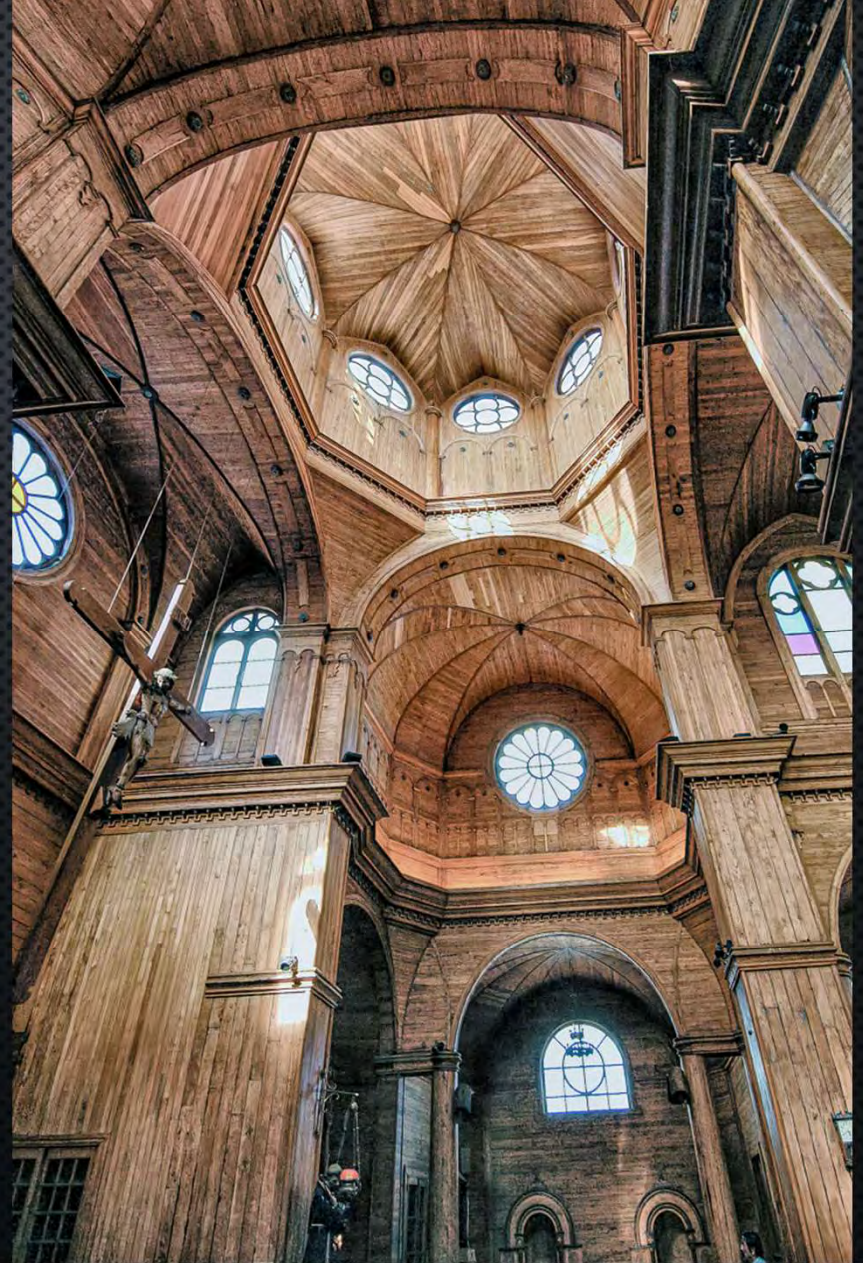
















FRAMING AND PERSPECTIVE:

Summary:

Knowing your subject will inform you about what to include and exclude from the frame

Select the best position and viewpoint to represent the subject – high, low or normal

Consider use of lines (drawing composition) for direction and perspective

LIGHTING:

What direction is the light coming from? How is it illuminating my subject matter?

Can I use shadows as part of the composition?

How does the lighting draw my eye through the scene?

Is this the best time of day to take the photograph?

What are the qualities of the light falling on my composition? –
The direction, strength, colour and intensity











LIGHTING:

Summary:

Use the qualities of light as a powerful compositional tool in your photograph

Be aware of the qualities of the light illuminating your subject: strength, direction, intensity and colour

Consider the optimal time of day to make your photograph

TIMING:

Is this the best moment to press the shutter?

Is this the best weather to be making the photo?

Would different conditions produce a different photograph?

If I wait for some time, will the conditions change?

Improve or get worse?



















TIMING:

Summary:

Timing is everything!

Be aware of the best time to press the shutter

Be aware of changing weather conditions

EXPOSURE:

Is my combination of shutter speed, aperture and ISO optimal for the image I am creating and how I want to portray it?

Should I be showing movement or freezing the action?

Can I capture the dynamic range in the scene, or should I consider making an HDR?

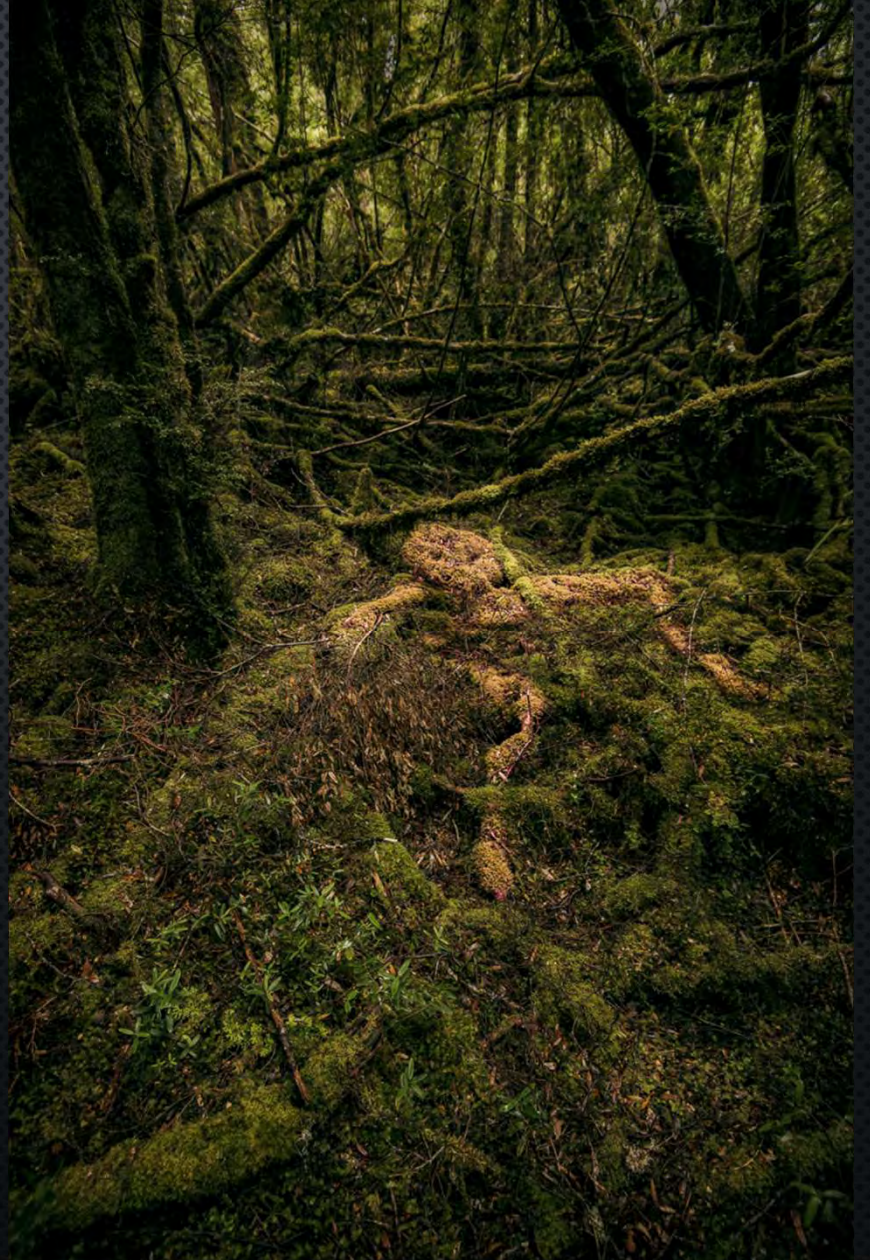
Should the camera be stabilised in order to best capture the scene, or would high/er ISO be suitable?

























EXPOSURE:

Summary:

Choose the appropriate combination of aperture, shutter and ISO to record the image data

Consider what amount of camera and/or subject movement helps to tell the story

Consider the dynamic range of the scene, does it require HDR or exposure compensation?

Do I need a tripod to stabilise the camera?

IN SUMMARY:

Subject: Work out what your subject is and whether it is a “picture” or a “map”

Framing: Decide what to include or exclude, your viewpoint and the use of lines

Lighting: Study how light illuminates your scene and use it to add to the composition

Timing: Decide when to press the shutter, the time of day and the weather conditions

Exposure: Decide the optimal settings for what you are capturing and whether the camera needs to be stabilised



Questions?

