

Tutorial 1:Composition

Well some people now have been asking for some help... and really I'm no good at helping because I'm no professional. However I finally found a minute, so here is it. My little tutorial #1 on Composition. Please enjoy, I hope it helps!

Introduction:

I don't really know that much about composition, however here is a list of some tricks that I usually use when I take my photos, and post-process them.

#1 main object

If you're main object is placed to the right or the left of the photo, you wouldn't want to crop it off, at that side. **example 01** shows which way to crop if your image is facing a certain direction.



YES

the drop here is facing to the right. If you wanted to crop the image and make it a square you would want to crop it to the left side of the drop and continue into the right side, like so ->



YES

this allows the eye to see the drop and the way it is facing without having to look around and think about what way it's facing because the background continues the other way :)



X NO

if you crop the image with the bg repeating in the other direction, the image loses its look. Makes the eye wonder because the main object is split into 2 parts: the drop and the other half of the bg *sparkles*

ps. also if you want to, you can always leave the image the way it is. However this process only works for post-processing and if you don't edit your images, you will always have to keep this in mind when taking the actual photo with the camera.

#2 background

The background of the image matters probably the most of all. The background of the image has to compliment the main object and draw attention to the entire piece as well as the main object of the photo. **example 02** shows what is a good bg and what is not.



X NO

here the bg is... blah. there is none! plain colored background is not always attractive. Make sure that there is some color and pattern to it, because a blank background can really turn the person away from it. However depending on the photo a blank bg can suit the image well *imgs for stock photos :)*



YES

here the background has some color and bokeh to it. It's always in your best interest to have some bokeh in the photo. It adds a lot to the photo, and makes it more eye catching.



YES

keeping it simple is also good sometimes. like the other photo, the background does not have much color, however it has some pattern, and it makes the image more attractive because it focuses on the leaf.

ps. also, when taking photos of landscape or scenery make sure that the background doesn't ruin the main object of the photo. To make the photo more attractive to the eye, make the main object stand out more from the background. The 1st image above, is not a bad image because it has no bg color, it's not as attractive because there is no main object to begin with. ;)

Also adding some Bokeh to the photo is a very good idea. It's easy to do, and makes the photo much more interesting

#3 focus

When taking macro photos, the focus is one of the most important things to keep in mind. A good or bad focus can make the image, as well break it and ruin it. Make sure that you always focus on your main object. **example 03** will show you how.



YES

in this shot the main object is the water droplet. Therefore you would always want to focus only on it, and not the rest of the background. In this example the focus is correct because it makes you focus on the drop, and not the rest of the flower.



X NO

here the focus is incorrect. The main object was supposed to be the drop, however the focus is on the petal, which makes no sense and makes the photo less or not attractive at all... :(



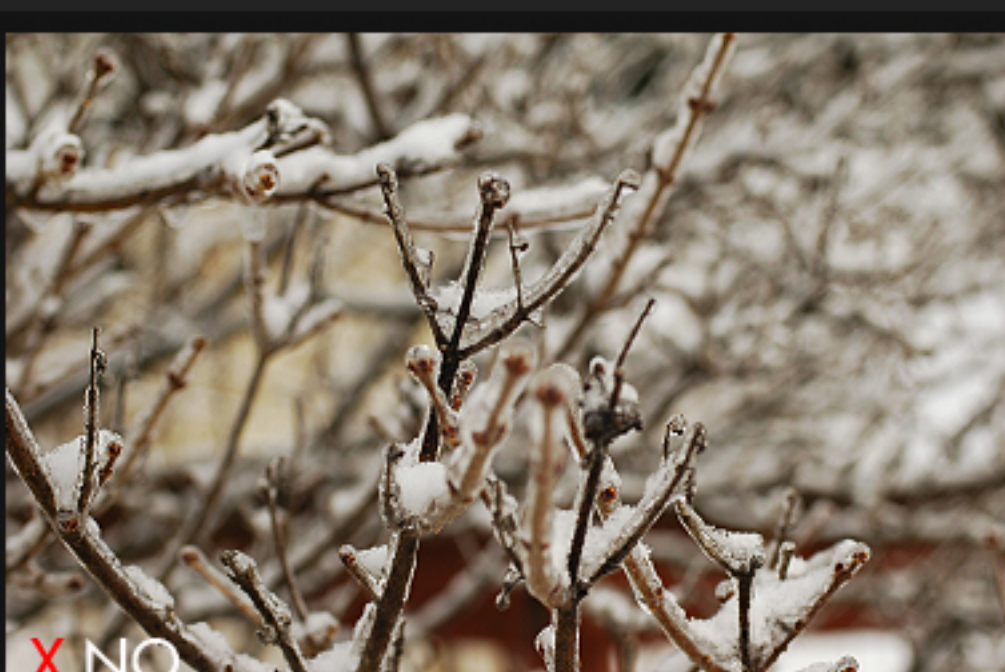
YES

this is a very miscellaneous shot. the main object here is really nothing, just the focused part of the roof. In an image like this, you really can't go wrong with focus, just make it make sense, & look nice

ps. When taking macro shots, the focus will be your best pal or your worst enemy! Make sure that there is enough light so you can use a higher aperture. If you don't have enough light, use flash or set the aperture # to around 4.5 or 2.8. However here you will have harder time focusing because it makes the focus length smaller thus allowing the photo to have shallower DOF, but smaller area of focus. Just make sure you have enough light, and a good steady hand! :D (use a tripod if possible!)

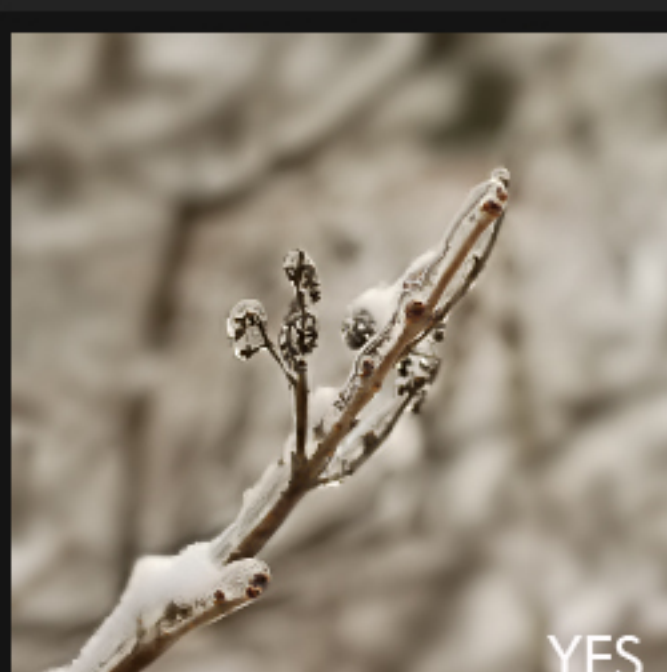
#4 depth of field (DOF)

Depth Of Field is sometimes referred to as "DOF". DoF is simply the main object which is in focus. In macro photography shallow dof, i think, adds more to the photo. It makes the photo more interesting and the background is not distracting the main object anymore. follow **example 04**



X NO

Here the main object is not seen very well because the DOF was set to a higher number. It makes it very distracting to view the image when the background just keeps popping out of nowhere :)



YES

However here the DOF was set to a lower number around 2.8 which blurred the bg and made the main object stand out more. much more eye catching, isn't it ;)



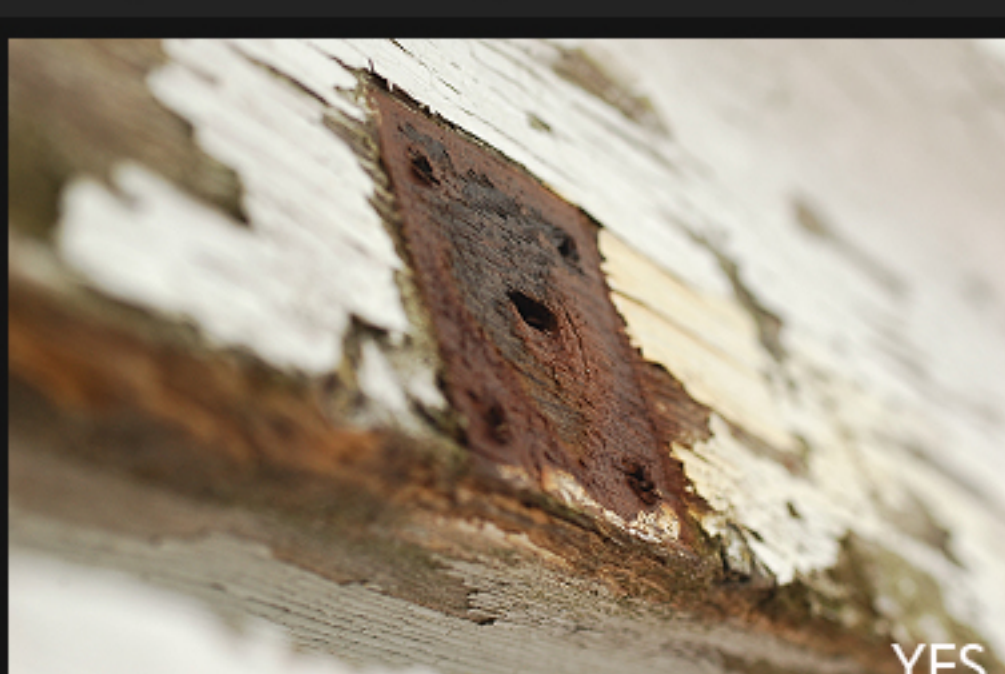
YES

The drops here are focused very well. They are separated from the rest of the photo because the DOF is very shallow which lets eye focus on the droplets at the left. It also makes the photo much more interesting.

ps. Depending on what kind of photography you are into, DOF can be good when it's shallow as well as when it's not. However i believe for macro photography shallow dof is the best choice. It separates the main object and makes it much more eye catching. However for scenery and landscape a higher dof number would be best.

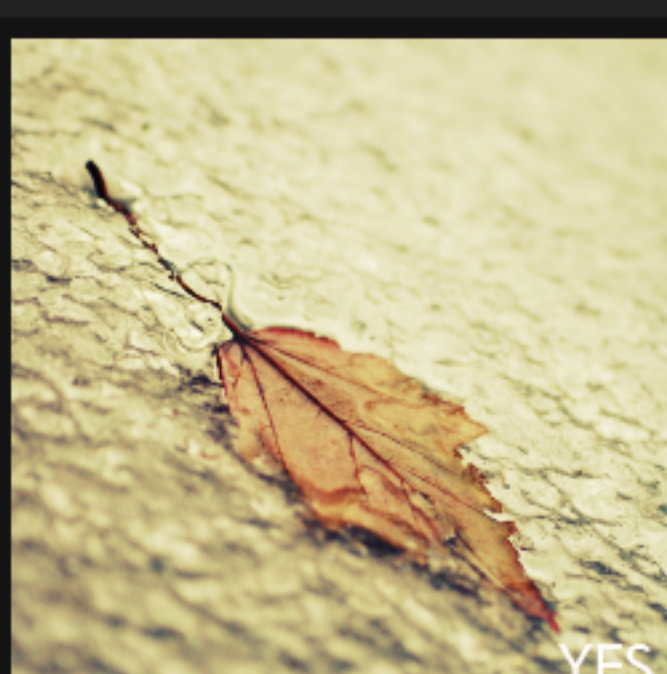
#5 angle

The angle of the photo also matters very much. There is no "right" angle from which to take the photo. However sometimes if the angle is a bit different it makes the photo much more interesting and eye catching, which makes it unique. **example 05** will explain it below.



YES

This photo was taken at an angle (no photoshop work). The angle makes the photo much more interesting and also very attractive to the eye. Also please see the focusing and the dof, they are both being used at the right place, which makes this shot very interesting simply because it's shot the right way. :)



YES

Here the leaf was taken at an angle, not just straight. It makes the photo more eye catching and interesting i believe. Also makes it more unique, not just a leaf, but a well compositioned leaf :D



YES

The leaf here is at the top-right corner. Like I have said before, there is no "wrong" angle, but making it unique is always a good idea!

ps. Depending on the photo of course, you have to keep in mind the "common-sense" angle. lol. If you are shooting landscape you wouldn't want to have the sky be upside down with the cows in the air ^ _ ^ So always try and keep in mind that whatever it is you are shooting will make sense even if it is upside down!

Conclusion

Well that's it folks! I hope this tutorial helped you out. It's only a little "tips" tutorial not really "how to shoot macro photography" But I'm no teacher anyway, so just giving you some tips will hopefully help you out! Remember every artist has their own style. You get to pick your colors your "main-objects" and compositions, not me or anyone else!

Thank you very much for reading this tutorial, I really appreciate your support!

Best wishes,
Dasha Denger.

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Tutorial #2: Post-Processing will most likely be made soon... but i can't guarantee anything ^^ Hope you enjoy this, and i also hope this helps!!!