



Drill:

In your own words define composition.

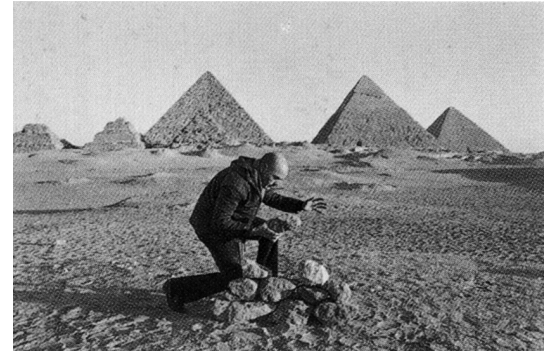
Examine the two compositions. Which would you classify as a more effective composition, and why?



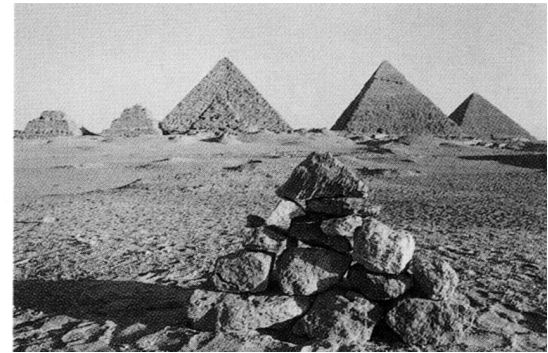
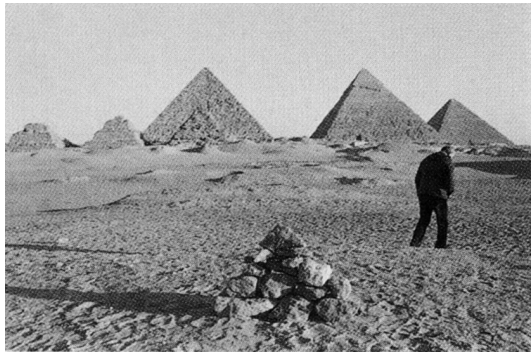
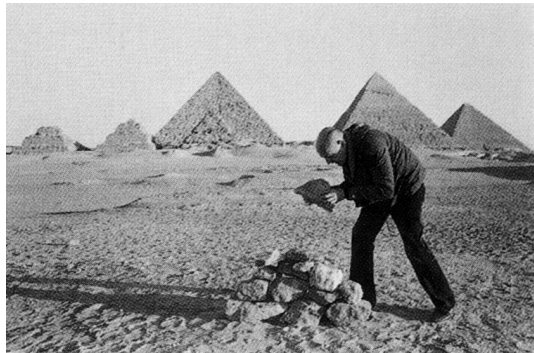
So... How do we as viewers of art begin to understand what an artist is trying to say?



How can we speak the same language as a visual artist?



Try considering the following Four basic steps when looking and analyzing a work of art.



- **Describe:** What does the artwork look like? What are the most important Elements of Art to the composition? Where are they located?
- **Analyze:** Based on your description how did the artist use the Principles of Design or Composition to help get us moving visually through the composition?
- **Interpret:** Based on your description and analysis what is the piece of art about? What is the artist trying to say?
- **Judge:** What do you think about the work of art based on other similar pieces that you have seen?

The Elements of Art

- Line
- Shape
- Space
- Form
- Value
- Texture
- Color



The Principles of Design

- Balance
- Variety/Harmony
- Gradation
- Emphasis
- Pattern
- Rhythm / Repetition
- Movement

What is this photo by Dorothea Lange about?



What visual cues help tell the story?

Consider and think about how the Elements and Principles work together to create strong compositions.



So, how can we tell where these have been used?



Are we making
Snapshots or
Composed
images?

Which are the composed photographs and how do they differ from the snapshot/s?



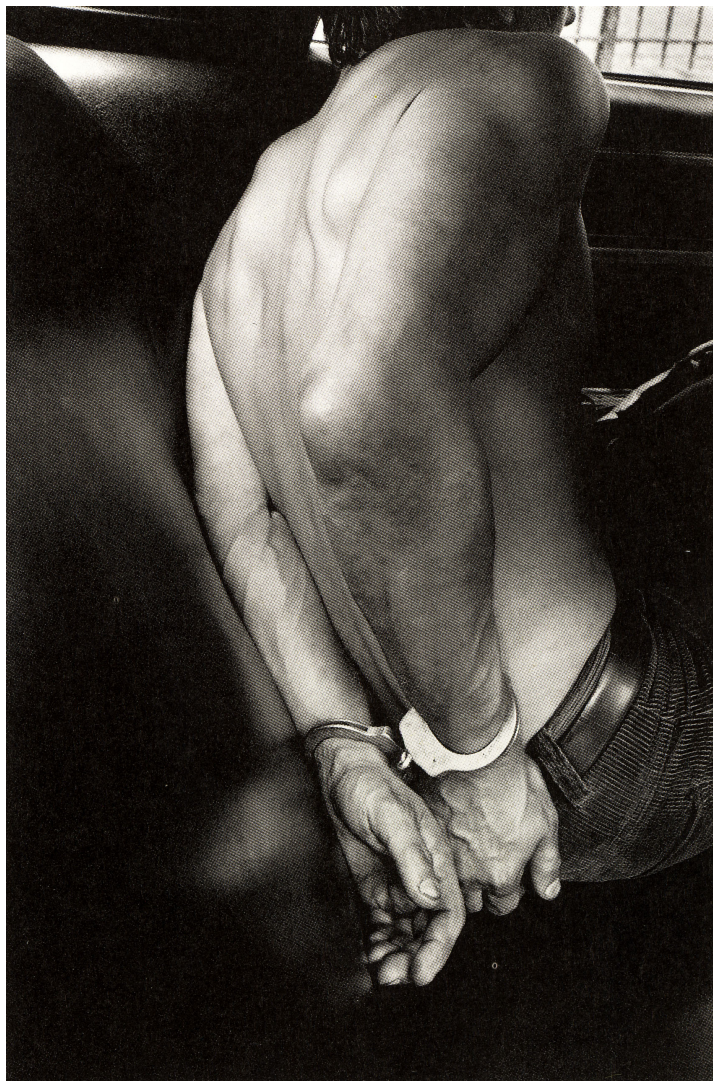
Snapshot or Composed?



A



B



A



B



A



B

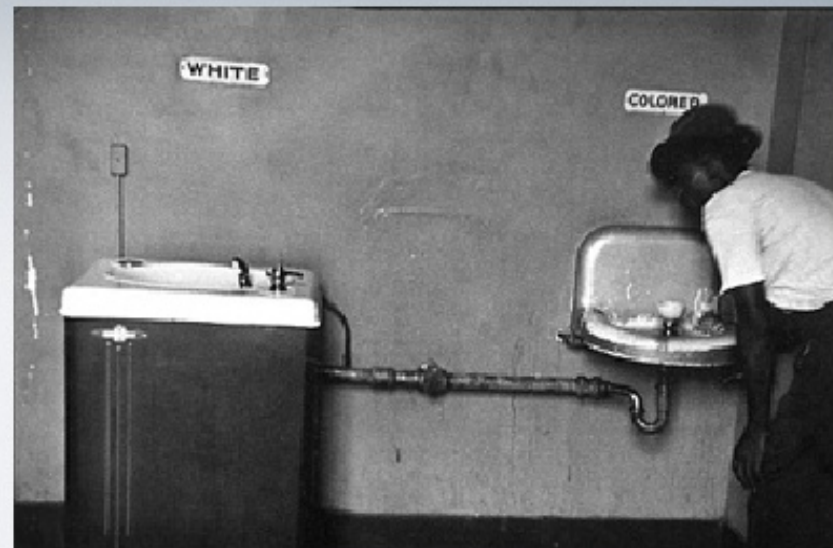


A



B





What is the difference between a snapshot and a composed photograph?

Snapshot

- A casual record of some event, person, object or place.
- Usually a very quick response to a situation.
- Unorganized, no attention has been paid to details.
- Only the photographer has a connection to the photo

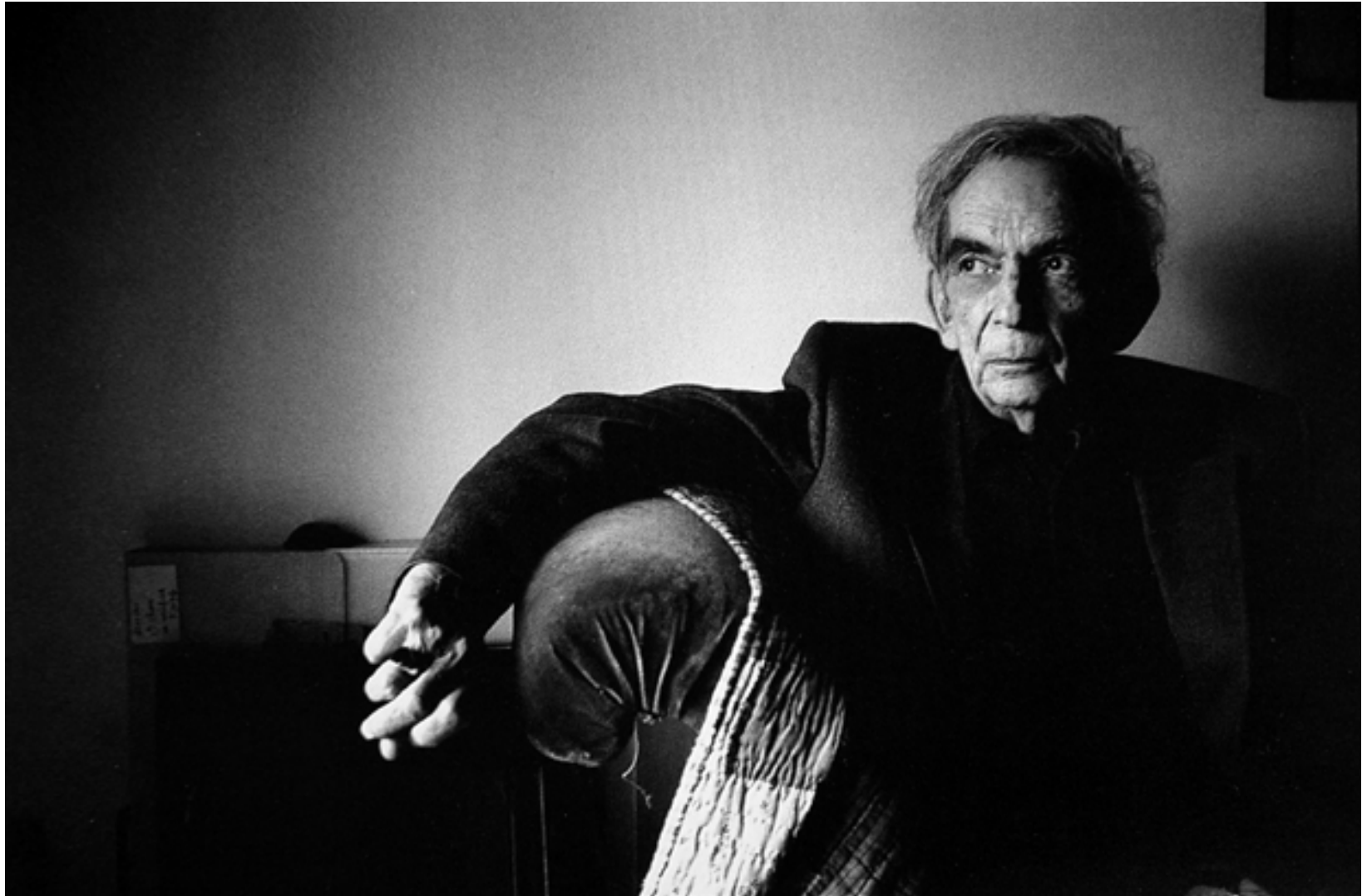
Composed Photograph

- An artistic interpretation of an event, person, object, or place.
- A slow process where care is taken to consider the elements and principles that exist within the frame of the composition.
- Organized frame, where attention has been paid toward telling the viewer something about its subject.

What can we do to make photos
composed?

Use the Principles of Composition!

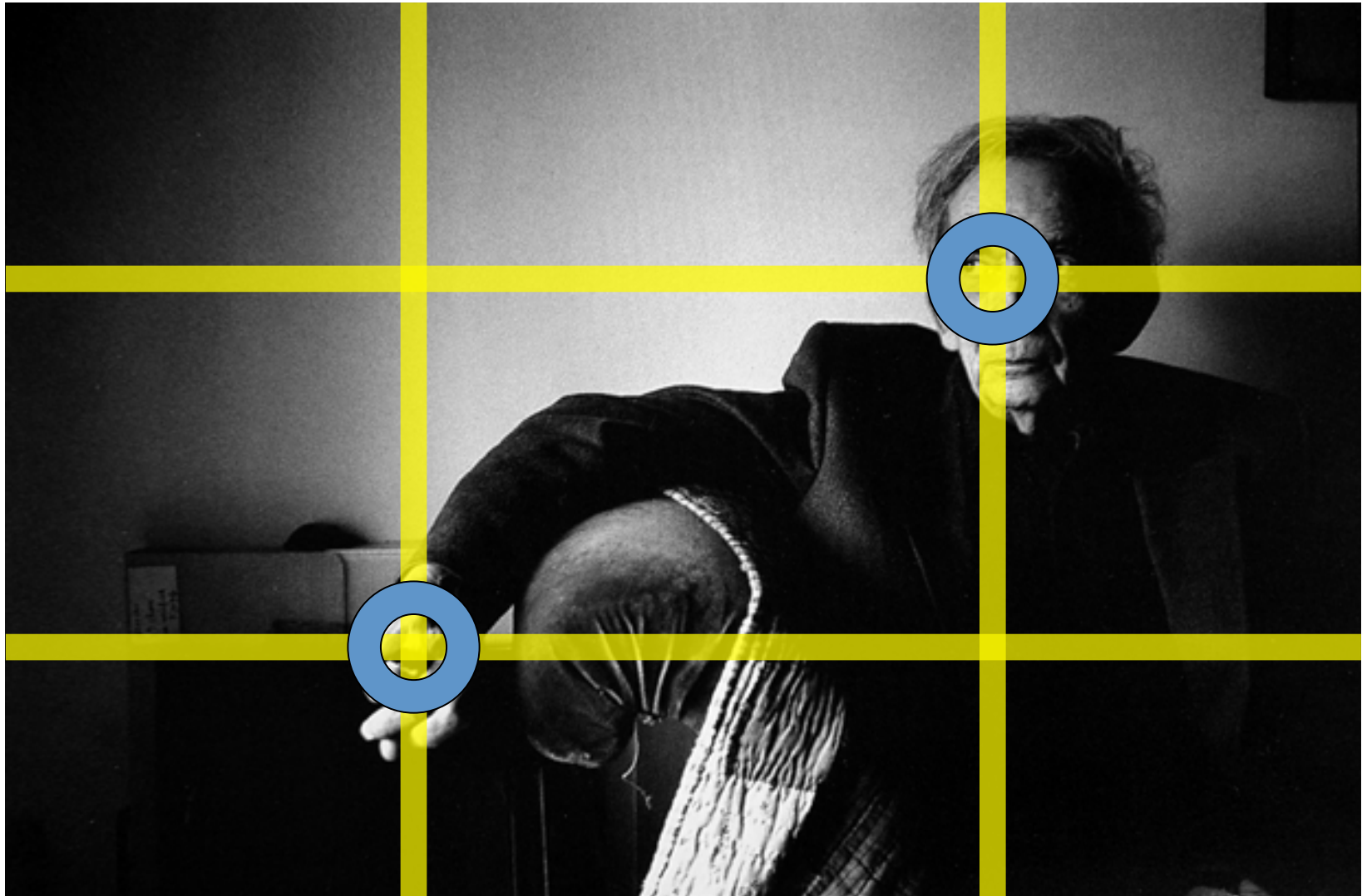
Rule of Thirds



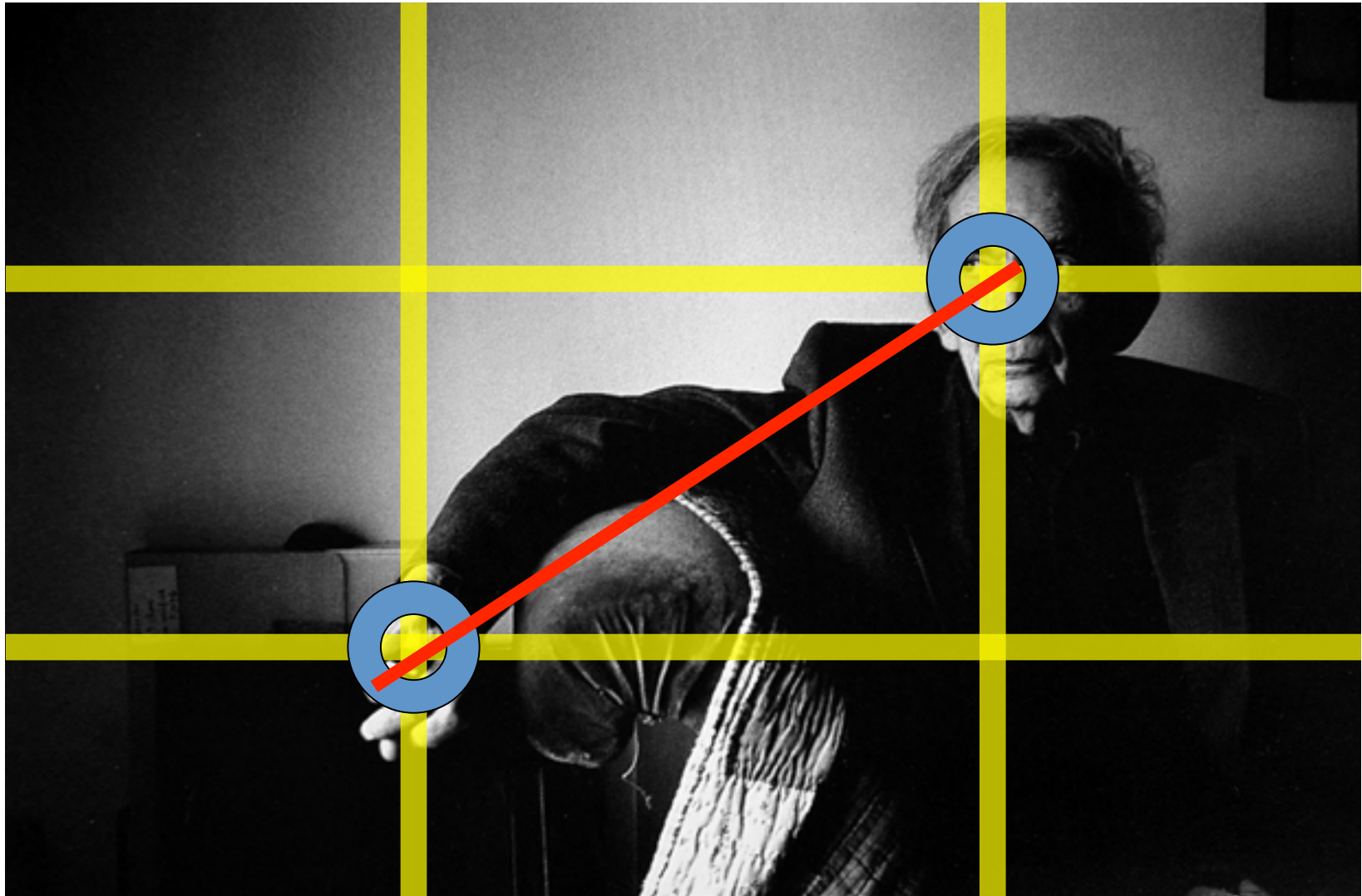
Rule of Thirds

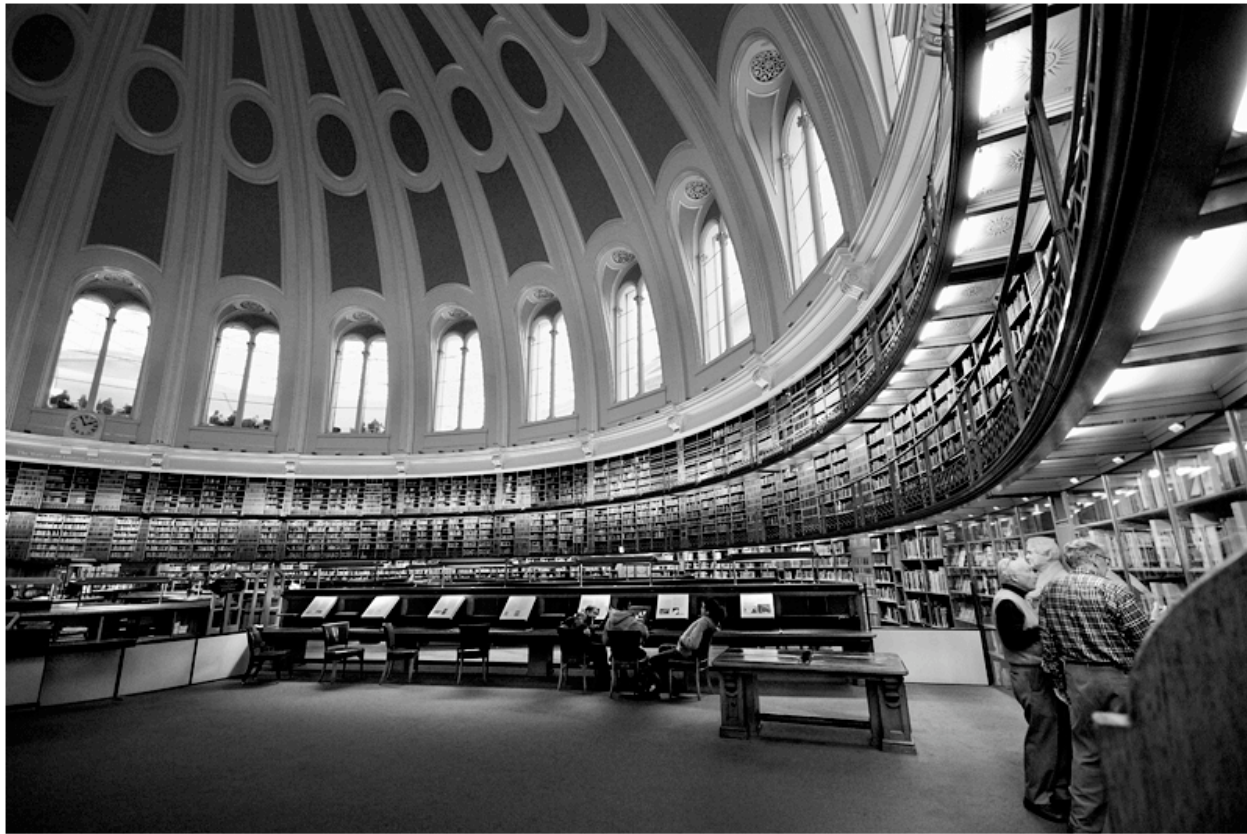


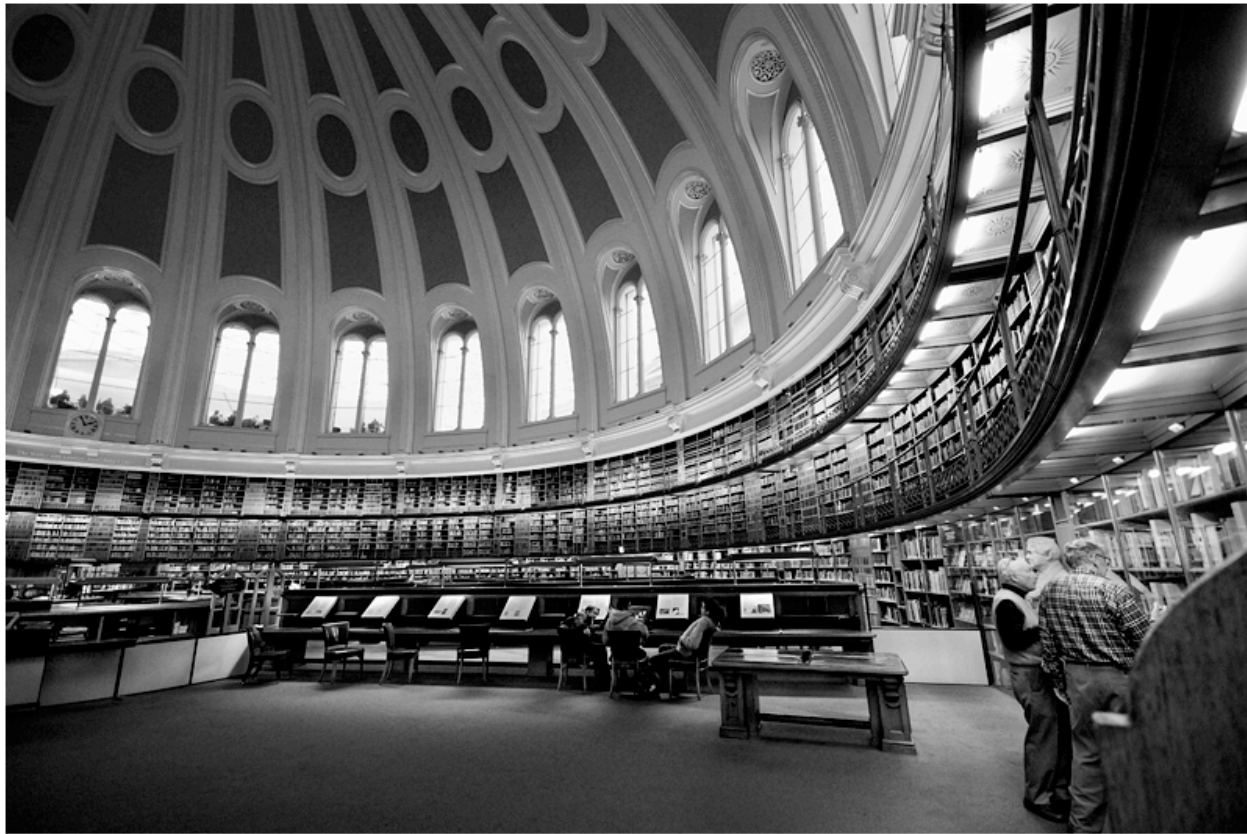
Rule of Thirds



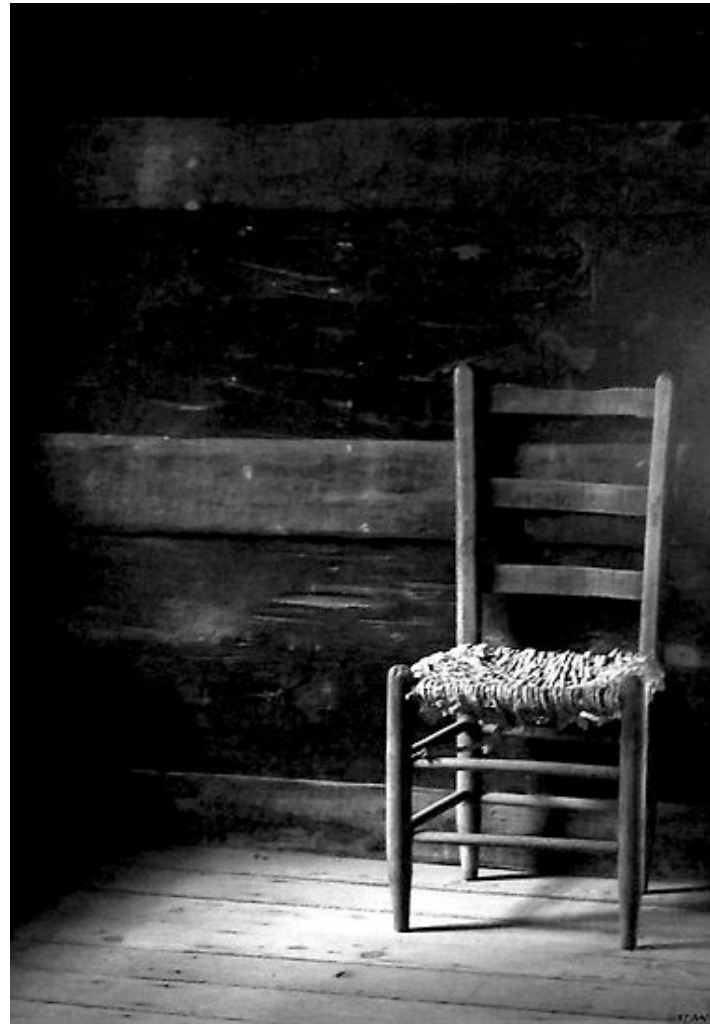
Rule of Thirds







Images strongly weighted to the top may appear very heavy. Though this can be very effective, it often produces an uneasy or disturbing feeling.



Images strongly weighted to the bottom appear firmly grounded and steady.







Images weighted to the right or left suggest movement.





Images strongly weighted to the center can appear very static or “frozen.”
Use with great care and consideration to the whole frame.

Using
the
edge
of
The
frame



Point of View



Filling the Frame / Cropping



Frame within a Frame



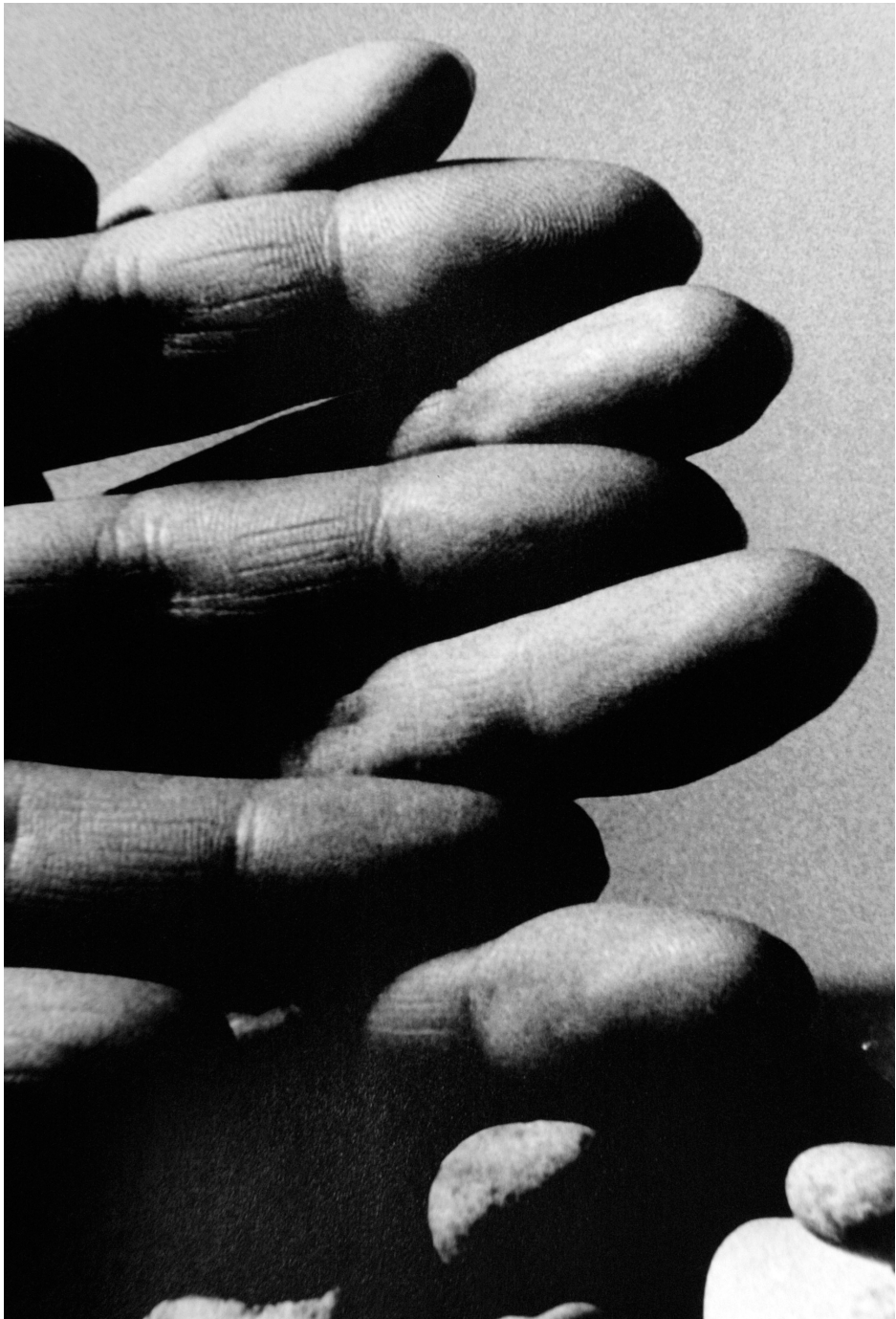
Line



Light



Pattern and Texture



These, added to the Elements and Principles, help organize our subject matter and better communicate an idea, emotion, point of view or meaning.



Because, in the end, it is not that you show us some place or a Person or a thing never seen before but that you show us *in a way* we have never seen before

- Randomly choose **3** slips of paper
- For each principle that you have chosen, find 2 examples from the magazines
- Cut and paste onto sheets of paper (in binder).
Write a description of each photo explaining what makes it that principle.