



BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

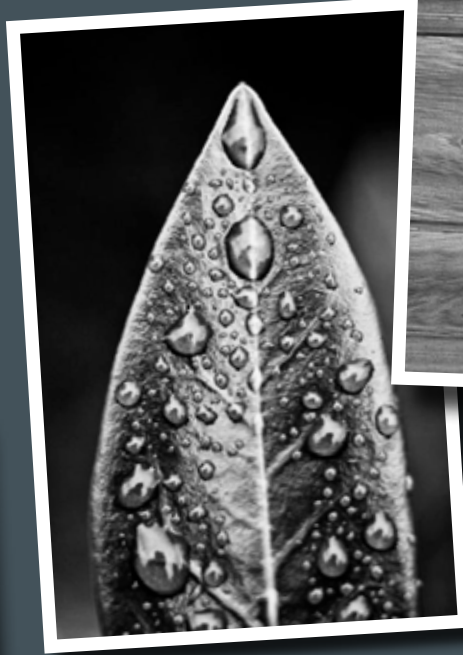
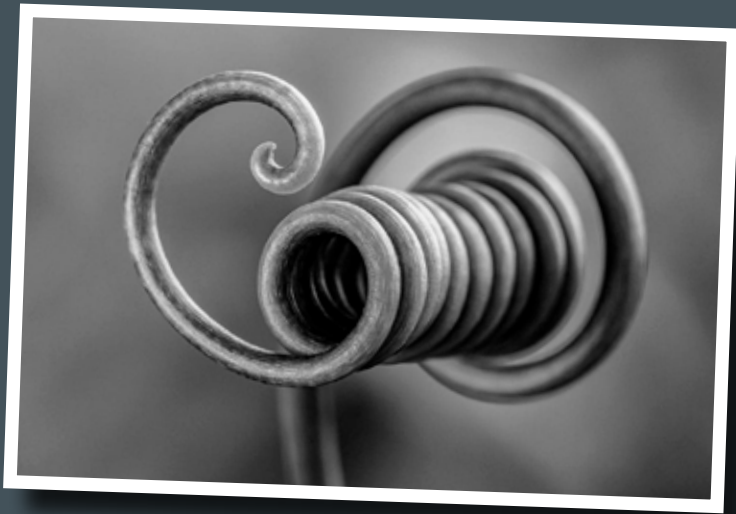


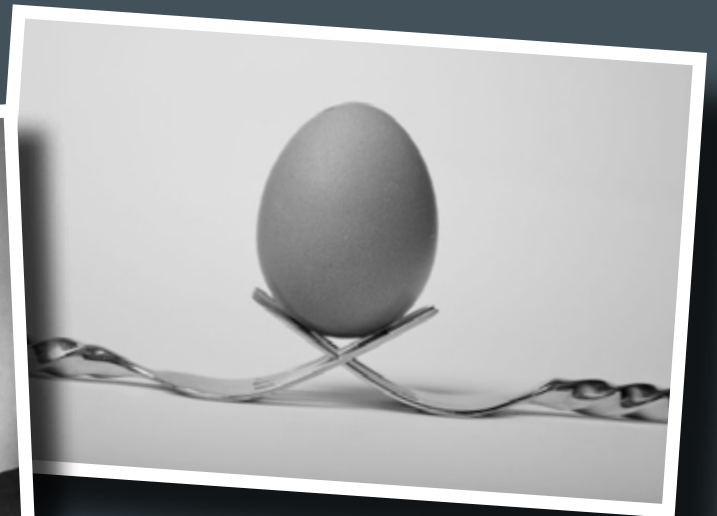
What is Special About Black & White Photography?

It removes the distraction of color, allowing the photographer to focus on other elements within a composition for dramatic effect.

Think of a single white flower on a black background or the bare branches of a tree silhouetted against the sky. This simplicity would be lost if the image was in full color.







B&W IMAGES ARE TIMELESS

When you strip away color from an image, it automatically has a more timeless and nostalgic feeling. In black and white photos, we are forced to focus on the story of an image without being distracted by color.



B&W IMAGES ARE A STUDY IN LIGHT AND COMPOSITION

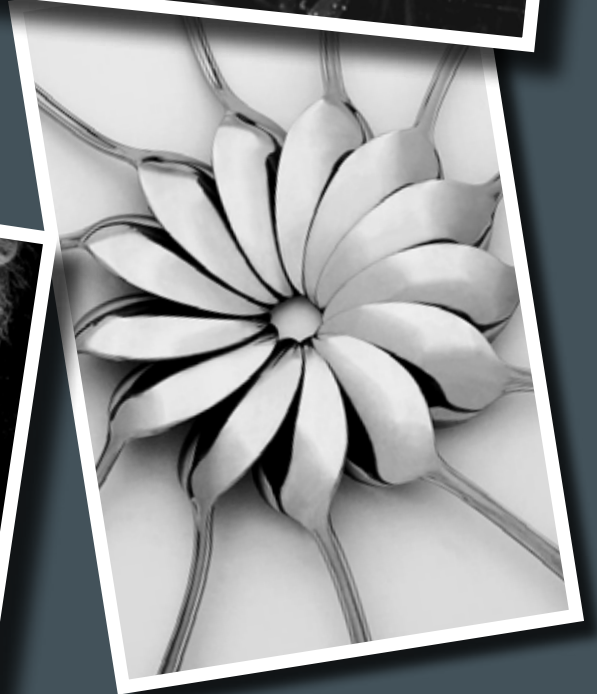
The three fundamental elements are contrast, texture and lighting. B&W emphasizes the contrast between light (highlight) and dark (shadow) in your image.

Texture refers to the surface of an object, variances in shape, tone and depth. Texture can include patterns, reflections and shadows.



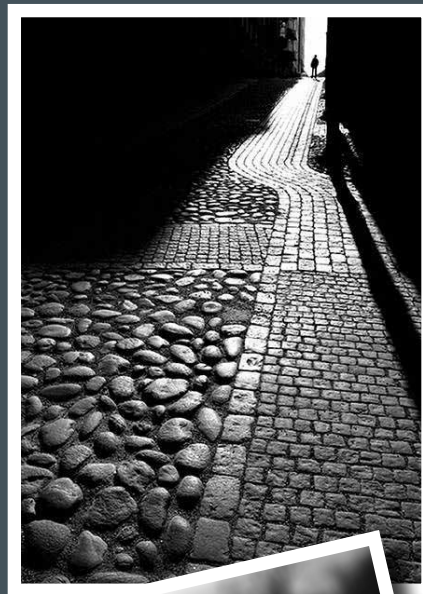


Use texture to express contrast. The craggy bark of a tree trunk or a leaf can offer texture and pattern of shadow and light. Having rough textures and angular shapes with reflective surfaces can create an eye-catching contrast.



LIGHT

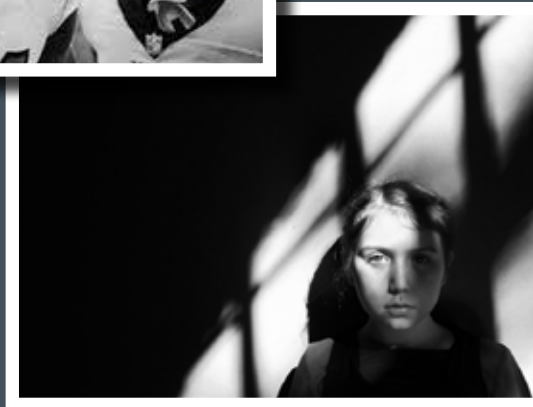
Direct light produces dramatic shadows, so bright sunny days are made for high contrast black & white shots. And like color photography—the golden hour (usually an hour after sunrise or an hour before sunset) gives you softer light.







Naturally, there are certain subjects that tend to work better than others in black & white. In particular, black & white lends itself to landscapes and portraits.

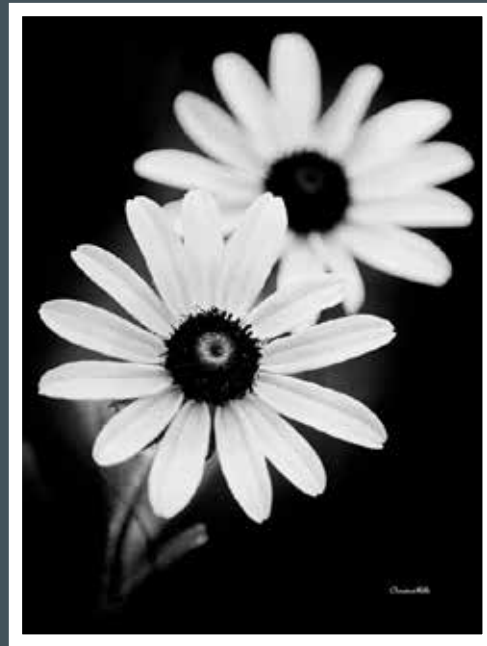


Trees can make excellent subjects.



The thought of creating black and white images of colorful flowers might sound crazy. But, it's a great way to draw the viewer's attention to other aspects of the flower.

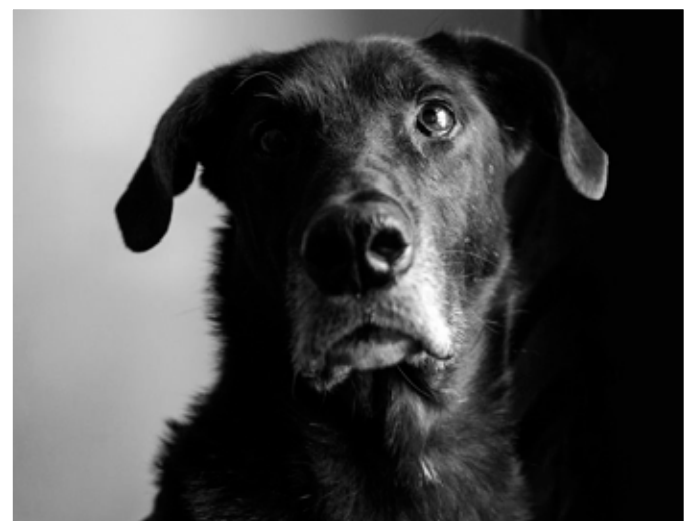




Old, weathered subjects such as barns, old fence posts and even wrinkly old faces tend to look great in black and white as their rough surfaces can be accentuated.

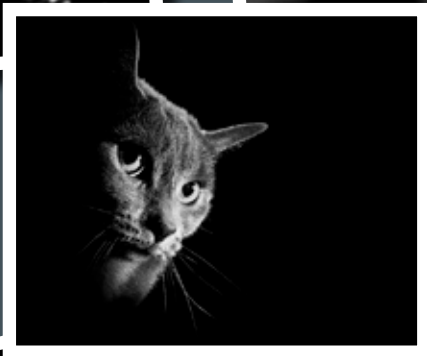
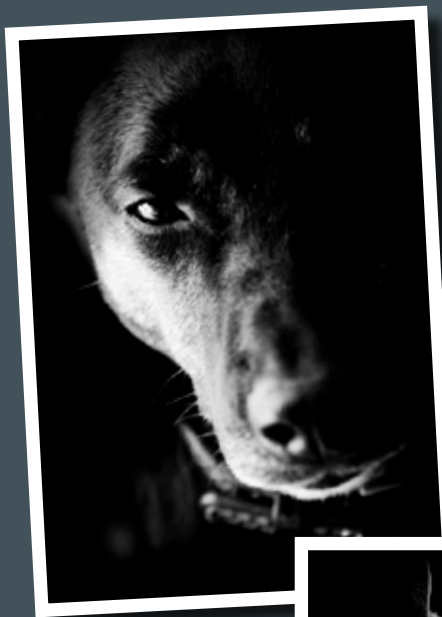


Animals Can Make Great Black & White Subjects!





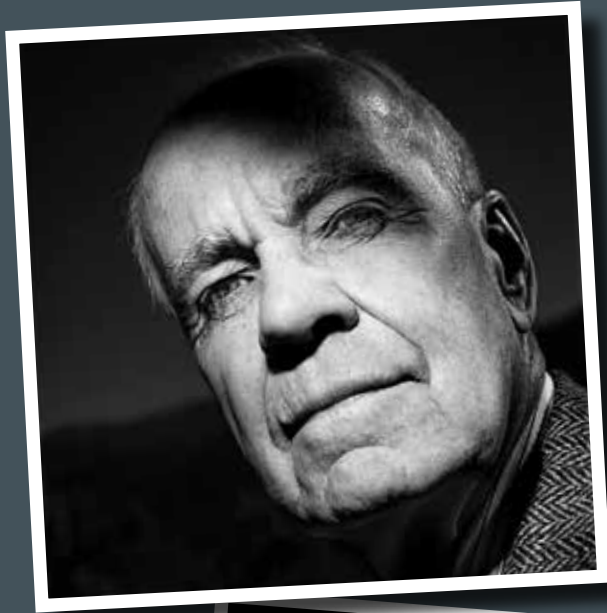






Tips for Shooting Black & White

Look for images that provide high contrast. Think of a portrait set against a shaded background or dark hills against a bright sky.



Look for dramatic skies. Look for patterns and shapes. In Portraits, emphasis the eyes.







Shoot Black & White or Convert Color

You can shoot in color and convert your photos to black & white in an editing program, or you can switch your camera to its Monochrome mode.

I recommend you try shooting in Monochrome

- By shooting in black & white from the beginning, you'll get black & white previews on your camera's LCD.
- You will be able to see in black & white on your camera's Live View mode—you know exactly how the different colors will convert before you press the shutter button.
- Monochrome is well suited to harsh lighting conditions like high noon.



Editing Black & White

If you take a photo in dull light—in shade, for instance, or under a cloudy sky—the photo may look flat, especially in black & white. You can compensate by increasing the contrast in editing software.

A contrast boost will deepen the shadows, brighten the highlights, and make your main subject pop. Be careful not to blow out the highlights too much or darken the shadows so much you lose all detail.

This is especially helpful if you took the photo in color and are converting to black & white.

You can also give them a boost of sharpening, but don't over-sharpen.



Original



Conversion



Contrast and sharpness edit



Original



Conversion



Contrast and sharpness edit

Tips For Shooting All Photos

- Turn on your rule of thirds grid on your phone camera. Keep the rule in mind even if it is not visible.
- Think in 3D. Try to capture depth in your photo, not just a flat head-on shot. Move around your subject and try to shoot from a high and a low or side angle—use perspective.
- Find the light, it is the most important factor in a great photo.
- Find drama in contrast, shapes and textures. Think about the positive and negative space.
- Try placing something between you and your subject. Your subject should be the main focus and in focus.
- Think about your depth of field, using portrait mode is great for this.
- Editing a photo after you take it can turn a good photo into a great one.
- Make sure your point of interest is in focus.

Some Fun Things to Try

youtube.com/c/heidihope



Water Bottle Frame Hack

Cut the bottom off of a plastic bottle and shoot through the bottle neck.



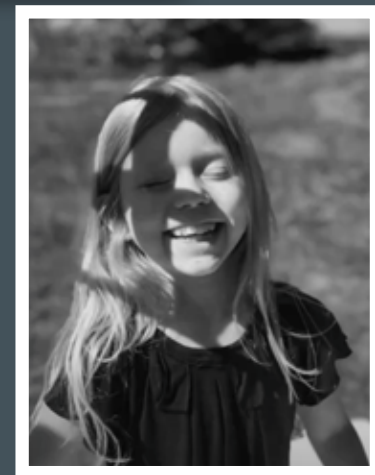
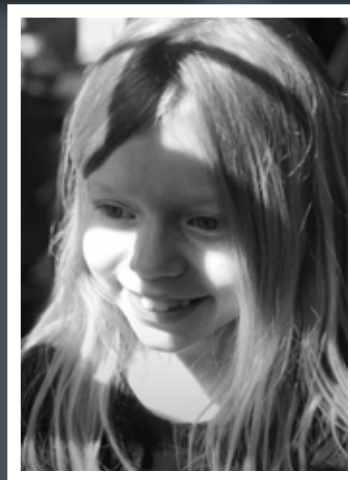
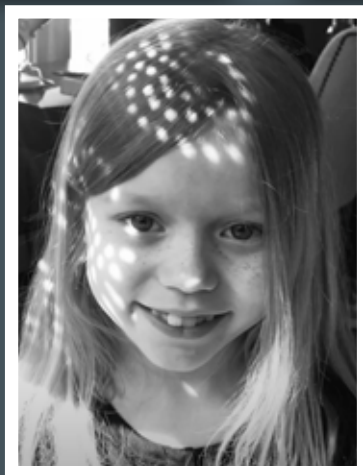
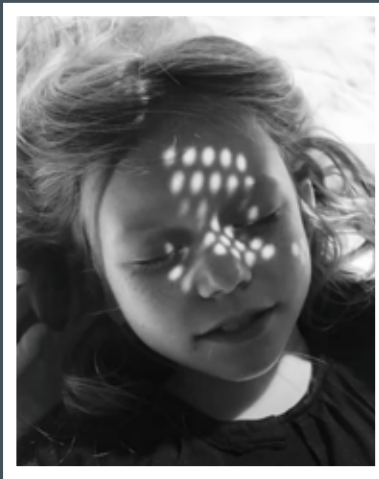
Find the Light

Use a white piece of paper and pick a fun object to use as your subject. Make sure overhead lights are off so you can see nature light. Take photos using the different light to see the different effects. Try creating artificial light using a lamp or a flashlight.



Modify the Light

Find objects around your house to shine light through onto your subject. You can also try cutting shapes into paper, like hearts. Use hard directional light, natural or artificial.



JUDGING AND PROJECT CHECK-IN DATE

**Saturday, July 12, 2025
Farm Bureau Inc Community Building**

CHECK-IN JUDGING (Times are approximate)

Grades 3-5 8:30-9:00 am

Grades 6-8 10:00-10:30 am

Grades 9-12 11:30 am-Noon

If you are dropping off a photography project and not staying for judging then you can drop off anytime between 8:30 am—11:30 am.