



# Landscapes

**Mrs. Bible Digital Photography 2020**

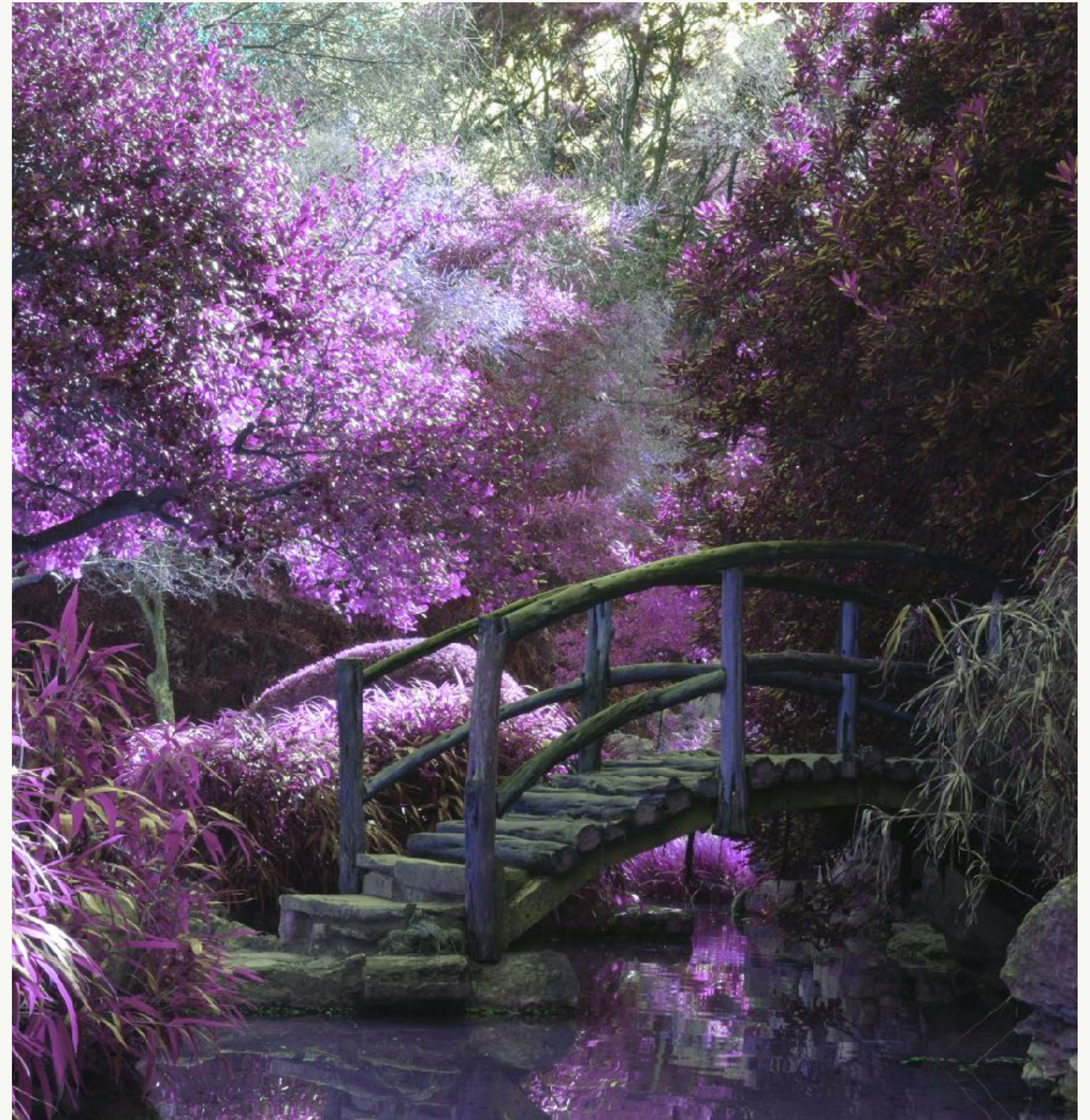


# Landscapes

***A good photograph is knowing where to stand.***

*- Ansel Adams, landscape photographer*

- There are few styles of photography that receive the respect and awe that landscape photography commands. Whether it's the grand, larger-than-life, black & white landscapes of Ansel Adams, or the quiet, silvery studies of John Sexton, most people love and respond to landscape photography.
- While you can include people and their stories in landscape photography, most of this genre's images focus on the natural world without the presence of humans.
- Landscape photographs are usually exercises in composition, incorporating many of the elements of art and the principles of design.
- **Types of Landscape Photographs:** the Grand Landscape, close-up shots of details, and abstract images that accentuate form, texture, and pattern.







# Brief History

- In the earliest days of Landscape Photography, technical restraints meant that photographers were bound to working with static subjects, due to **long exposure times** which rendered any movement blurry. *This made landscapes and cityscapes prime material for their exposures.*
- As the 20th century rolled in, *the art of Landscape photography was led by American photographers* who had a vast and varied landscape to play with. Their influence may also have been due to the growing influence of American cultural produce and the frontier myths of manifest destiny.
- Perhaps the most famous of all Landscape photographers is the legendary Ansel Adams, a dedicated environmentalist whose love of the natural world was meant to encourage people to respect and care for their planet. His stark black and white images of rivers and canyons set the precedents for landscape photographers thereafter.



- **Group f.64**, loose association of **California** photographers who promoted a style of sharply detailed, purist **photography** was formed in 1932
- The name of the group is taken from the smallest setting of a large-format camera diaphragm **aperture** that gives particularly good resolution and depth of field.
- The original 11 members of Group f.64 were **Ansel Adams**, **Imogen Cunningham**, **Edward Weston**, Willard Van Dyke, Henry Swift, **John Paul** Edwards, Brett Weston, Consuelo Kanaga, Alma Lavenson, Sonya Noskowiak, and Preston Holder.



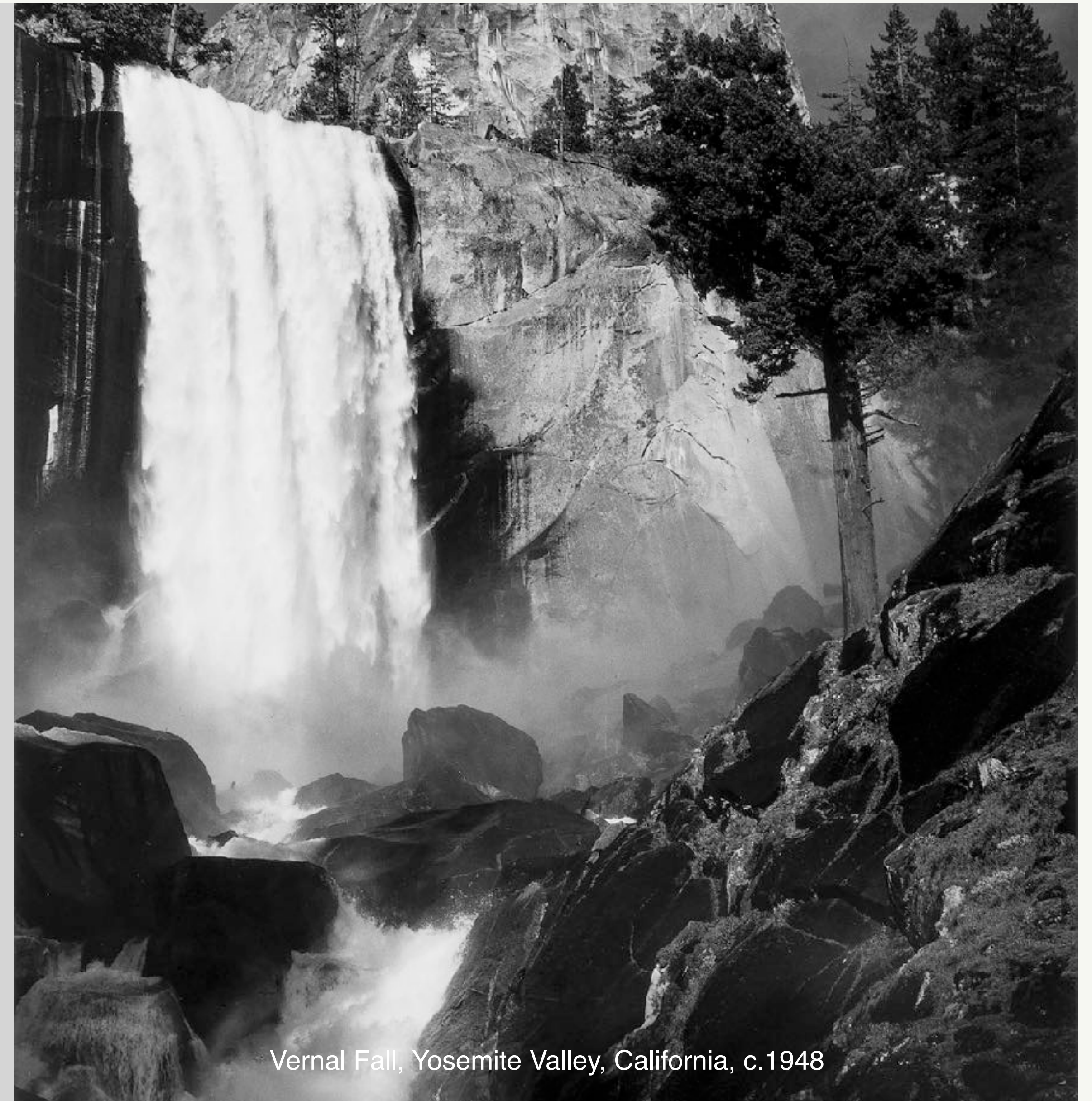
Two Callas (c. 1929) Imogen Cunningham



# Ansel Adams

(1902-1984) was also inspired by Yosemite Valley.

- A landscape photographer and environmentalist known for his black-and-white images of the American West.
- He helped found Group f/64, an association of photographers advocating “pure” photography which favored sharp focus and the use of the full tonal range of a photograph.
- Adams was a life-long advocate for environmental conservation, and his photographic practice was deeply entwined with this advocacy. At age 12, he was given his first camera during his first visit to Yosemite National Park.
- He developed his early photographic work as a member of the Sierra Club, and was later contracted with the United States Department of the Interior to make photographs of national parks. *Our way of seeing the natural world has forever changed because of Adam's images.*



Vernal Fall, Yosemite Valley, California, c.1948

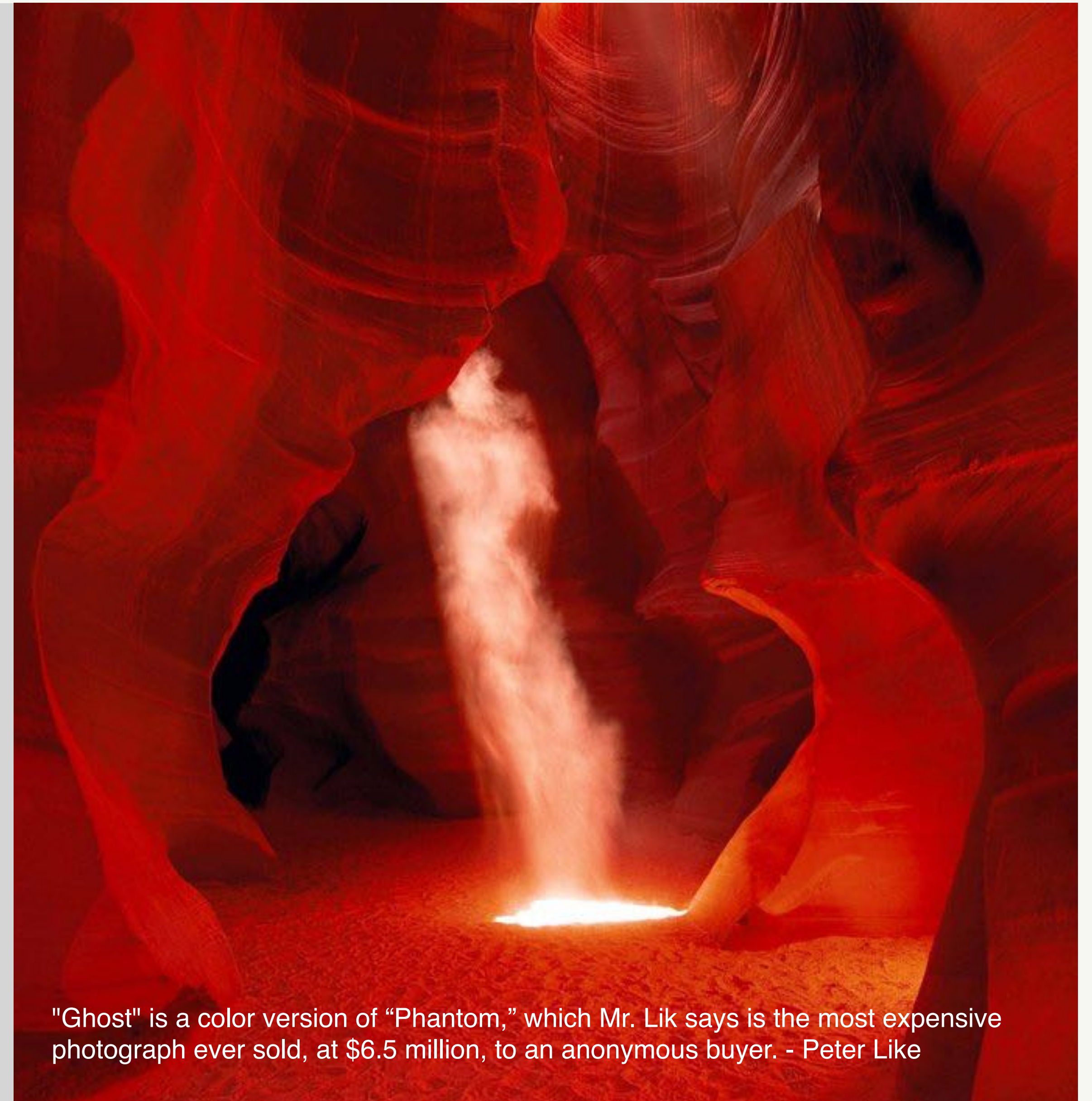


# Photographing the Landscape

Composition is one of the most important aspects of landscape photography and viewpoint is the most important part of composition. Landscape photographers pay careful attention to where they position the camera - an inch or two in any direction can make an enormous difference. Explore all the variations when you set up a shot.

## Tricks to good landscape photography:

- Move the camera to ***get the best viewpoint***.
- Images with a wide range of light and dark tone can be more dramatic, while a narrower range makes the image more quiet. ***Decide what kind of mood you want your photograph to have*** and adjust the range of light and dark tones to fit that mood.
- One goal of good composition is to ***balance unity and variety***. Unity results when all the individual parts of your image come together and support each other. Variety refers to all the diverse art elements found in the image, such as light & dark, big & small, and smooth & rough.

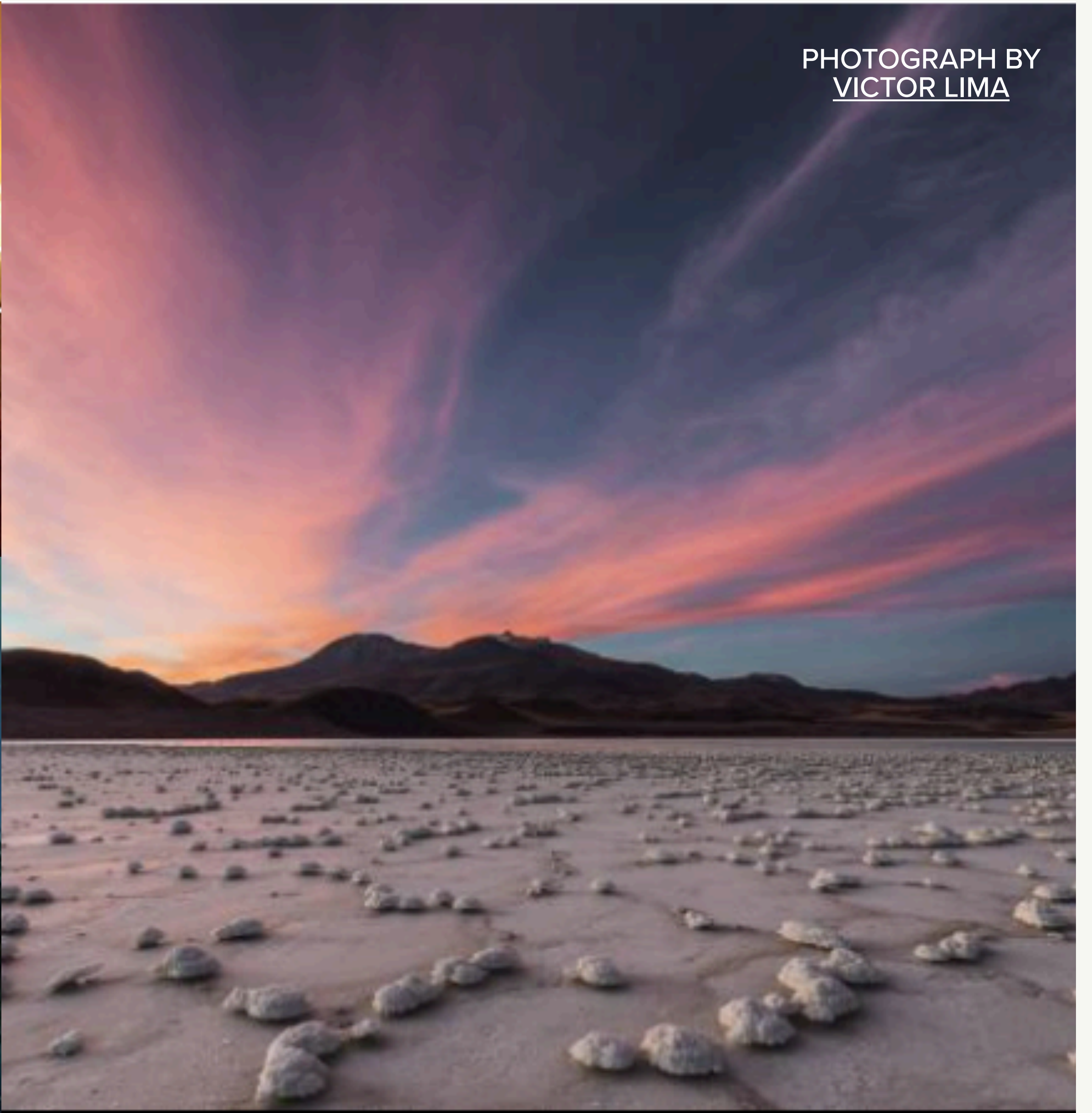


"Ghost" is a color version of "Phantom," which Mr. Lik says is the most expensive photograph ever sold, at \$6.5 million, to an anonymous buyer. - Peter Lik





PHOTOGRAPH BY  
LIDIJA KAMANSKY



PHOTOGRAPH BY  
VICTOR LIMA



PHOTOGRAPH BY  
BECKEY LEE



# Composition

The arrangement of distinct parts or elements to form a unified whole is **composition**. You need to decide where to place all the objects within the frame of the image.

**Balance** refers to how those objects relate to each other in size, value, color, and location. Remember there are three types of balance: **symmetrical** where objects are centered in the frame; **asymmetrical** where objects are off center; **radial** where they have a circular arrangement.

The **Rule of Thirds** is a design principle based on the Golden Mean, in which you place major objects of interest in the intersections of the vertical and horizontal lines, or along the lines themselves which results in a more interesting image.



Winter sunset, Gates of the Valley, Yosemite National Park (1990, Galen Rowell)

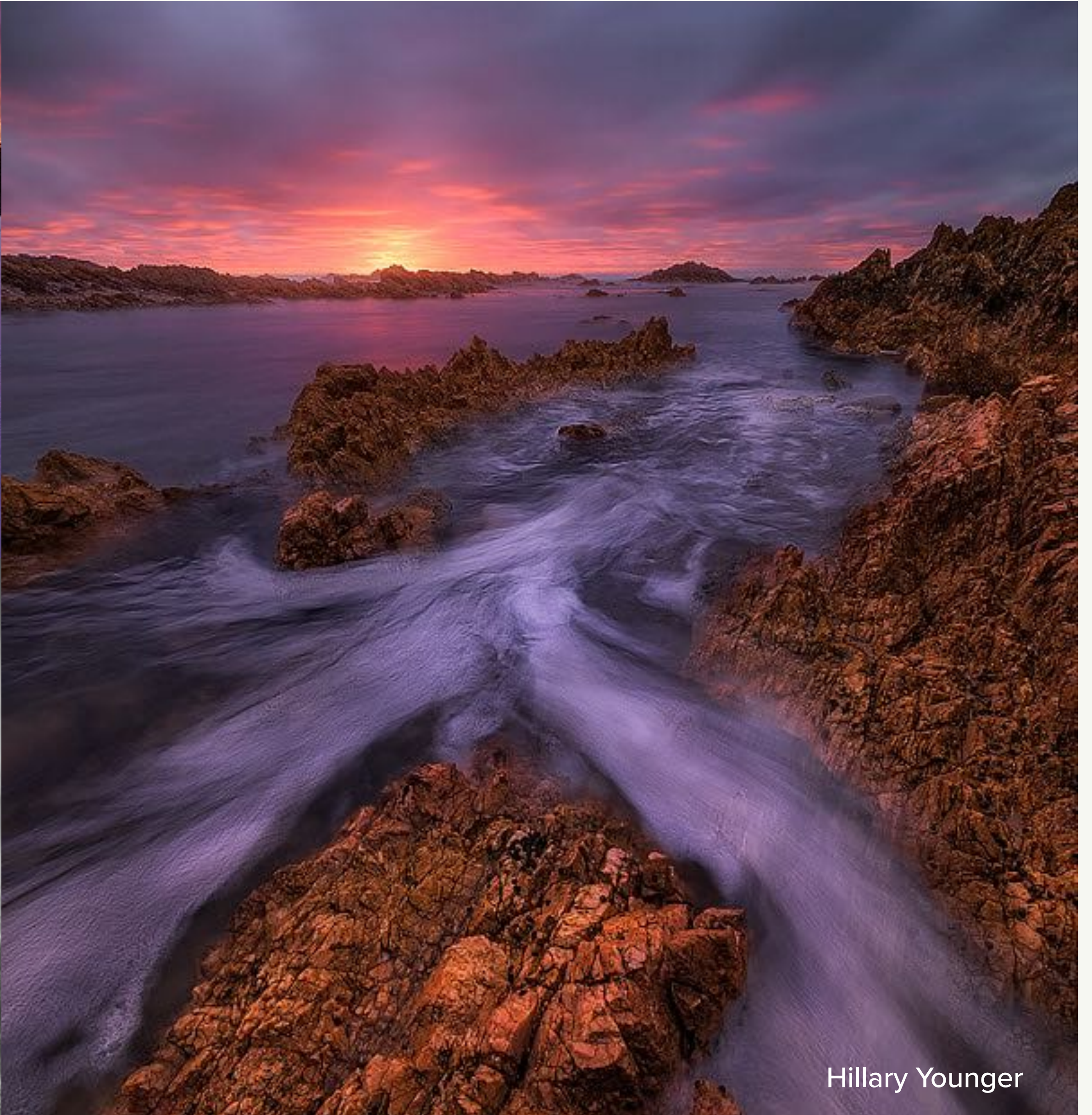




Galen Rowell



Sebastian Salgado



Hillary Younger

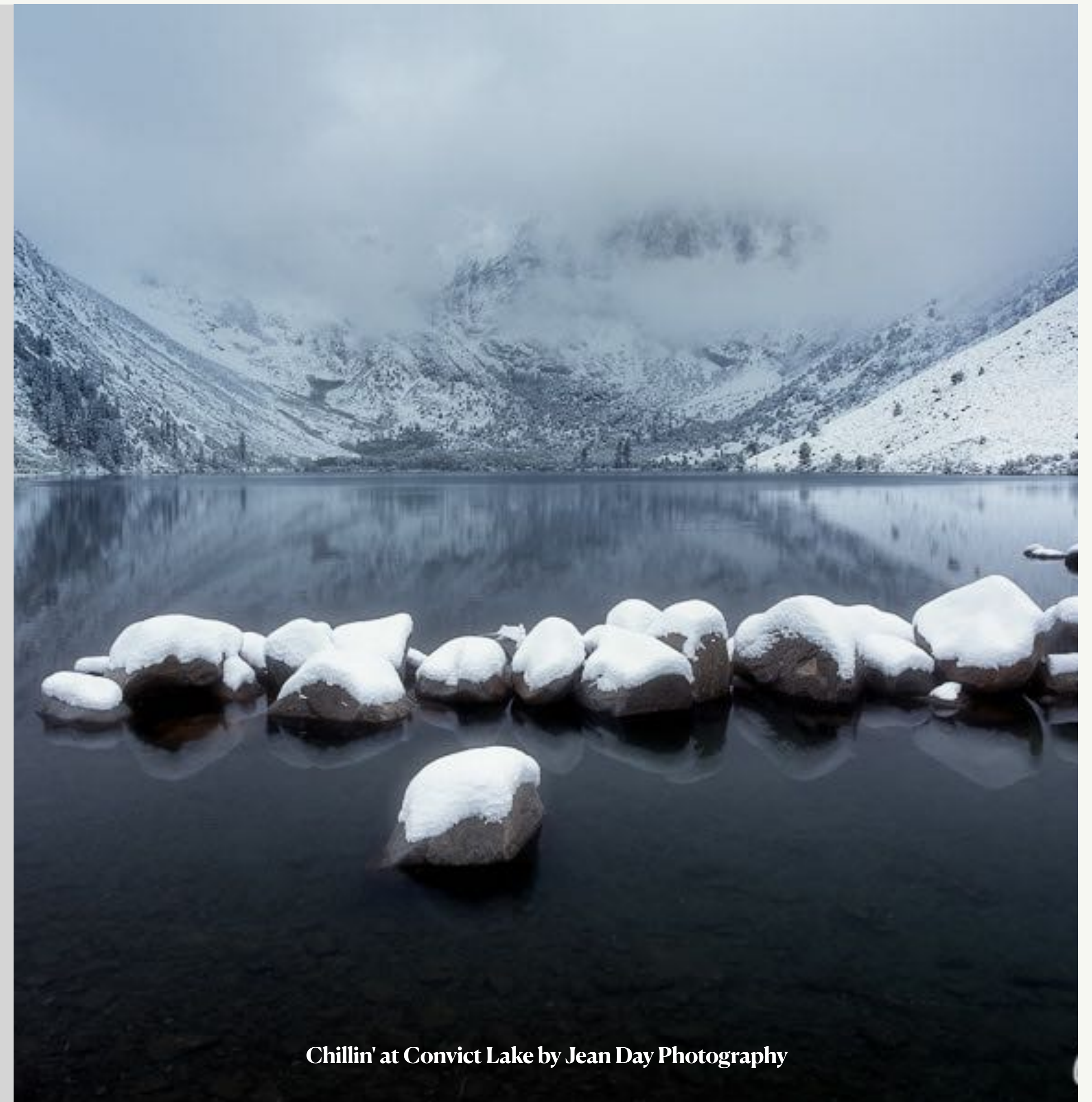


# The Grand Landscape

The **Grand Landscape** is the “big view” for pictures of the great outdoors - wide-open expanses that showcase the majesty of the natural world. National, State, or city parks are great locations to explore landscapes.

Grand landscapes always include a large expanse of the scene, and wide-angle lenses will give you the wider view that you need. Remember that with **traditional composition** and the rule of thirds, the horizon in your photograph should be placed either one-third from the top or bottom of the image, depending on whether you want to emphasize the land or sky.

Use a wide angle lens ( 18-55mm). You also want a **maximum depth of field** in your landscape image. The way to do this is to stop down a lens as far as it will go (f/ 22, f/28, f/32) Choosing f-stops like these will **result in longer shutter speeds** from 1/15 of a second and longer. Because of this, **a tripod is necessary** for sharp, vibration-free images.



Chillin' at Convict Lake by Jean Day Photography





# Detail Landscapes

Grand landscapes can make us feel small and insignificant, often, ***less imposing landscapes*** are more inviting and comfortable.

Parks are a good source of subject matter for detail-oriented photographs, with interesting trees, well-groomed lawns, stunning flowers, and beautiful lakes.

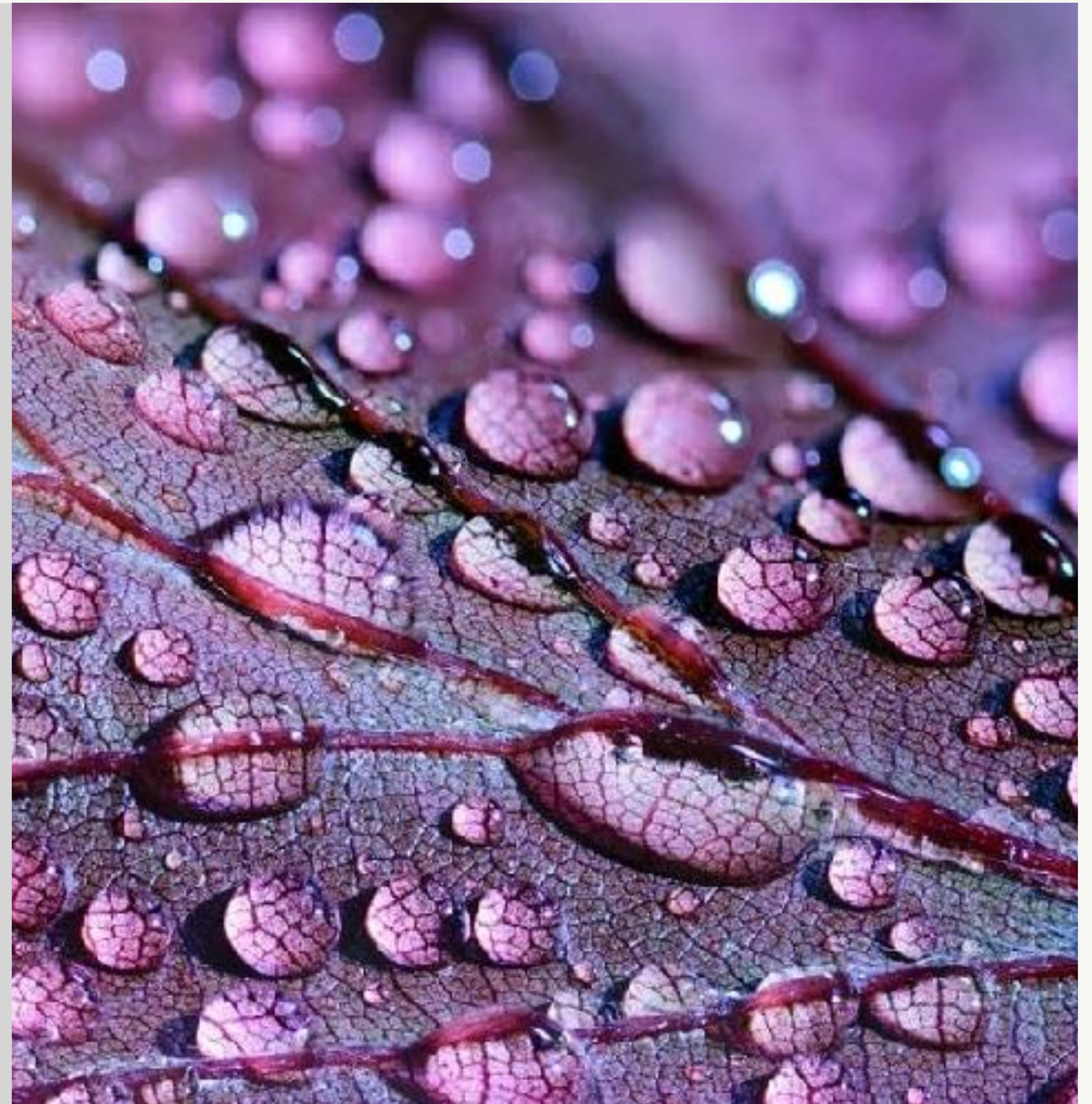
We usually think of bright sunny days as the best for outdoor photography, but direct sun in wooded areas like a park or garden create difficult lighting conditions. The tremendous difference in tonal values between the brightest and darkest parts can be hard to capture. ***Many photographers prefer to shoot in cloudy or overcast conditions that even out light.***

For detail shots use a normal lens (50-200mm). The closer you are to your subject, the more depth of field you will need, so stop down your lens to between a f/11 and f/22 and use a tripod for slow shutter speeds.



# Abstract Images

- You can photograph landscape details that eliminate the clues that tell us what the context is. **Abstracted elements** are images composed of lines, shapes, values, and textures. Tree bark patterns or lichen on a boulder can become abstract images.
- One of the best ways to turn an ordinary scene into an abstract image is to get really close to your subject and photograph only a small part of it.
- Use either a telephoto lens for distant subjects or a macro lens for closer subjects. Look for interesting shapes and forms. The closer you get, the more choices you'll have.

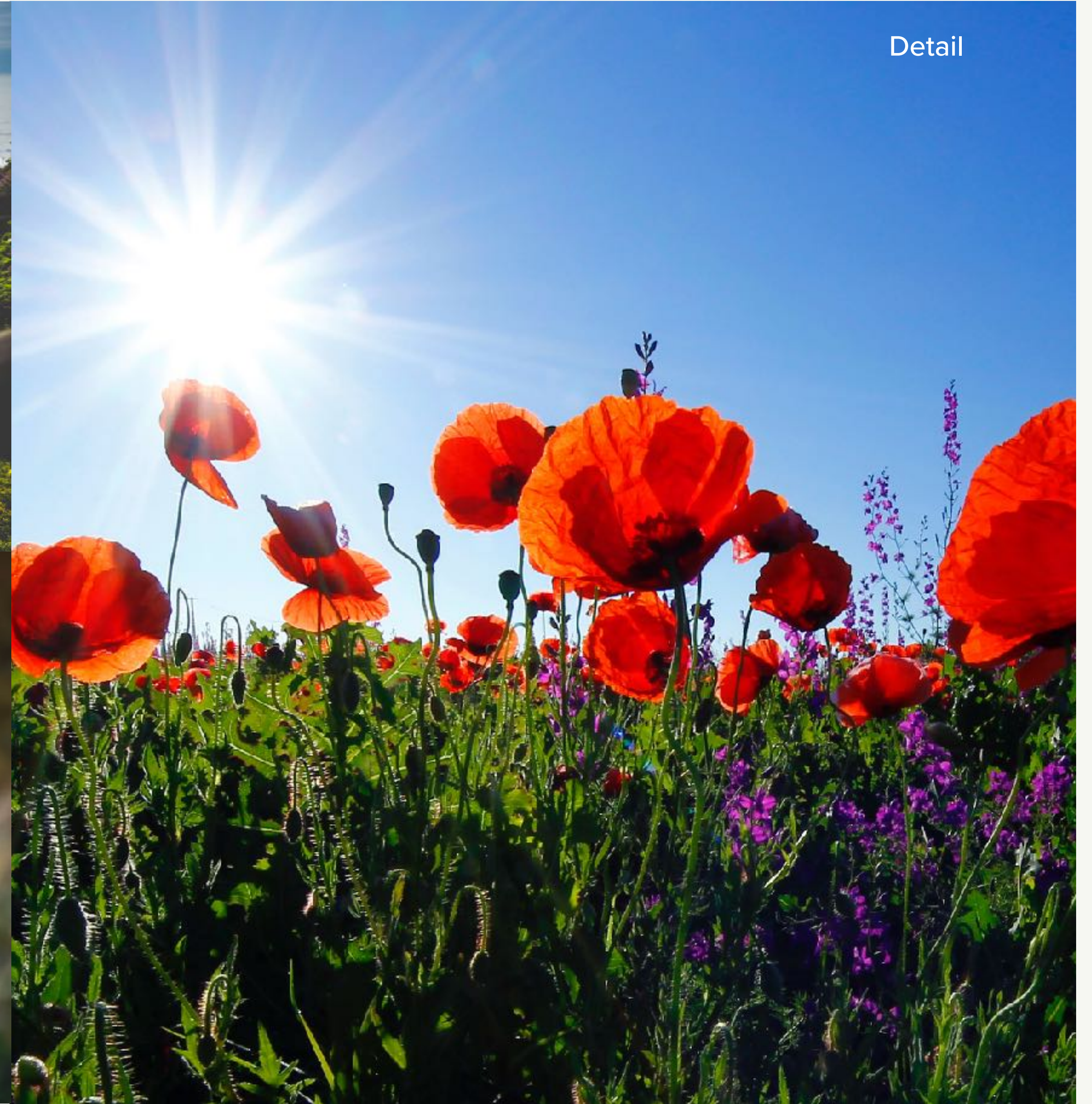




Grand Landscape



Detail



Abstract





# Key Terms

- **Composition** refers to the arrangement and relationship of the different parts that make up the whole image.
- **Balance** refers to how those objects relate to each other in size, value, color, and location.
  - **Symmetrical** where objects are centered in the frame.
  - **Asymmetrical** where objects are off center.
  - **Radial** where they have a circular arrangement.
- **Rule of Thirds** is a design principle based on the Golden Mean, in which you place major objects of interest in the intersections of the vertical and horizontal lines, or along the lines themselves which results in a more interesting image.
- The **Grand Landscape** is the “big view” for pictures of the great outdoors - wide-open expanses that showcase the majesty of the natural world.
- **Depth of field** refers to how much of the scene is in focus, both in front of and behind the subject or the point of focus.

- **Tripod** a three legged metal stand for holding a camera that prevents camera movement during exposures.
- **Landscape Details and Close-ups** are less imposing landscapes are more inviting and comfortable.
- **Abstracted elements** are images composed of lines, shapes, values, and textures. Tree bark patterns or lichen on a boulder can become abstract images.



## To Do:

- Add to your Google Doc of the Key Terms for Class.
- Take Google Quiz.
- **Assignment:** Photograph 2 images for each of the type of landscapes - The grand landscape, details, and abstract. Post them to your blog with the definition of each.

