

# COMPOSITION

# 1. Depth of Field

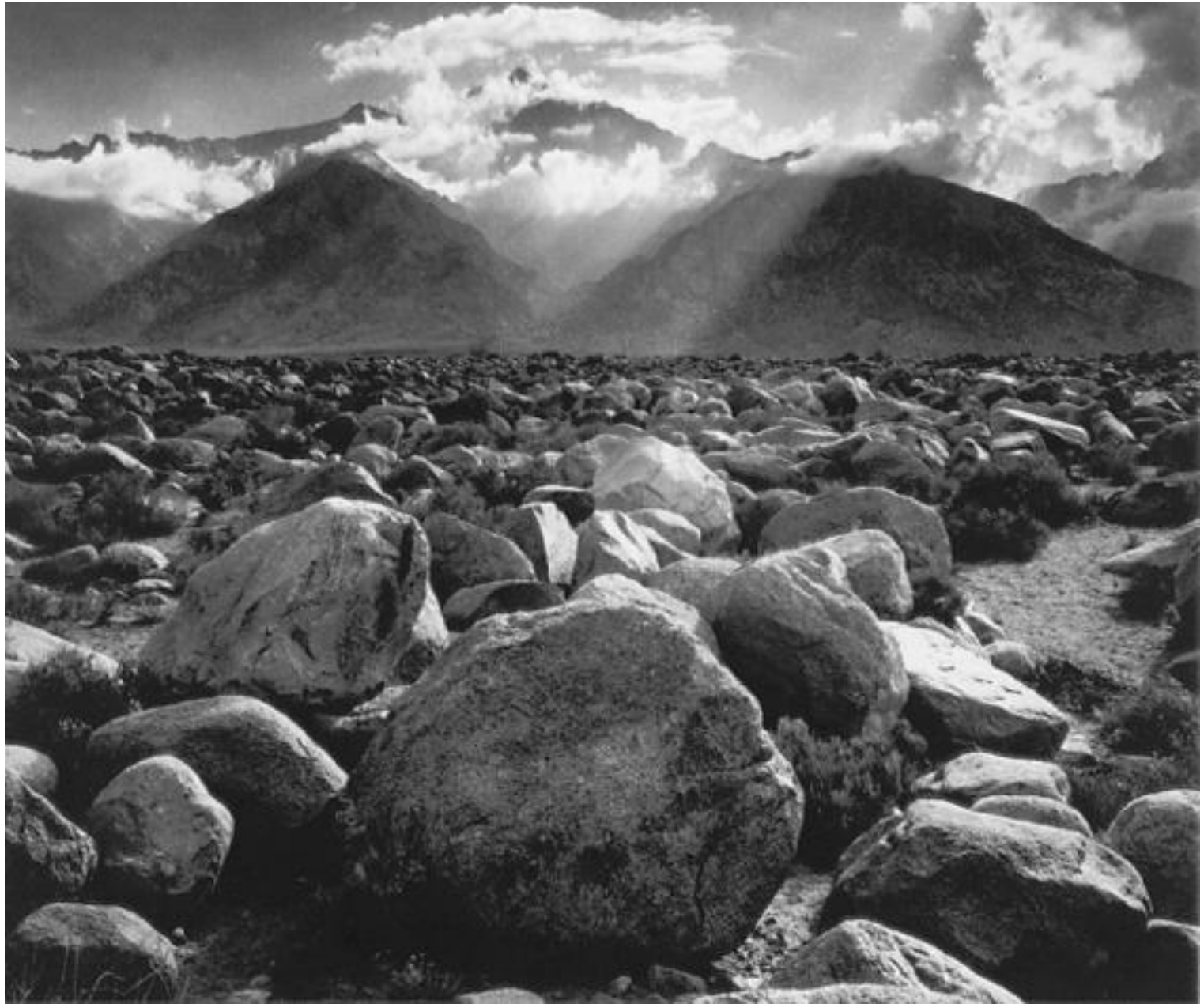
Include a Foreground, Middle Ground and Background.

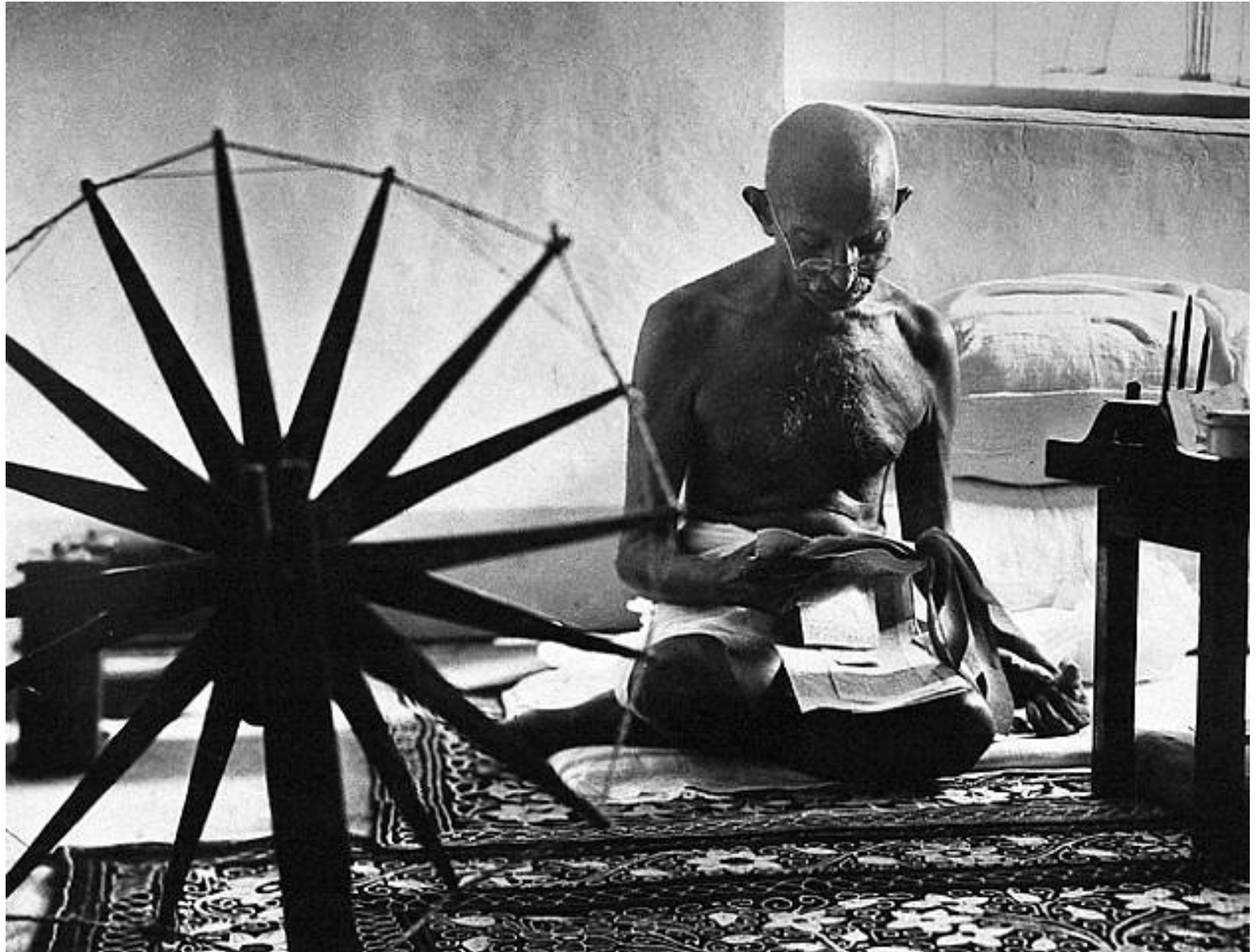


When taking pictures of landscapes, include an object, such as a tree or boulder, in the foreground. Elements in the foreground add a sense of depth to the picture. A person in the foreground helps establish a sense of scale.

### Internal Framing

Sometimes you can use the foreground elements to "frame" your subject. Overhanging tree branches, a doorway, or an arch can give a picture the depth it needs to make it more than just another snapshot.























## 2. Choose the Right Format

Vertical or Horizontal



Don't forget that you can turn your camera sideways to take a vertical picture. Hold the camera vertically to take pictures of tall buildings, waterfalls, or a person; hold the camera horizontally for groups of people, cars, and dachshunds.



## Switch it around

Try taking both horizontal and vertical pictures of the same subject to see the different effects. A subject that you might usually think of as horizontal can make a stunning vertical picture.



# 3. Rule of Thirds

Do Not Bulls Eye Your Pictures



Putting the subject off-center often makes the composition more dynamic and interesting.

Even if your subject fills the frame, the most important part of the subject (for example, the eyes in a portrait) should not be dead center.

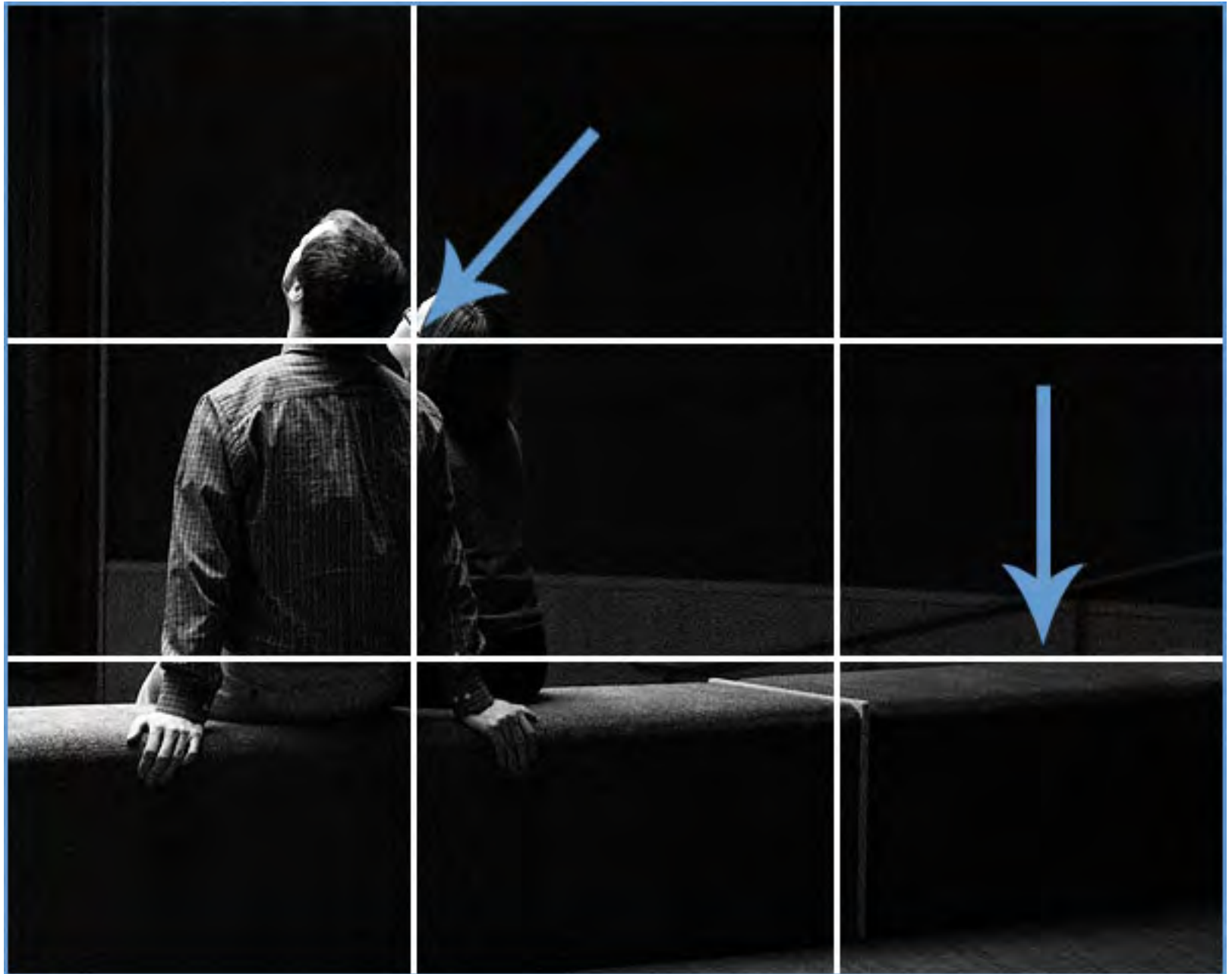
Follow the rule of thirds. An easy way to compose off-center pictures is to imagine a tick-tack-toe board over your viewfinder. Avoid placing your subject in that center square, and you have followed the rule of thirds. Try to place your subject along one of the imaginary lines that divides your frame.

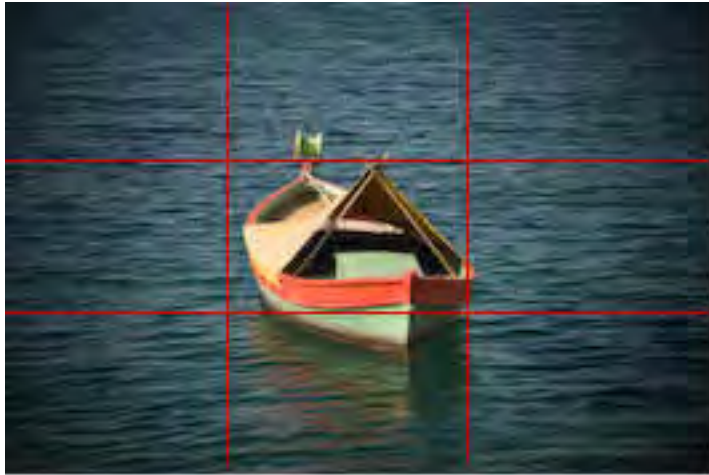


Watch the horizon. Just as an off-center subject is usually best, so is an off-center—and straight—horizon line. Avoid cutting your picture in half by placing the horizon in the middle of the picture. To accent spaciousness, keep the horizon low in the picture. To suggest closeness, position the horizon high in your picture.



























## 4. Keep It Simple

Avoid Distracting Backgrounds

Select an uncomplicated background that does not compete with your subject. Bright colors and text (for example, store signs) create the biggest problems. Be especially aware of what is behind your subject in a portrait so that branches don't accidentally become antlers.















# 5. Perspective

Be Creative

For the most complimentary portrait, shoot at your subject's eye level. However, if you want to have some creative fun, change your angle of view.



### **Alter your position**

Change your position to emphasize or exaggerate how big or small your subject is. Crouch down and shoot up at someone and that person towers over you. Shoot down on your pet and it seems so comically small. You can also move your camera right or left only a few feet to change the composition dramatically.











