



Flowers

By Marc du Plessis

Brief:

One flower, many flowers, field of flowers, macro of an aspect of a flower, the theme is open to the photographers own interpretation (does NOT have to be multiple flowers).

- The Flower/s need to be the MAIN focus to the photo. (example: girl playing in a field of flowers- main subject = girl, not the flowers= not the purpose of this theme.
- A zoomed in shot of the flower in her hair = main subject = flower= allowed). Caution for bees/insects in flowers, if they take up the majority of your shot - the main focus might be on them and not the flower or aspect of the flower, but a small insect in the shot can definitely enhance the shot. A strong focal point is crucial for this theme especially if you choose to go the macro route or DOF.
- Topic also lends itself out to landscapes, or even tabletop experiments. (no one said the flower had to be alive)
- Maybe consider a different vantage point to create a more creative shot (ground upwards?). Maybe play with different lighting techniques? NO AR allowed. Post editing encouraged, Sharpness and contrast play an important role.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT.

“Light is so important in flower photography. This is true in all photography of course, but I like to use different and more varied light sources when photographing flowers. Natural light is always a great option, but it’s fun to experiment with artificial light as well. This image was taken with a ring light set to the left side only at one-fourth strength.”

-Eileen Critchley



CREATE GLOW WITH BACKLIGHTING.

“Backlight is an excellent light for flower photography. When the sun is directly in front of you it will light the flower from behind and make the translucent petals of the flower glow. Using the light just after sunrise allows you to also catch early morning dew on the flowers and there’s less wind at that time.”

-Kathy Roberts



HIGHLIGHT DETAILS WITH SELECTIVE FOCUS.

“It’s easier to create dramatic flower images with larger blooms that can fill a frame, like this dahlia. Choose the most interesting aspect of the flower, like the curve of a petal, how the petals join into the calyx or the crown of stamens, and use selective focus to highlight that detail. Remember that your choice of lens will affect the outcome: here the Velvet 56 helped create a soft feel.”

-Cheryl Dietmeyer



CHOOSE ONE FOCAL POINT.

“When photographing flowers, as I approach the scene, I select a flower that is set slightly apart from the group, allowing distance between the subject and the background. This way, I create a depth of field that is shallow enough to blur the background, but deep enough to keep most of the main flower in focus. This allows the subject to really pop and gives the image depth and dimension.”

-Jennifer Carr



TAKE YOUR TIME TO CREATE ART.

“My best tip for flower photography is to take as much time as you need; the area between you and the subject is a 100 percent judgement-free zone. Take time to move around and change your perspective – even just a few inches could dramatically change your image – and while doing so, change your lenses or try free-lensing! In other words, play, have fun, and do whatever YOU need to do to create your art!”

-Maggie Dudeck



MOVE AROUND TO GET THE BEST ANGLE.

“When shooting macro, play with angles to minimize background distractions and make the main subject shine. I never use a tripod when shooting macro. Move your body around the subject and shoot from top, bottom side and even from underneath to find the “magic” angle for your subject. When shooting indoors, I use a Plamp to make moving the flower easier and to save me from contorting my body into crazy positions.”

-Kathy Linford



FIND A POP OF COLOUR.

“In flower photography, color is often one of the most important elements of the frame. Look for situations that will allow you to showcase a single pop of vibrant color amongst more neutral tones, instances of complimentary colors (green/magenta, purple/orange, etc.) located close to each other or fill the frame with a single color to create a more soothing palette that will clear the way for other elements (such as texture, movement, line, etc.) to have the predominant role.”

-Megan Cieloha



KEEP DETAILS IN FOCUS.

“When photographing flowers, I try to keep my aperture around f/4 to f/5.6, to ensure that I am getting important details in focus. I don’t worry about shooting wide open since shooting close to my subject will give me a shallower depth of field. Having a simple background will help to isolate my subject and prevent any distracting elements.”

-Susan Watson Bahen



USE ANGLES TO SHOW PERSPECTIVE.

“I love to capture close up macro images of flowers but I also think it’s fun to show flowers in a landscape setting. I especially like repetition in landscape images so I try to find similar subjects all together, such as a sunflower field. To show the perspective of flowers towering over the viewer, place the camera toward the ground and shoot upward. This makes them appear super tall against a blue sky.”

-Jessica Nelson



PLAY WITH LIGHT AND SHADOW.

“When photographing flowers I always look for a light that enriches the image, such as backlight or sidelight, because I love the contrast between light and shadow. I love photographing flowers that at first do not look pretty, but are beautiful and full of texture up close.”

-Gia Queiroz



ADD DIMENSION WITH WATER.

“I adore macro photography with flowers. One thing I love to do to add interest and dimension to my images is to add water. I use a water bottle to spray the flower, then I add some bright backlight to create beautiful, sparkly bokeh.”

-Diane Wittenberg



Youtube Links

- Flower Photography Tips for Beginners & Macro Photography Ideas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJLD3hQMwkU>
- My 8 Best Tips for Flower Photography
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0bKE-zB4xo>
- Flower Photography
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UvnbxaqykA
- How to Be Creative in Your Flower Photography | B&H Event Space
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvOaHzh9UvY>

Info from: <https://www.myclickmagazine.com/flower-photography/>