

ROCKS

Shapes & Formations



By Veronica du Plessis

Website brief for this theme:

Shape is the 2D outline of an object (in this instance the rocks) and the form is the 3D aspect which is created by light and shade (highlights and shadows).

In this theme we will be looking at the use of light to create the 3D effect of the shapes of the **ROCKS**, together with the use of post editing to bring out the highlights and shadows. Correct time of the day is crucial for this theme.

No AR's allowed.

In order to understand this theme it is important that you have a good understanding of **shape** and **forms**. This will help to make even the most boring or mundane objects appear to jump off a flat surface.

These are two of the most commonly misunderstood elements of composition in photography.

SHAPE is 2D and FORM is 3D

Shape is simply the two-dimensional (2D) outline of an object or subject which does not have the appearance of depth.



There is hardly any definition in the highlights and shadows in this image due to the light being directly onto the image which gives it the appearance of being 2D (or flat).

Form is a shape that has a three-dimensional aspect which is created by light and shade. (Highlights and shadows).

If an image is lit from the front it becomes flat and two-dimensional and from the back it becomes a silhouette.

When it is lit from an angle (or from the side), it begins to have more depth and substance.



This is exactly the same rock, taken a minute or two after the previous one, but from a slightly different angle which now shows the highlights and shadows giving it more **form**

Getting a good photo of ROCKS is very dependent on understanding the use of light in order to move your image from a **shape** to one that has **form** which will bring out the all important textures.

Here is an example of the same photo taken twice. Once in bad light, which is really nothing more than a record shot of a set of rocks, to one taken in good light (and using some post editing) to create a wow image.



Photos from Photography Life.com

This image was taken with a Nikon D810 @24mm; ISO 100; 2.5sec; f/11,0

Please visit their website to see more information on the placing of the images, etc. The page is <https://photographylife.com/landscapes/dissecting-a-photograph-the-split-rock>



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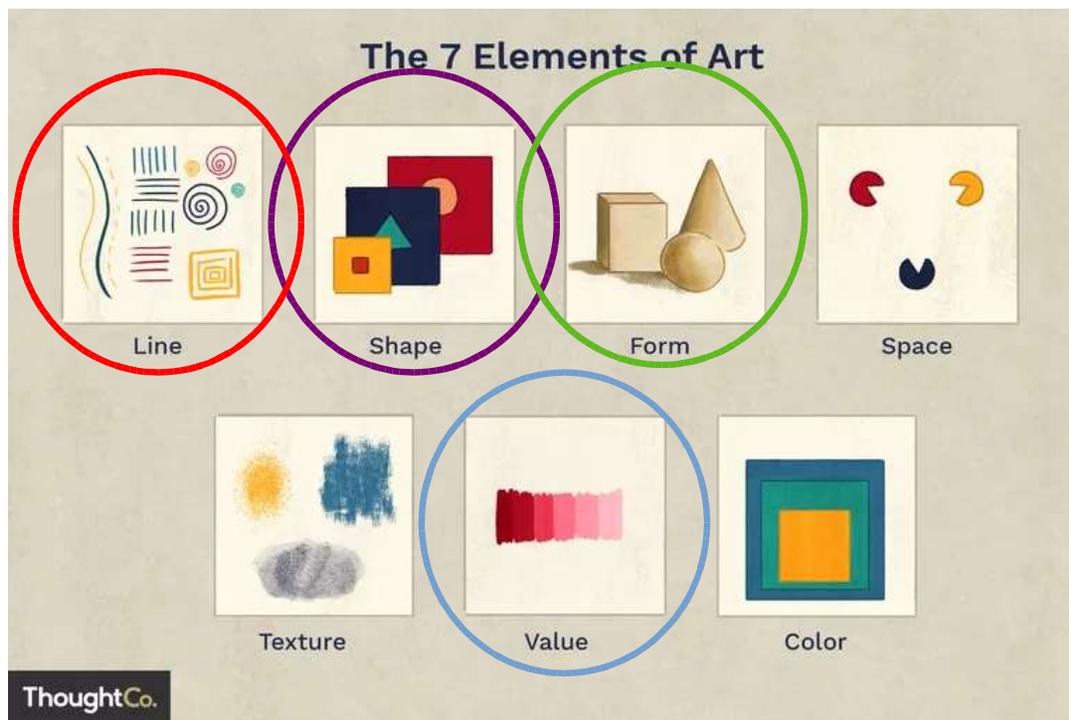
In this image the photographer has made use of back light to create a silhouette effect or a two-dimensional **shape** which is lacking the **form**, but is still an amazing photograph.

*IMPORTANT – this image was shown only to explain what back light does but for this theme we are looking for **FORM** and so therefore a silhouette will not fit the brief.*

There are many elements of composition that make up a good photograph. To name just a few there are lines, shapes, forms, textures, patterns, rules of thirds etc.

For the theme of ROCKS (Shapes and Formations) we will be looking mainly at ***LINES, SHAPES and FORMS***

Just as a matter of interest – there are 7 elements that artists look at in ART (Photography is also an art), and they are namely Line, Shape, Form, Space, Texture, Value and Colour.



In this theme we will be looking at ***Lines, Shapes and Forms.***

Value in art can be compared with what we know as light and in photography.

We will just look at how **LEADING LINES** will add value to your composition, but then we encourage you to do some further research of your own.

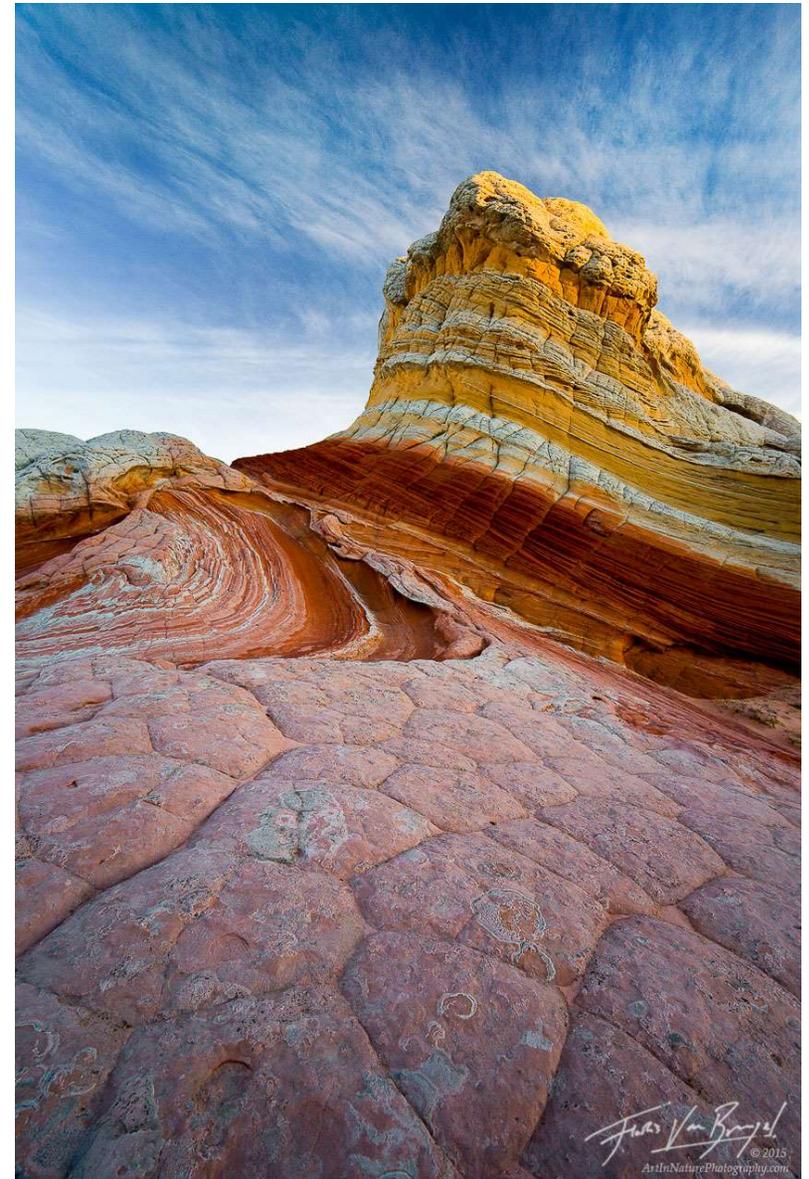
LINES (Leading lines)

Leading lines are a powerful compositional tool that photographers use to improve the framing, composition and mood of their photos. While the term “composition” is used in other art forms, the term “leading lines” is not often used outside of photography.

Leading lines are one of the simplest ideas in composition, but also the most powerful as they draw the viewers into your photos.

Our brains subconsciously follow lines. You can use this to your advantage because you know that when someone is looking at your image, their eyes will follow the lines.

Leading lines guide the viewers eye through the frame and can also add depth to your photos. Using leading lines will make your images far more interesting.



use the photos from their website
www.artinnaturephotography.com

Types of leading lines

Leading lines are in different forms and can be found almost anywhere in nature or every day settings. Lines can be natural like a stream, or unnatural, like a building.

Vertical

These lines suggest power, dominance, and growth. Examples include tall structural designs and trees. Vertical lines cannot begin at the corner of your image.

Horizontal

Horizontal lines suggest peace, calmness, stability, and a sense of restfulness. The ocean, beaches, fallen trees, and horizon lines. They can strengthen the composition of the image and should be kept as horizontal as possible.

Diagonal

Diagonal lines suggest action and can add depth to an image. They are somewhat unbalanced and can help draw the eye to the photo. The best way to use diagonal lines is to present them from the bottom corner of the image to the opposite top corner. This is because our eyes naturally scan from left to right.

Curved / S-Curve

Suggest elegance, sensuality, and a sense of balance. They don't necessarily need to be S shaped. Any form of a winding line can be used. Rivers, streams, roads, paths, and the human body.



Converging

Converging lines add flow or depth to your image. They also add a sense of distance or scale. Stairways, power lines, and railroad tracks. Our eyes are naturally drawn to where intersecting lines connect.

Leading lines can be found almost everywhere you look from a fence, to the ocean shore, a building or trees. Sometimes these lines are not obvious but may be implied. Survey the area around your subject and look for potential leading lines.



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The Institute of Photography.com



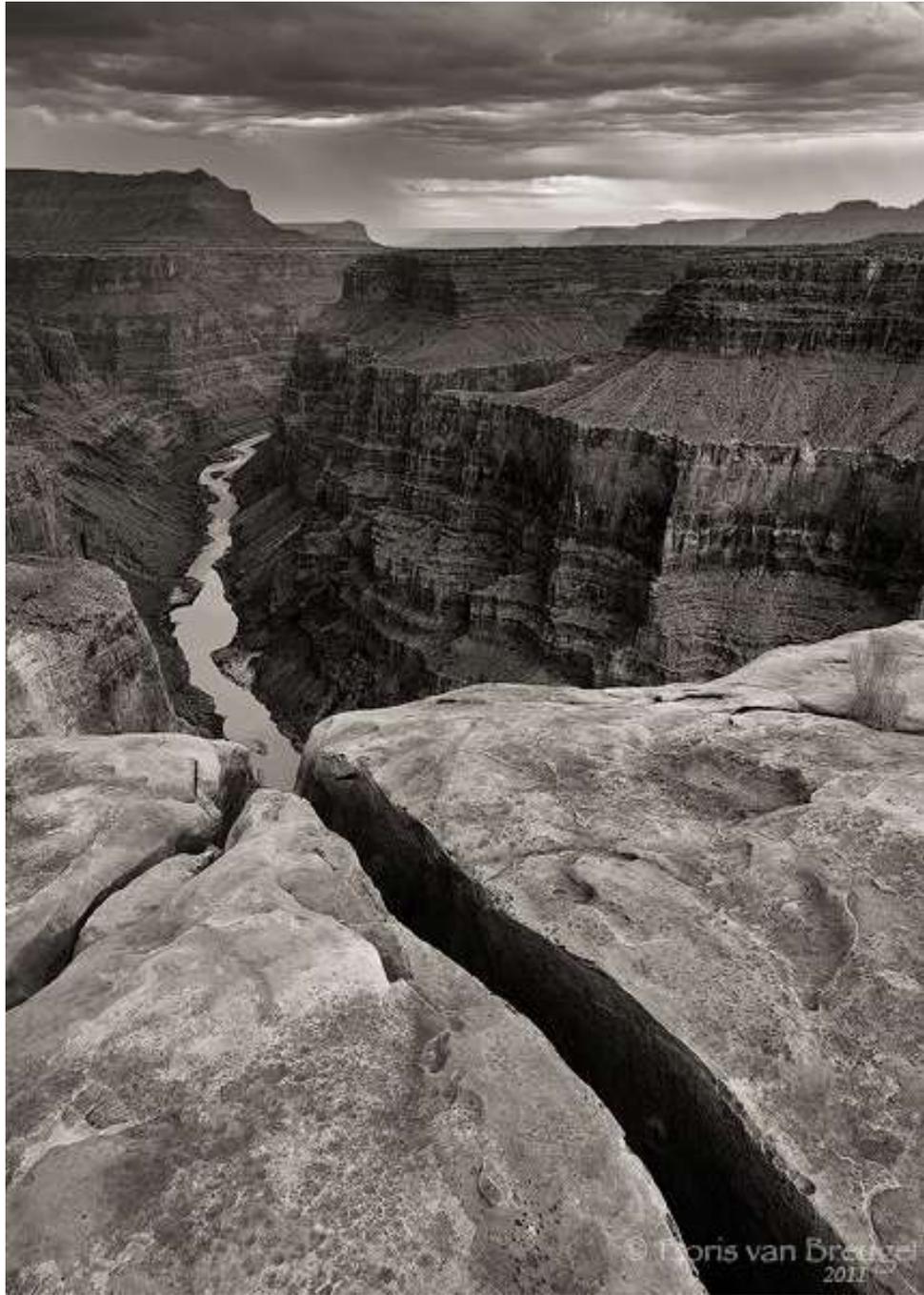
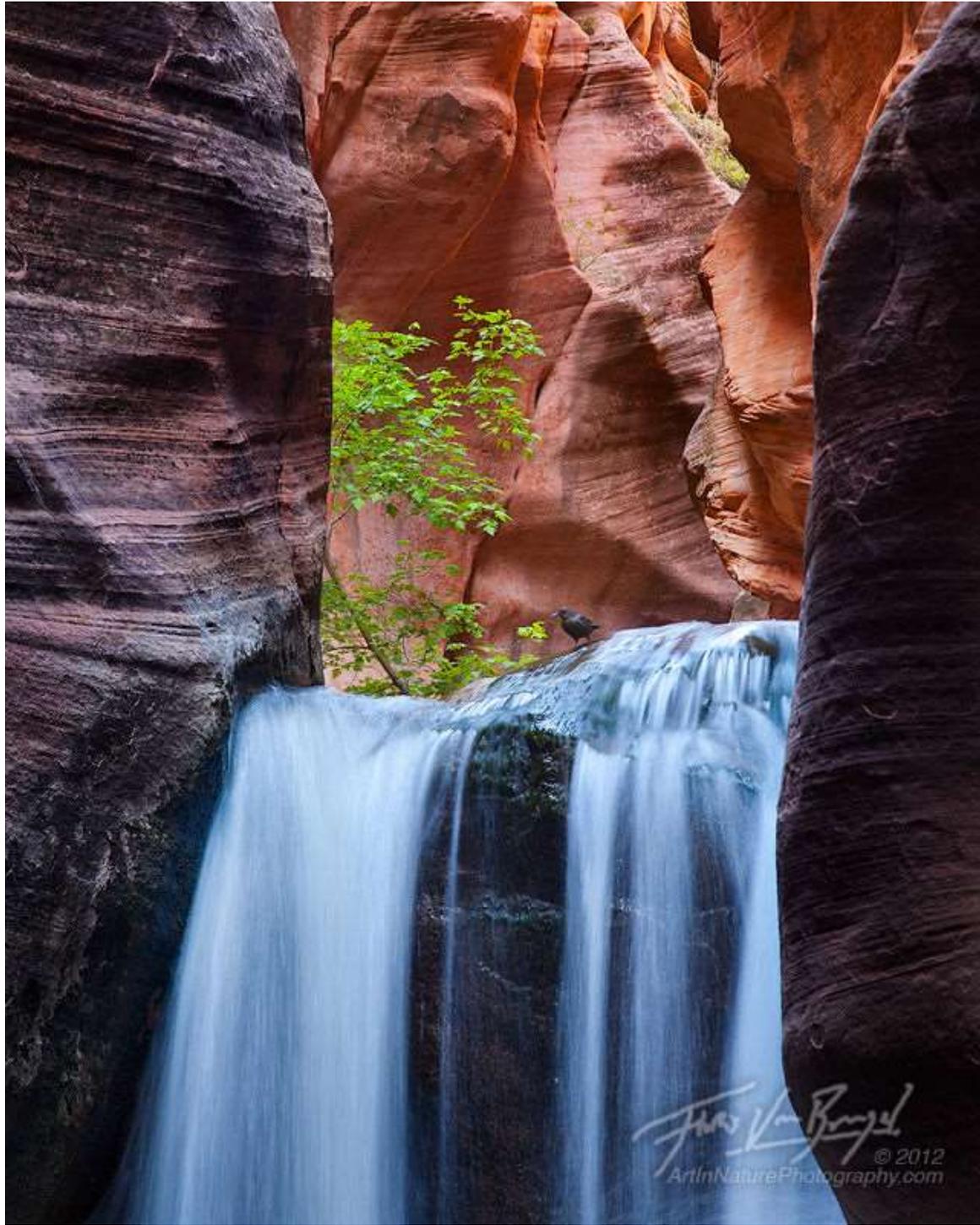




Foto Van Broyel
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Art & Nature Photography.com



Camera settings:

Your camera setting will be similar to those you would use for landscape photography.

Your ISO will be 100 but could probably change, depending on the time of day that you are taking your shot.

The F-stop would need to be between an F10 and F14.

Shutter speed would vary depending on the available light etc.



What are we looking for in this theme?

The rock (rocks) need to be the focal point of the image and in sharp focus.

We are wanting to see the thought that the photographer has put into finding the best angle for the shot taking into consideration the shapes and formations as well as the lines and balance spoken of above. Remember a good composition.

highlights and shadows as well as textures.

The rock / rocks need to make up a large percentage of the image.



Image: guillaumhebert.com

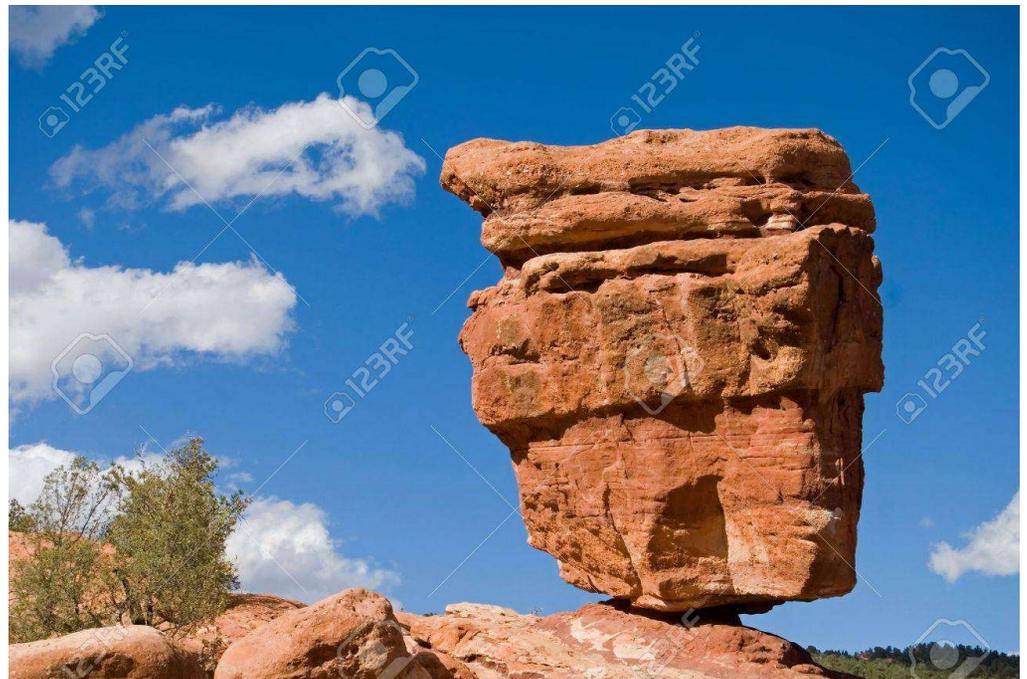


Image: 123RF