

# Black & White

Marc du Plessis



# Brief: Black and White

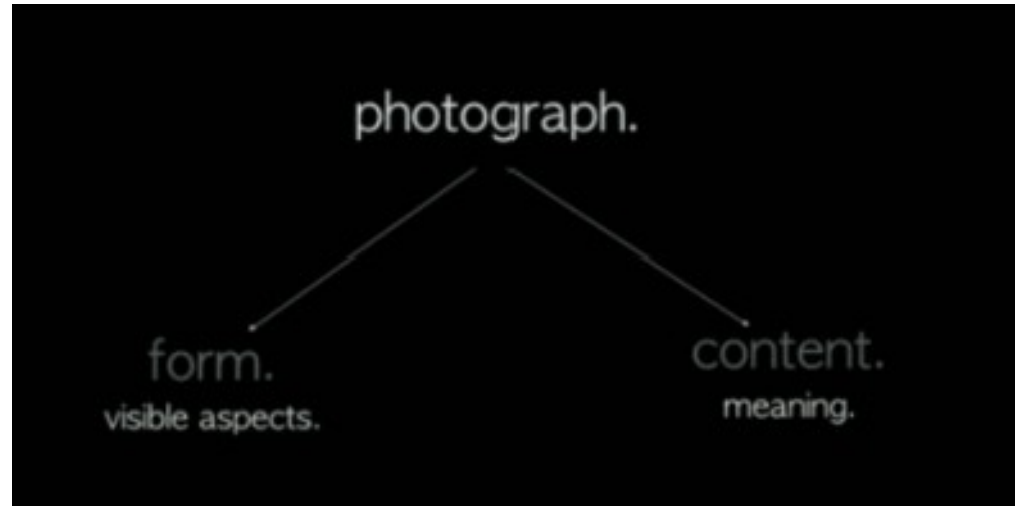
- Black & White (desaturated) images on any subject that enhances the monochromatic appearance. One image, no composites.
- General enhancements accepted.
- Same image stacking and focus stacking accepted.
- Other monochromatic images also accepted, eg. sepia. No AR's



# How to See Black & White (BW)

Need to backtrack, lets look at some basics:  
What are the building blocks of a photo?

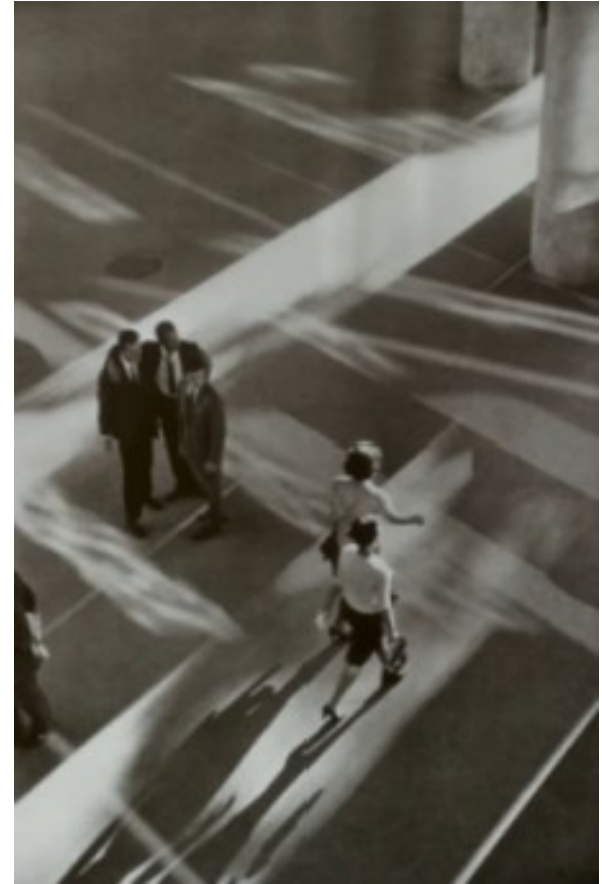
- FORM
- CONTENT



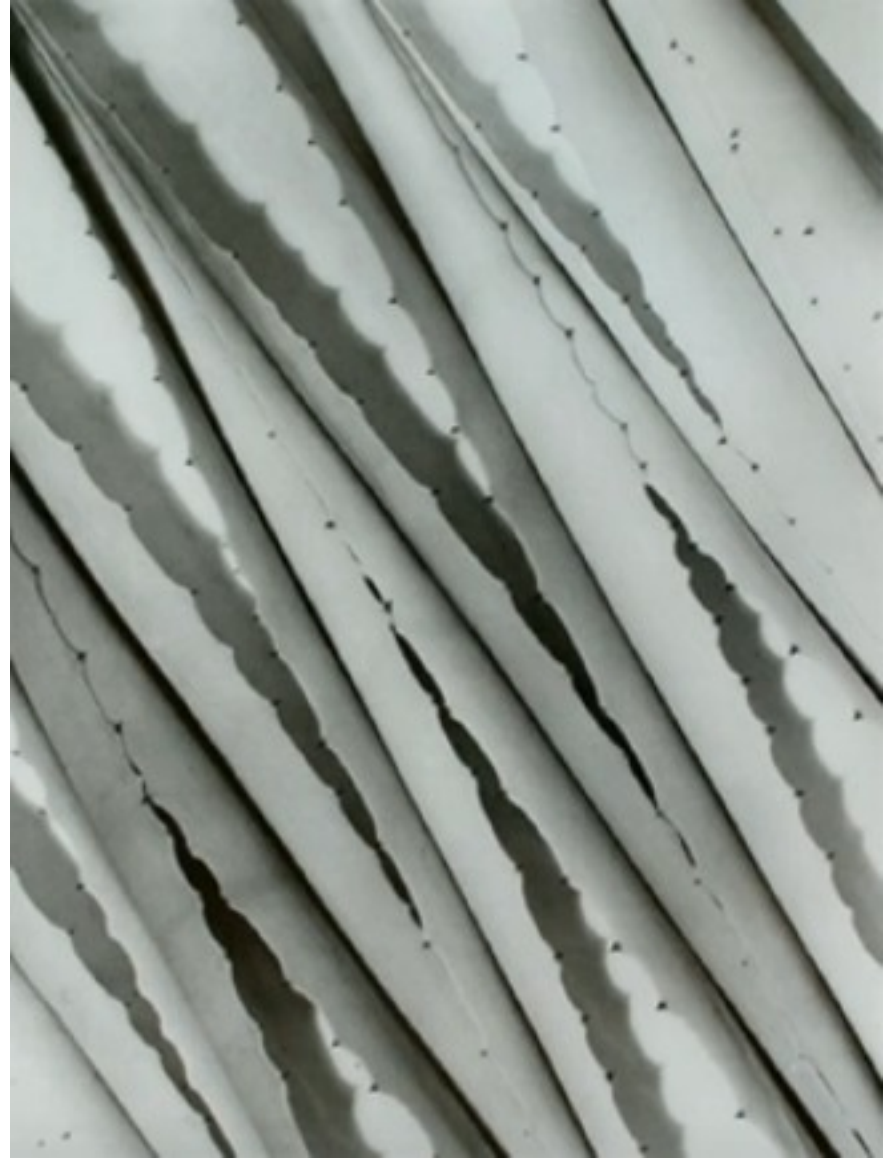
## FORM

- 4 elements
- Shapes, Lines, Texture and Colour
- \*\* Light defines all of these (painter: paint, dancer: body, photographer: LIGHT)
- BW uses: Shapes, Lines & Texture
- At least ONE of these must be stronger/dominant
- \*\* A line can be seen and implied
- Shape: Silhouette
- BW: can add more abstract and adds more mystery

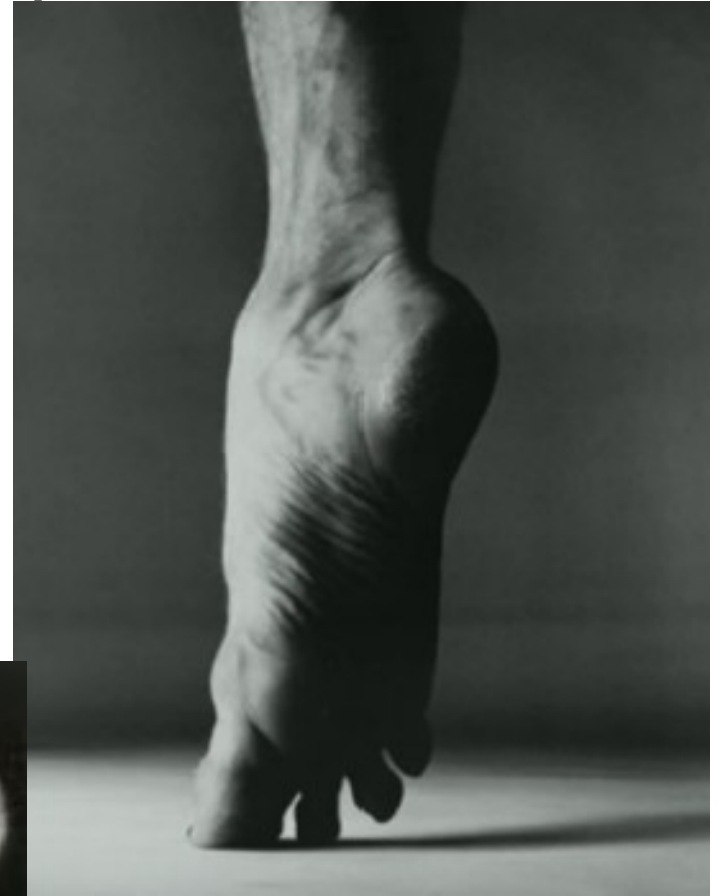
# How to See Black & White (BW)



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# How to SEE a BW image!

We need to understand colour to understand BW

- HUE
- SATURATION
- BRIGHTNESS/Luminosity

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# How to SEE a BW image!

We need to understand colour to understand BW

- HUE
- SATURATION
- BRIGHTNESS/Luminosity

HUE: its the NAME of the colour on the colour wheel

SATURATION: the INTENSITY of the colour

BRIGHTNESS/Luminosity: value of the colour / light and dark

In BW we are ONLY left with BRIGHTNESS/Luminosity

Which also includes TONES, thus the term Tonal Range used a lot in BW images.

HUE

the name of a color as found in it's pure state

cyan

blue

green

yellow

red

orange

purple

magenta

## SATURATION

intensity of a color

high saturation!

low saturation.





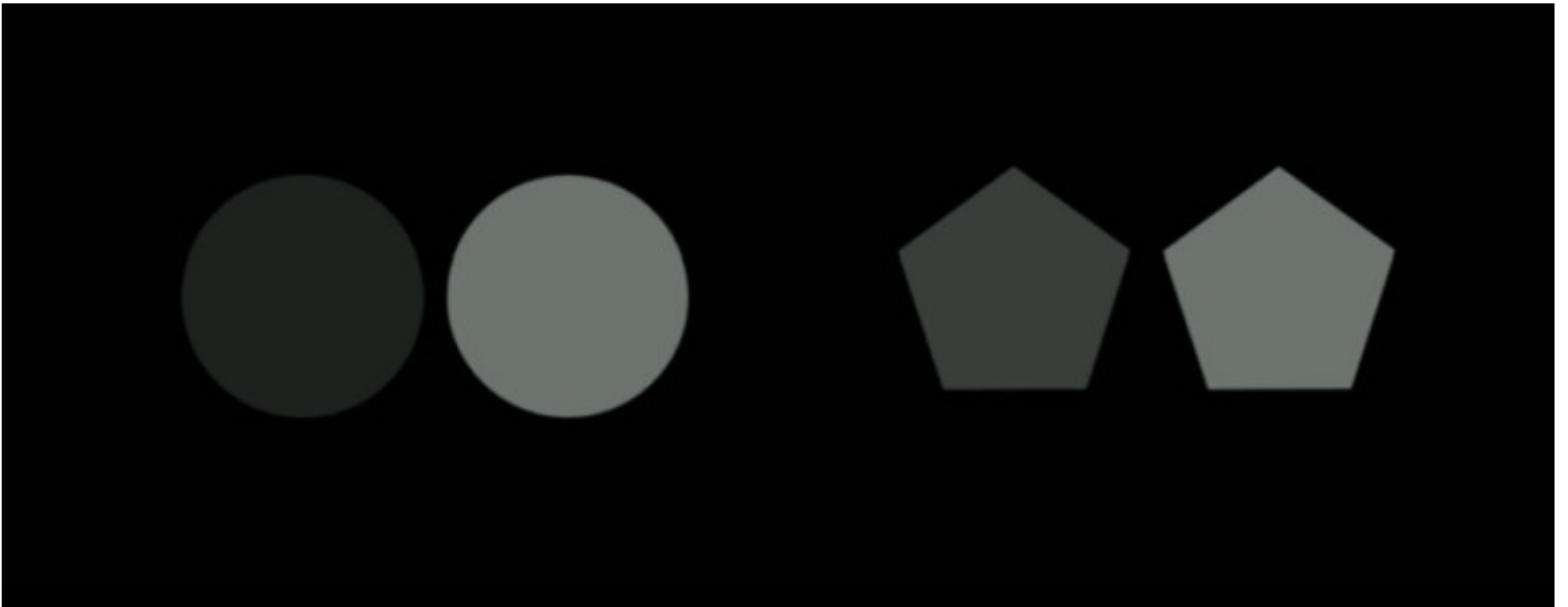
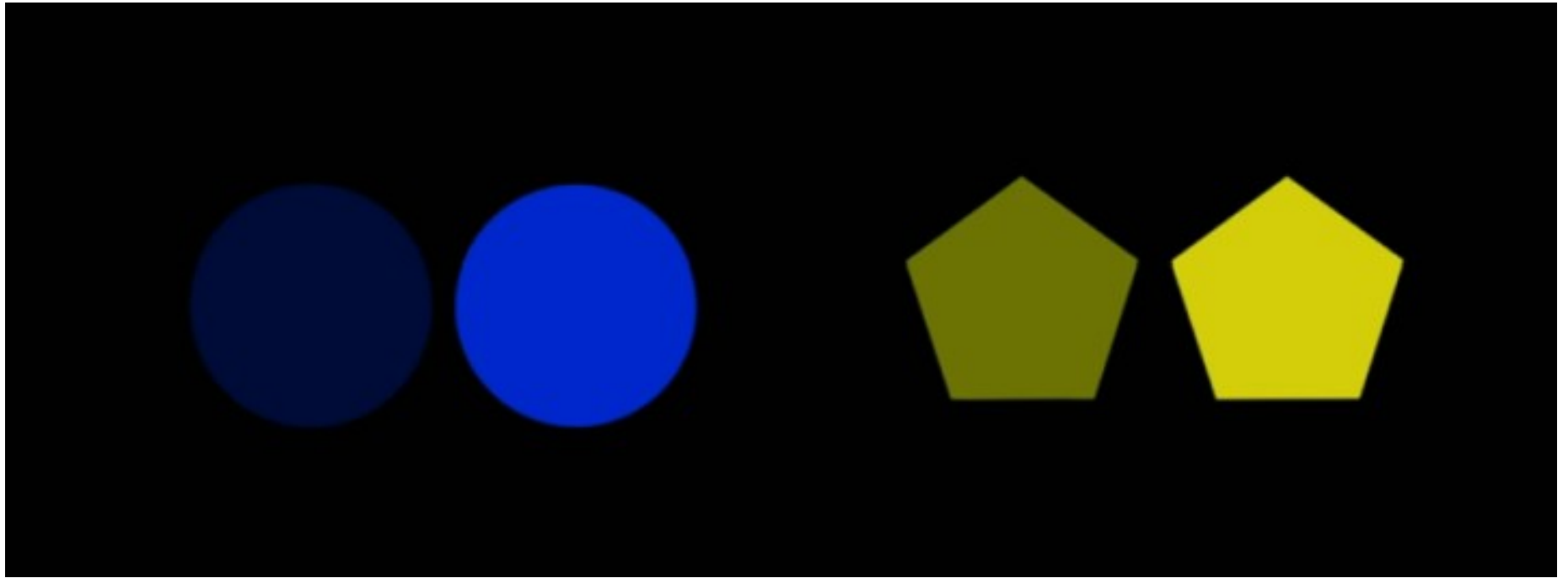
changed saturation.





changed brightness.







BW needs a good separation in TONES to make a good BW image. Think about it! (if this is not possible separation by textures might be a good alternative)

**Remember Saturation & Hue are irrelevant in a BW image!**

ONLY brightness matters in a BW Image



# Variation on tones and contrast

What is CONTRAST?

Its the difference between the brightest highlight and the darkest shadow

Tonal scale: black to white



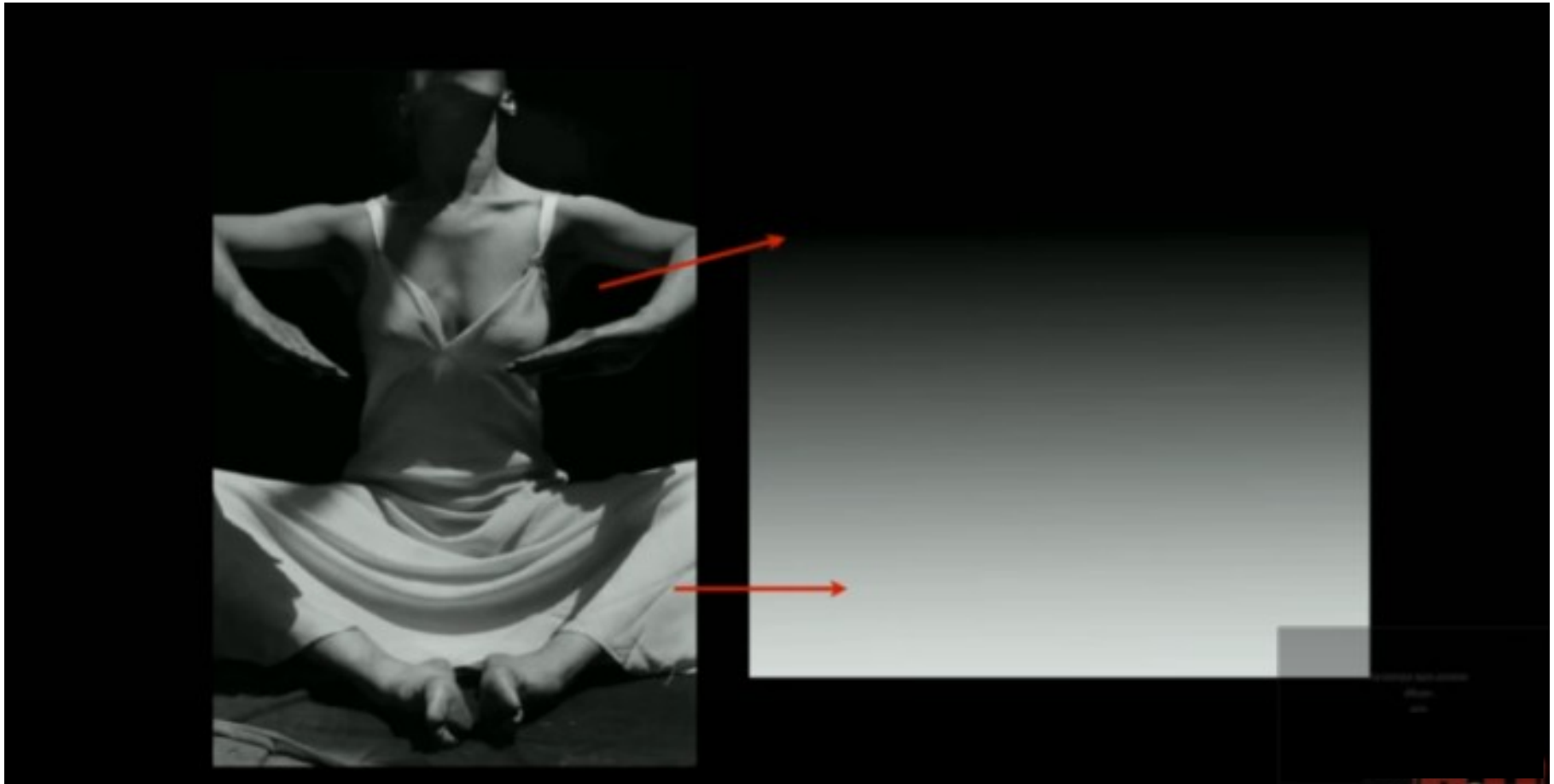
# Variation on tones and contrast

What is CONTRAST?



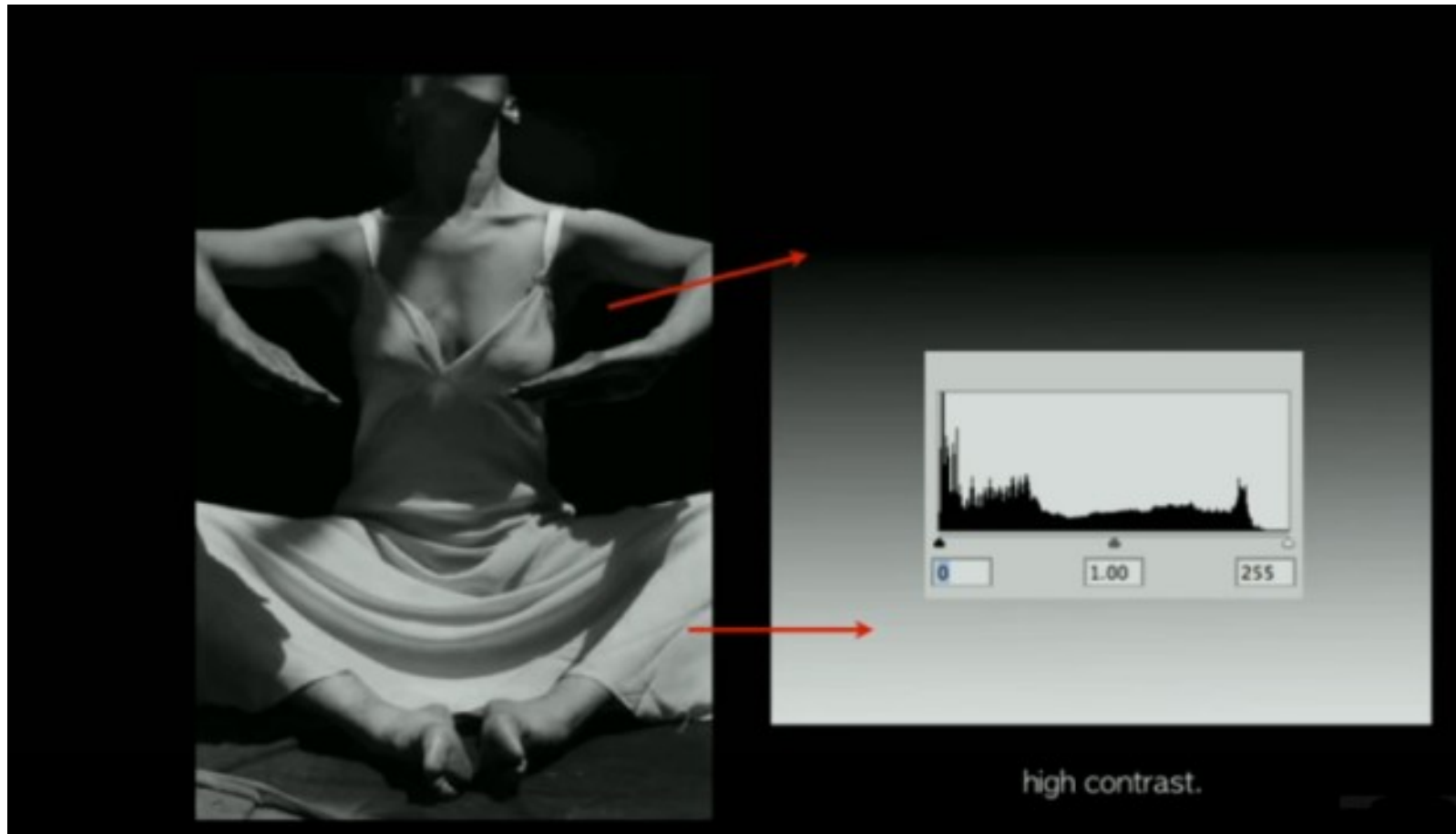
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What is CONTRAST?



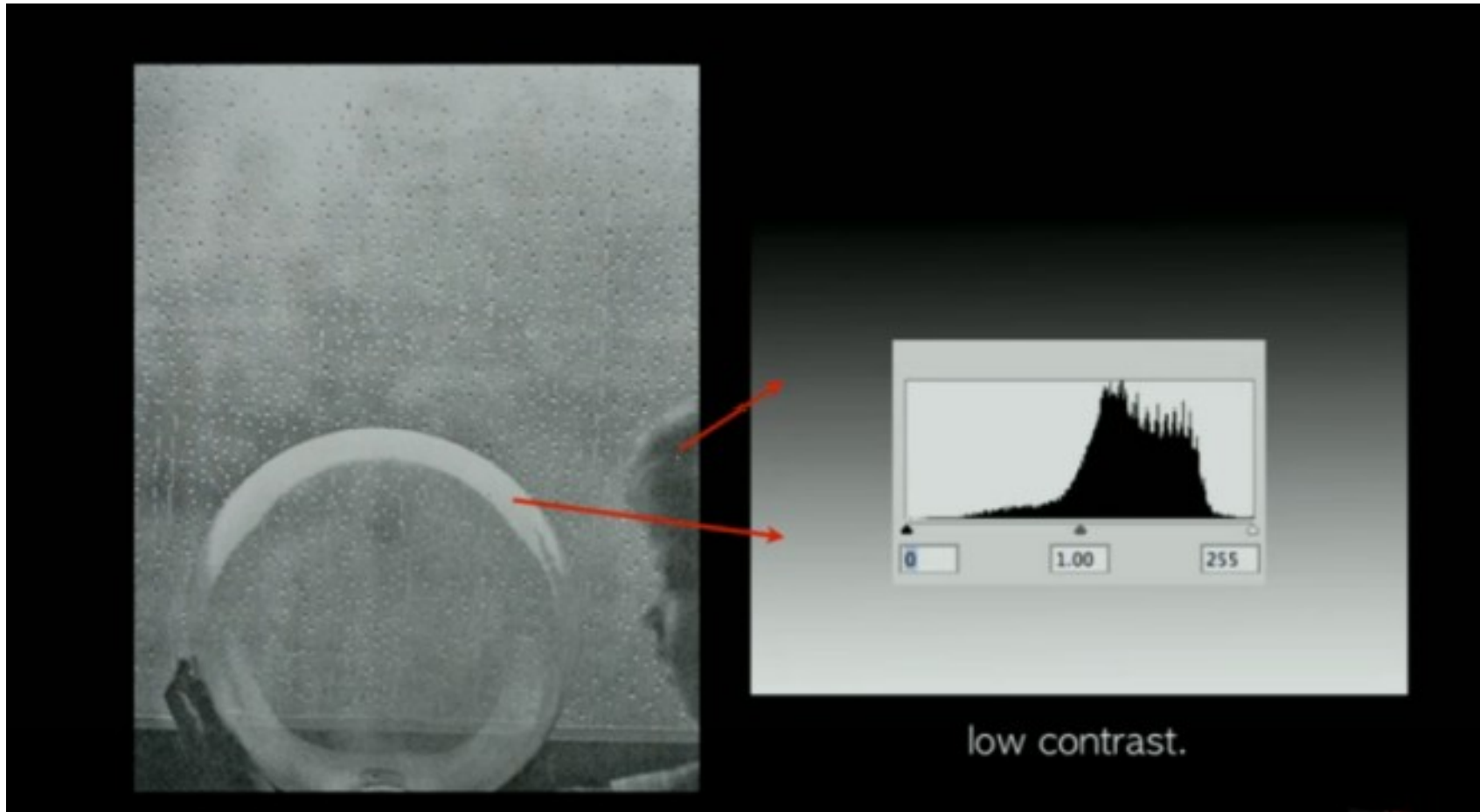
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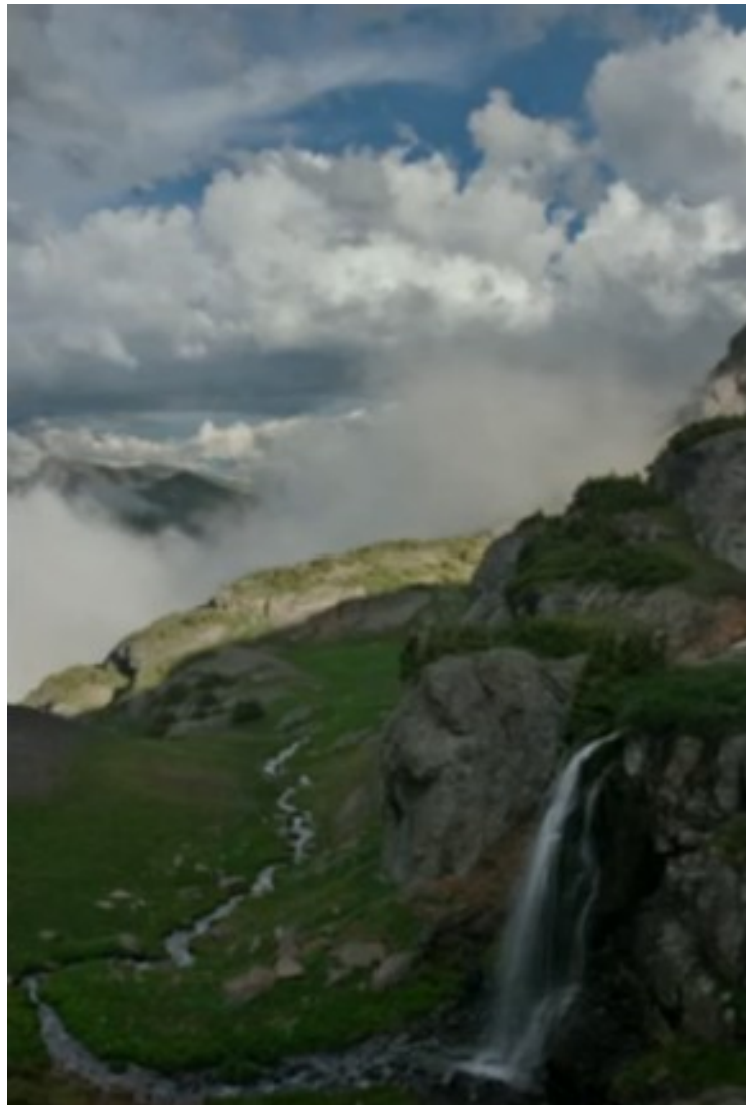




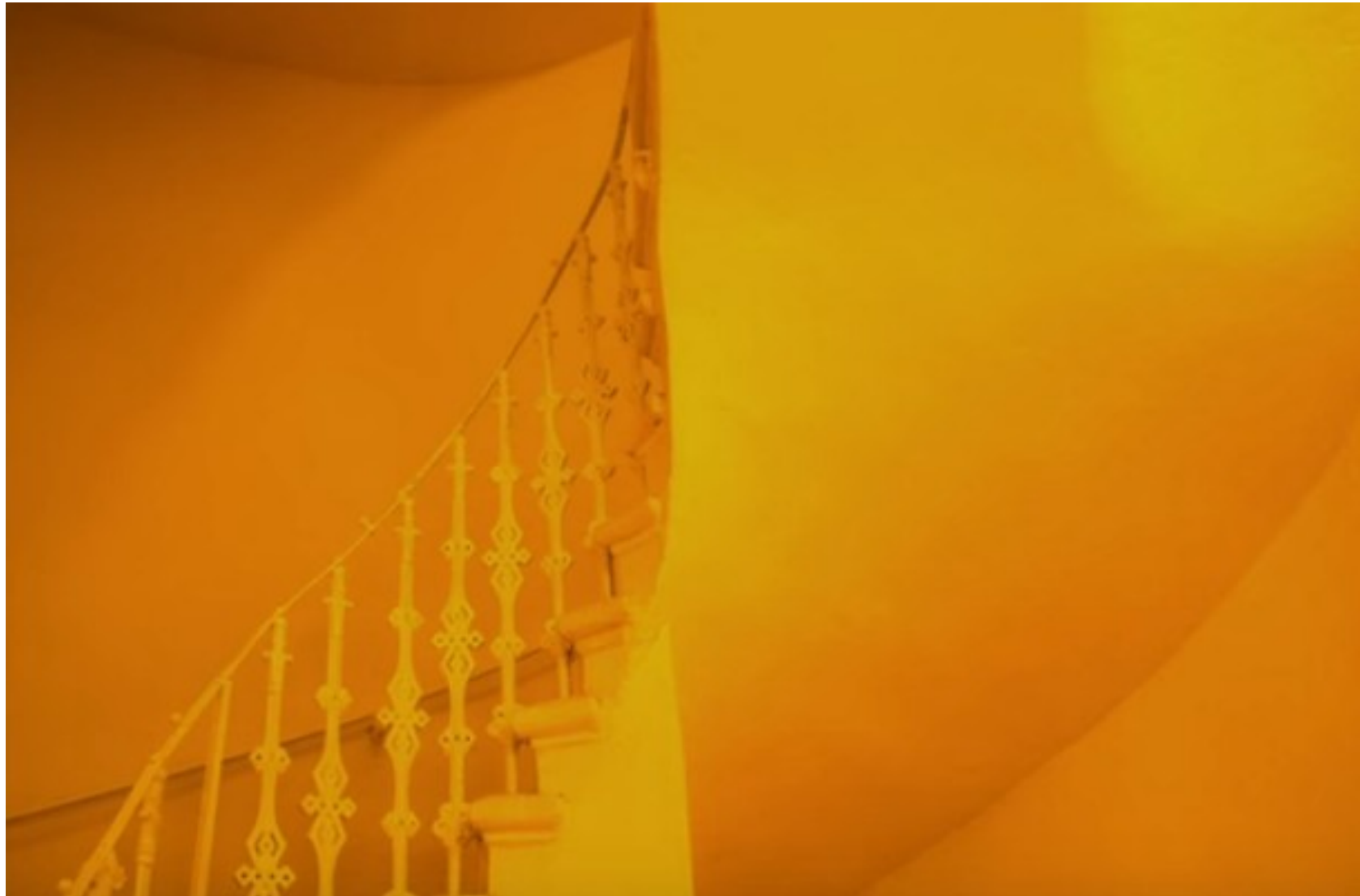
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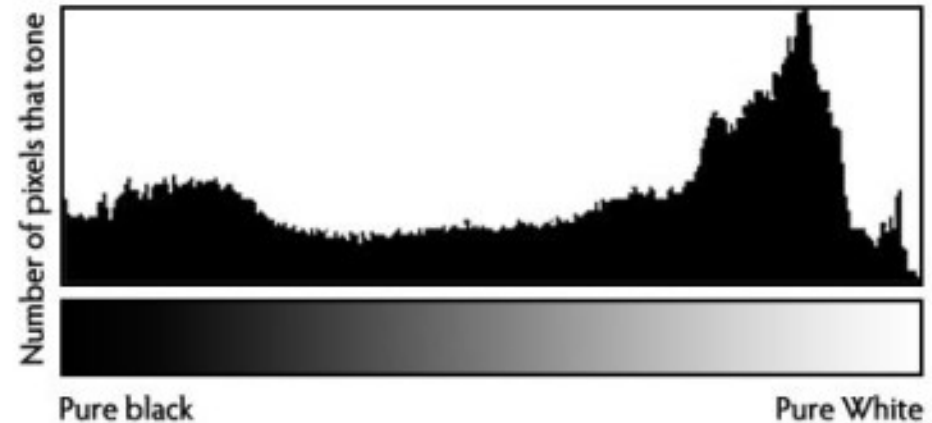


# Variation on tones and contrast

## Histogram:

... tonal range, signifies the contrast

- High Key - light, airy, uplifting
- Low Key - moody, subdued, dark, heavy, sombre



## Does the tone suit the subject matter

Easy to evoke an emotion with colour, warm sun, green grass, blue colour cast ....

Without colour need other tools to evoke emotions:

- negative space, placement, scale, weather.
- expressions, story, contrast, body language.
- association, symbols, repetition.
- separation, symmetry, long exposure (Hiroshi Sugimoto - [sugimotohiroshi.com](http://sugimotohiroshi.com))

**A lot of photojournalist choose BW, zooms in on the emotion**

# BW Tool box



negative space. placement. scale. weather.

# BW Tool box



expressions. story. contrast.

## When to Use BW

- abstract (obscure subject, its about the form)
- unexpected
- timeless
- fantasy .. far from reality
- when colour overwhelms
- much more .....

The eyes goes to:

Colour: goes to the most dominant colour

BW: eye goes to the highest contrast



# When to Use BW

- strong lines, textures & shapes
- faces & figures
- sharp areas
- bright areas.

## **Light: Direction, Quality & Temperature**

in BW temp falls away, so all the focus of light goes back to **Direction & Quality**.

Quality of Light: Soft or Hard, Back light.

Direction: Split light, Loop light, Rembrandt Lighting, Butterfly Lighting. (Broad & Short)

# Finished

(at last ...)



*Wanda Collette*

# Credits:

- Thumbs up for Eileen Rafferty, great presentation.
- Seeing in Black and White with **Eileen Rafferty** (B&H)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8Hh8S-Z68s&t=37s>
  
- More reading:
- Black and White Photography in the Digital Era (B&H)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQGtAL9lbgQ&index=2&list=PLSCsmEjQ1HDZWxurrQMFgqGOTmaGHZhi0>