

# Minimalism

By : Veronica du Plessis



# BRIEF

Minimalist Photography focuses on simplicity and its artistic style can be encapsulated by the quote, “less is more”. Minimalist photographers achieve this effect by casting aside all the unnecessary components in creating their works. See wikipedia definition and more info here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimalist\\_photography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimalist_photography)

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DEFINITION OF MINIMALISM (merriam-webster.com)

A style or technique that is characterized by extreme sparseness and simplicity

We often hear the expression *“less is more”*, and this couldn’t be more apt than when appreciating minimalism. When executed well, minimalist photography can be extremely simple but at the same time, a dramatic way to capture images.

When understanding how to achieve minimalism, the basic rule is to keep it simple. This does not mean that the image needs to be boring or uninteresting, not at all!!



Photo: Simon Bray

Try and pick a striking and engaging subject that will catch the viewers eye.

Always remember that the subject has to be the strongest element of the image, even though it may not take up the most space in your frame.

Before you take your shot, consider what you are going to include in the image, but also, what you are going to leave out. The space around a subject will accentuate it’s prominence, so look to zoom in or crop out any distractions.

Here are some tips to help you begin creating minimalist photographs:

- SIMPLICITY
- NEGATIVE SPACE
  - ISOLATION
  - LINES
- COMPOSITION
- COLOUR

# SIMPLICITY

Simple doesn't mean boring! In fact, a minimalist approach requires careful thought, observation and the creativity of working within certain boundaries – exploring how much information to keep and how much to take away from the image before it loses impact.



Photo: Dana Walton

## NEGATIVE SPACE

Negative space is the element that determines how freely the eye moves about in the image and directs the eye to a place of rest. Negative space can be smooth, textured, coloured and/or even contain some detail. The key to the amount and placement of



negative space is achieving a balance between the impact of it and your subject.

This openness is meant to create breathing room for the subject, but not lose the prominence of the subject completely.

Photo: Dana Walton

# ISOLATION

Because your image contains so little, think about the nature of your subject and how you wish it to impact the viewer.

How can you isolate your subject? What distractions need to be eliminated so that the viewer can really connect with the subject.

## TIPS:

Move around your subject until you find a way to isolate it.

If changing perspective doesn't achieve your goal, then use a shallow DOF to separate your background from the main subject.



Photo: Dana Walton



Photo: Dana Walton

# LINES

Leading lines guide the viewer's eyes through the image and can contribute to the sense of isolation, separation, distance and scale.

Many minimalism images are eye catching, featuring simple lines and appealing colours.

When you're out and about, keep your eyes open for interesting subjects that stand alone with clean lines. Look up, look down, keep searching and you will be rewarded.

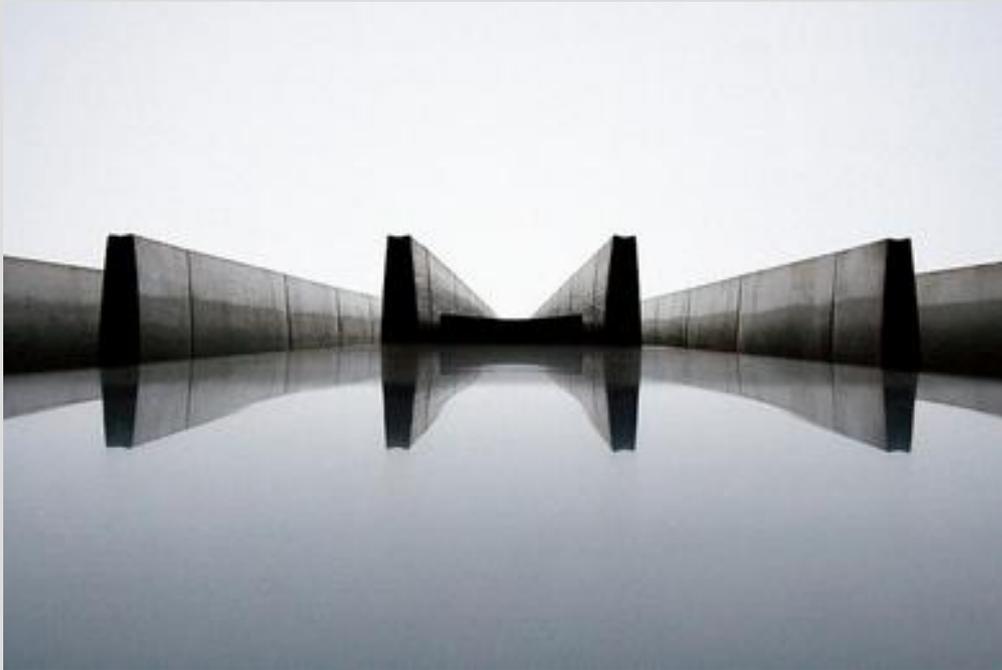


Photo: Simon Bray



Photo: Dana Walton

Can you tell a story through a photo shot in a minimalist style?

Is it possible to convey a scene or an event using reduced subject matter, colours & shapes?

To achieve this you need to incorporate some interest from light, people or movement.

Try taking a shot, using as little subject matter as possible and surprise yourself!



Photo: Simon Bray

# COMPOSITION

Composition is key and plays a very important part in minimalism photography.

An appealing placement of the subject creates ease in reading the image.

Work with thirds (or even a little tighter) when composing minimalistic images. This will help to bring the eye from left to right, or top to bottom and creates a balance without perfect symmetry.

NB: Although your subject may form the smallest element in your frame, it needs to become the most significant once the eye comes to rest on it. Be sure that your subject is sharp and in focus.



Photo: Dana Walton



Photo: Simon Bray

# COLOUR

Two ways of using colour:

- Colour can give your minimalistic photo a big dose of “wow”!  
It is all about finding complementary colours (the basic colour wheel) and finding a way to use those colours which will complement the simplicity you are trying to achieve.
- Or a simple pop of colour can be an element that draws the eye.

Use colours that compliment each other, or a combination of contrasting colours.



Photo: Simon Bray



Photo: Dana Walton

These are just some basic pointers, but there is SO much more to this artistic theme. Spend some time researching it, experimenting with it, playing around with it.....but most of all,

**have some FUN with it!!!**

Info shared in this presentation was taken  
from  
myclickmagazine.com (Dana Walton)  
&  
photography.tutspus.com (Simon Bray)

Some more information on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnDbX02zmfk>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_fdVXoXMxU0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fdVXoXMxU0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lh4lnLiYbiU>