



Overview

Minimalism in photography emphasizes simplicity and the essential elements of a composition. This approach seeks to strip away distractions, allowing the viewer to focus on the subject and its surroundings, creating a sense of calm and clarity in each image.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the principles of minimalist photography and how to apply them in practice.
- Develop skills in composition that highlight negative space and simplicity.
- Experiment with different subjects and environments to create minimalist images.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

What Is Minimalist Photography	What Is Negative Space In Photography	
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Before You Shoot

- Choose a location that embodies simplicity and has clear, uncluttered backgrounds.
- Identify a single subject that can stand out in a minimalist composition.
- Plan your shoot during times of day with soft, diffused light to enhance the minimalist aesthetic.
- Prepare your camera settings in advance to ensure you can focus on composition during the shoot.
- Consider the use of a tripod to maintain stability and control over your composition.

Assignment Tasks

1. Capture an image of a single tree in a vast field, using settings of f/4, 1/200s, ISO 100 in aperture priority mode to emphasize the isolation of the tree against the open space.
2. Photograph a simple still life arrangement of three objects on a plain background with settings of f/5.6, 1/60s, ISO 200 in manual mode to highlight the forms and textures without distractions.
3. Create a minimalist portrait of a person against a white wall, using f/2.8, 1/125s, ISO 100 in aperture priority mode to keep the focus on the subject's expression while blurring the background.
4. Document an architectural detail of a building with clean lines, using f/8, 1/250s, ISO 200 in shutter priority mode to capture sharp details and maintain clarity in the structure.
5. Take a photograph of a single flower in a vast garden, using f/2.8, 1/500s, ISO 100 in manual mode to isolate the flower and create a striking focal point against the blurred surroundings.
6. Capture a minimalist landscape at sunrise, using f/11, 1/125s, ISO 100 in landscape mode to emphasize the colors of the sky while maintaining depth of field.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of three images that each focus on different aspects of minimalism, such as shape, color, and texture, while maintaining consistent camera settings (f/5.6, 1/125s, ISO 200).
- Experiment with long exposure techniques in a minimalist setting, using f/16, 30s, ISO 100 in manual mode to capture movement in a serene landscape.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do seek out locations that have a sense of calm and simplicity.
- ✓ Do use negative space intentionally to enhance your compositions.
- ✓ Do experiment with different perspectives to find unique angles.
- ✓ Do pay attention to lighting, as it can dramatically affect the mood of minimalist images.
- ✓ Do review your images critically to identify areas for improvement in your minimalist approach.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't overcrowd your frame with multiple subjects; focus on one.
- ✗ Don't ignore the importance of background; it should complement your subject.
- ✗ Don't use overly bright or clashing colors; stick to a limited palette.
- ✗ Don't rush your compositions; take time to find the right balance.
- ✗ Don't forget to consider the story your image is telling; simplicity should enhance, not detract from it.

Reflection Questions

- What elements did you find most challenging to simplify in your compositions?
- How does the use of negative space change the viewer's perception of your subject?
- In what ways did your understanding of minimalism evolve through this assignment?
- What techniques did you find most effective in creating a minimalist image?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use a wide aperture (f/2.8) to create a shallow depth of field, isolating the subject from the background.
- Set your shutter speed to 1/125s to capture sharp images without motion blur.
- Keep your ISO low (100-200) to reduce noise and maintain image clarity.
- Utilize manual focus to ensure precise control over the focal point of your composition.
- Set your camera to RAW format for greater flexibility in post-processing.

Creative:

- Incorporate negative space effectively to draw attention to your subject and create a sense of tranquility.
- Experiment with geometric shapes and lines to create a structured composition.
- Limit your color palette to enhance the minimalist feel of your images.
- Focus on storytelling by considering how the subject interacts with its environment.
- Use repetition of shapes or patterns to create visual interest within a minimalist framework.