Basic Photography
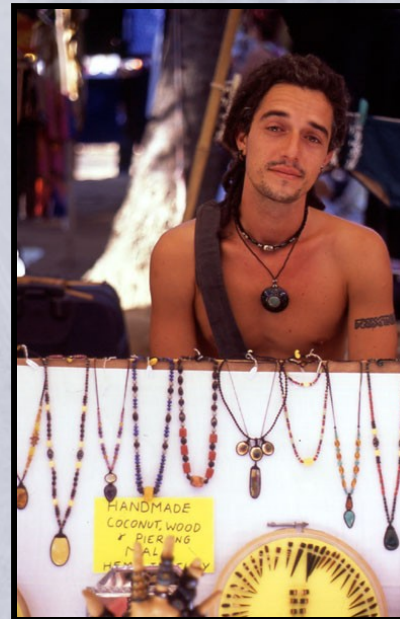
The 6 Things To Know

- **Know your camera**

- **Hold the camera still**

- **The 2-second rule**

- **Take a few more**

- **Tell a "story"**

- **Capture the "mood"**

C .E. L. L.

- **C** omposition

- **E** xposure

- **L** ens

- **L** ight

Composition

Principle 1

Un-clutter the picture. Zoom in.

*A good photograph is a **subject**, a **context**, and **nothing else**. **Remove any clutter** that detracts from your message. **Get closer -- zoom in -- and crop as tightly as possible***

Composition

unless it's a reflection

Principle 2

Put subject off-centre / Rule of thirds

*The **center of the frame** is the **weakest place** -- it's static, dull, and gives no value to the context. The more you move the subject **away from the center**, the more **relevance** you give to the context*

Composition

Principle 3

Use of frames, lines & diagonals

*Create **impact** by using **frames** and **real or inferred lines** that lead the viewer's eye into and around the picture*

Principle 4

Composition

Dramatic Perspective

*Create **impact** by **photographing** your subjects from **unexpected angles.** Imagine yourself as an **electron** spinning around the **subject,** which is the **nucleus** of an **atom***

Exposure

- Aperture

- Shutter speed

- ISO

Aperture: F/5.6   Shutter Speed: 1/400 sec.   ISO: 100

Aperture: F/20   Shutter Speed: 1/125 sec.   ISO: 400

Aperture: **General Rules and tips**

- A larger lens opening (f1.8-3.5) offers the following advantages:

  - Allows you to **shoot more often with just natural lighting** → helps to reduce harsh shadows and red-eye caused by flash.

  - Allows more light to pass through, the camera will be able to **choose a slightly higher shutter speed** → helps to reduce motion blur.

  - Helps to reduce "depth-of-field" (for effect).

Aperture

Principle

Affect depth of field (range of distance in focus)

*When shooting a **landscape**, **as much** of the photograph **in sharp focus as possible** (f11 to f22). In a **portrait**, shallower dof (f2.8-8) will **isolate your subject** from **distracting backgrounds***

Shutter speed: General Rules and tips

- To capture **blur-free "action" photographs** (e.g. Sports), you need to make sure the camera is using a **high shutter speed, e.g.1/125th of a second** or more.

- Less light gets through to the imager as shutter speed is increased, thus **difficult to use higher shutter speeds in lower light situations**.

- Alternatives: Allow more light to pass through the lens (**larger aperture setting**), the other is to **increase the ISO**

Principle

Freezing motion (achieve the desired effect)

Absolutely sharp images *are not always the best. They can look* ***static and dull.*** *At slow shutter speeds the camera blurs the image of moving objects, and can* ***create a more convincing image of movement***.

ISO: General Rules and tips

- ISO settings are often rated at 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, and even 3200 on some models

- Use an **ISO of 100 or 200** when taking photographs outside in sunny conditions.

- If the sky is overcast or it is evening time, or in a darkened room, then use an ISO within the range of **400 to 800**.

- Night time or in cases of low light you might need to set your digital camera **ISO** to **1600**. If not your photo will appear too dark, if at all.

ISO Setting

Set the lowest setting possible to avoid noise

*ISO measures the **sensitivity of the image sensor**. The lower the number the less sensitive your camera is to light and the **finer the grain**.*

ISO 100

ISO 3200
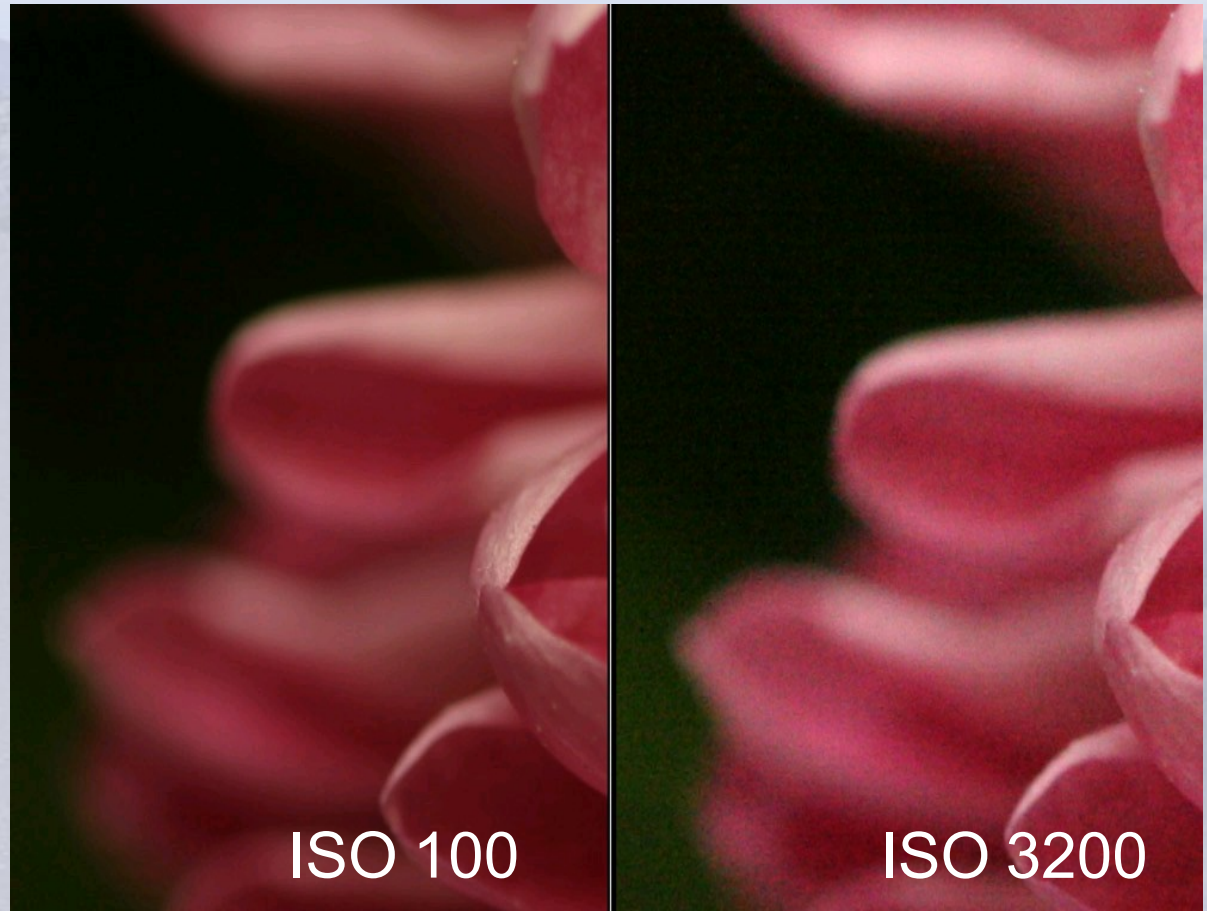
Principle

Wide Angle (35mm) or Telephoto (70mm)

Wide-angle lenses allow *more of a picture* to be captured (need *focal point*) while *telephoto lenses* tighten the scene and isolate the *subject* (but affect the *depth of field* & increase *camera shake*)

Light

Principle 1

Avoid using flash, even for night shots

*The indiscriminate blast of flash destroys the **intimate mood** of **existing light***

Light

Principle 2

Side Lighting instead of front or overhead (noon-time) lighting

*The use of **frontal flash lighting** tends to **flatten** faces.*

*Use **side lighting** as much as possible, even moving your subject, if necessary, next to a window.*
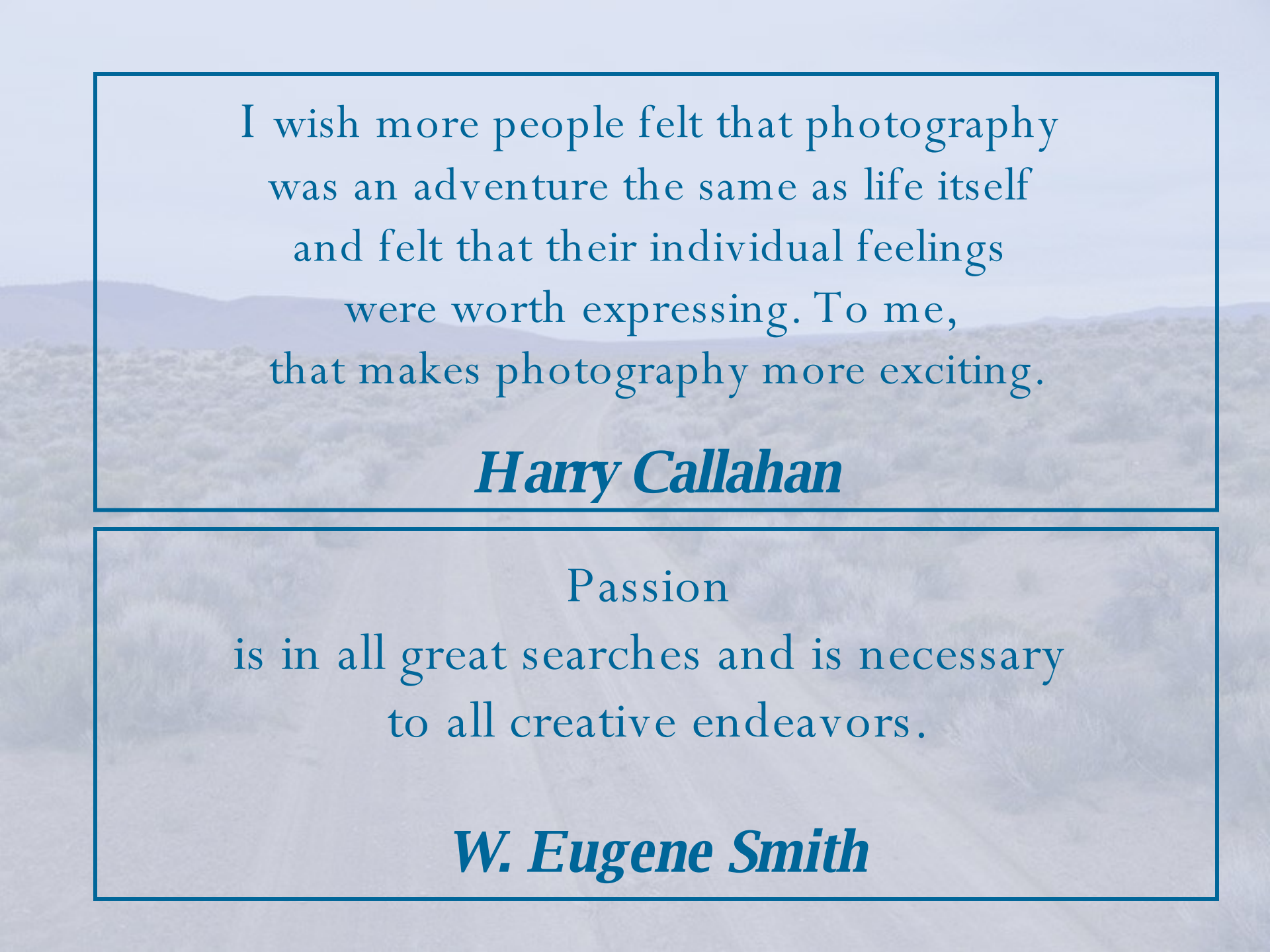
Light

Principle 3

Use fill-in flash, for backlit situations or overhead sun.

*Overhead sun creates **dark eye sockets and unattractive shadows**, which can be reduced by using a flash. Use fill-in flash also for situations where the **subject is backlit** (camera auto exposure will be confused)*

Free Online Lessons

- **http://www.shortcourses.com/using**

- **http://www.agfanet.com/en/**

- **http://www.betterphoto.com**

- **http://www.fodors.com/focus/**

- **http://www.photosecrets.com/p00.html**

I wish more people felt that photography was an adventure the same as life itself and felt that their individual feelings were worth expressing. To me, that makes photography more exciting.

Harry Callahan

Passion is in all great searches and is necessary to all creative endeavors.

W. Eugene Smith