



# Intentional Seeing

Making Photographs vs. Taking Pictures

*A Jefferson County Photography Club Workshop*



# Introduction

"You don't take a photograph, you make it."  
– Ansel Adams



# Spontaneous vs. Thoughtful

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- **Intentional seeing** – the practice of actively observing a scene before clicking the shutter.
- A **snapshot**: A quick, instinctive capture of a moment, often taken without much thought.
- A **photograph**: A carefully composed image where the photographer has considered light, subject, and composition.
- Snapshots have their place – they capture memories and spontaneous moments.
- We want to take that further by making images that tell stories and evoke deeper meaning and emotion.

OK...no more stock photography!





# Snapshot vs. Photograph: What differences do you notice?







Photo by: Chris Bowers

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# Change YOUR Perspective

- **Slow Down** and Observe: Train yourself to notice details, light, and composition before shooting.
- Before your next shot, pause for 5+ seconds. Ask yourself:
  - What's the subject?
  - What's in the frame?
  - What's the light doing?
- What could be done to improve this photo?

# Seeing Past the Obvious

- Imagine we have the photo challenge: *“Something old”*
- You select a telephone from the 1950s
- Before clicking the shutter:
  1. Change perspective (high, low, side angle)
  2. Play with lighting (shadows, reflections)
  3. Focus on textures and details
  4. Use our composition rules (rule of thirds, leading lines, golden ratio...)



Photo by: Chris Bowers

How does this image make you feel?



# Same Phone



Photo by: Chris Bowers



Photo by: Chris Bowers

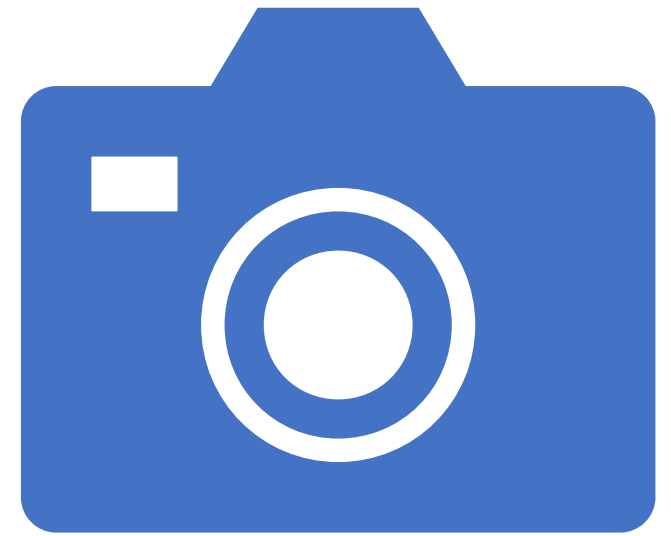
## Intentional Images

- Change your perspective
- Move the piece if you need to (are able to)
- Adjust the lighting
- Imagine creative treatments before you click the shutter

How do these images make you feel?

# Key Takeaways

- **Slow down – art is thoughtful**
- Assess through your viewfinder
- What do you want the viewer to feel?
- Imagine the finished photograph
- Try different perspectives
- Apply composition rules
- Adjust lighting
- **Slow down – art is thoughtful**





## Tonight's Challenge

Take some time to explore the gallery:

- See the details (and the beauty in them)
- Remember the history (and look for it)
- Notice the flaws (and know they can be part of the story)

Intentionally make a set of artistic photographs to be viewed at our next meeting.

Remember: do not simply photograph others' art! That is plagiarism.