

The Elements of Natural Composition



BRYAN HANSEL
PHOTOGRAPHY

Vs. This



What is Composition?



The arrangement of compositional elements (shapes, patterns, lines, textures and color) within a frame.

A good composition arranges those elements with impact.

Good composition is merely the strongest way of seeing.

—Edward Weston

Basic Principles of Composition



- 1) Simplicity of subject matter
 - Selection of Compositional Elements
 - Use of minimum number of compositional elements to achieve your goal
- 2) Creating visual flow to lead the viewer's eyes through the photo
 - Placing visually weighty items effectively
 - Create flow through arrangement of compositional elements
 - Address image balance
- 3) Creating relationships
 - Comp technique
 - Tripod placement/lens choice
 - Echo, contrast, fit, expand

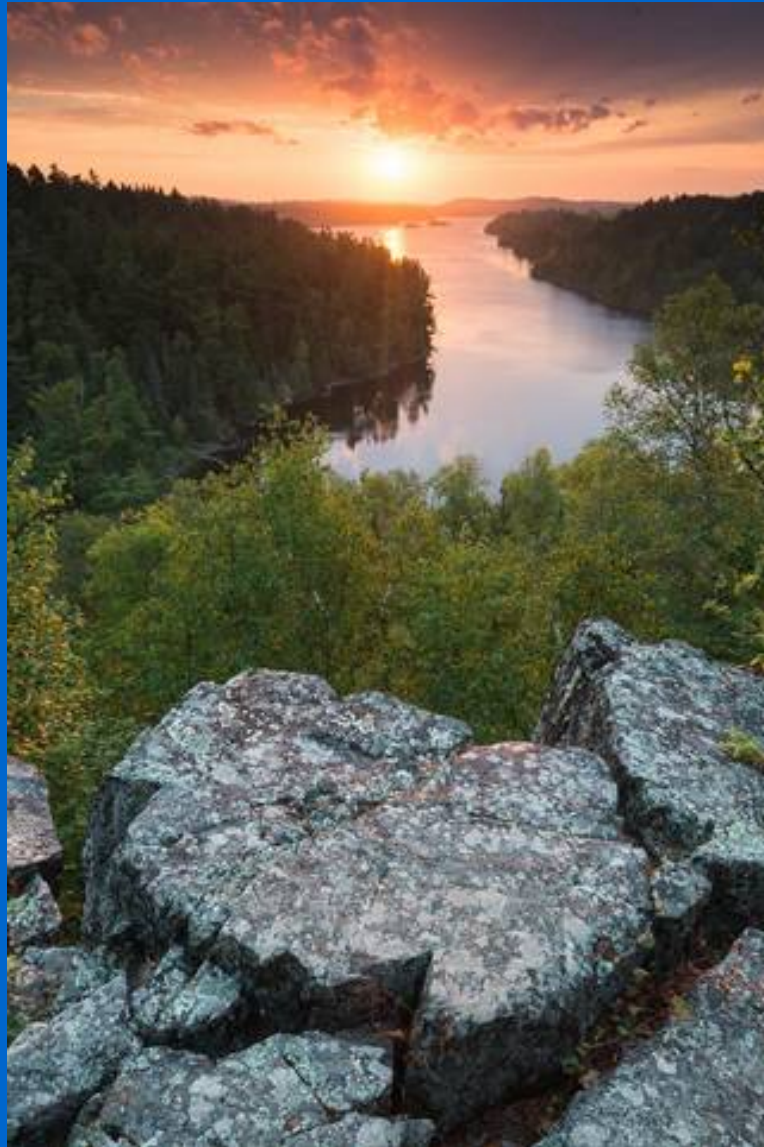
Comp Element: Shapes



Comp Element: Shapes



Comp Element: Shapes



Comp Element: Lines



Comp Element: Lines



Comp Element: Lines



Comp Element: Lines



Comp Element: Lines



Comp Element: Lines



Comp Element: Textures



Comp Element: Textures



Comp Element: Textures



Comp Element: Colors



Comp Element: Colors



Comp Element: Colors



Comp Element: Colors



Comp Element: Patterns



Comp Element: Patterns



Comp Element: Patterns



Trick Question



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Visual Weight and Balance



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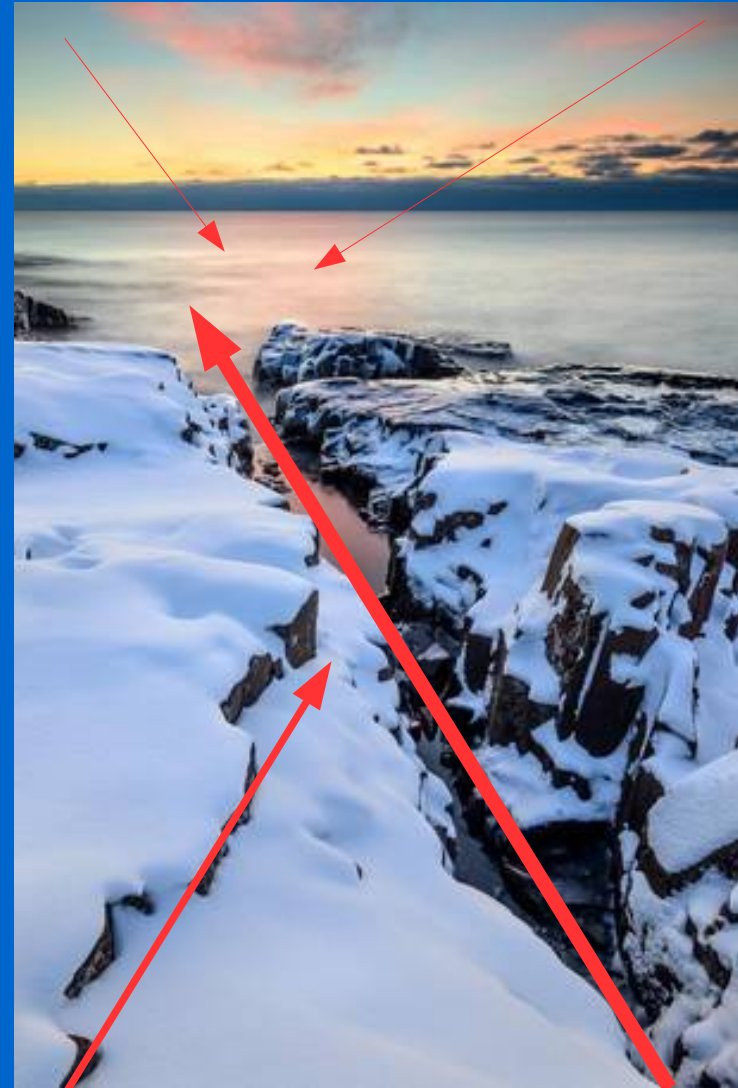
Visual Weight and Balance



Flow: How the Eyes Move Through the Image



Flow: How the Eyes Move Through the Image



Flow: How the Eyes Move Through the Image



Flow: How the Eyes Move Through the Image



Flow: How the Eyes Move Through the Image



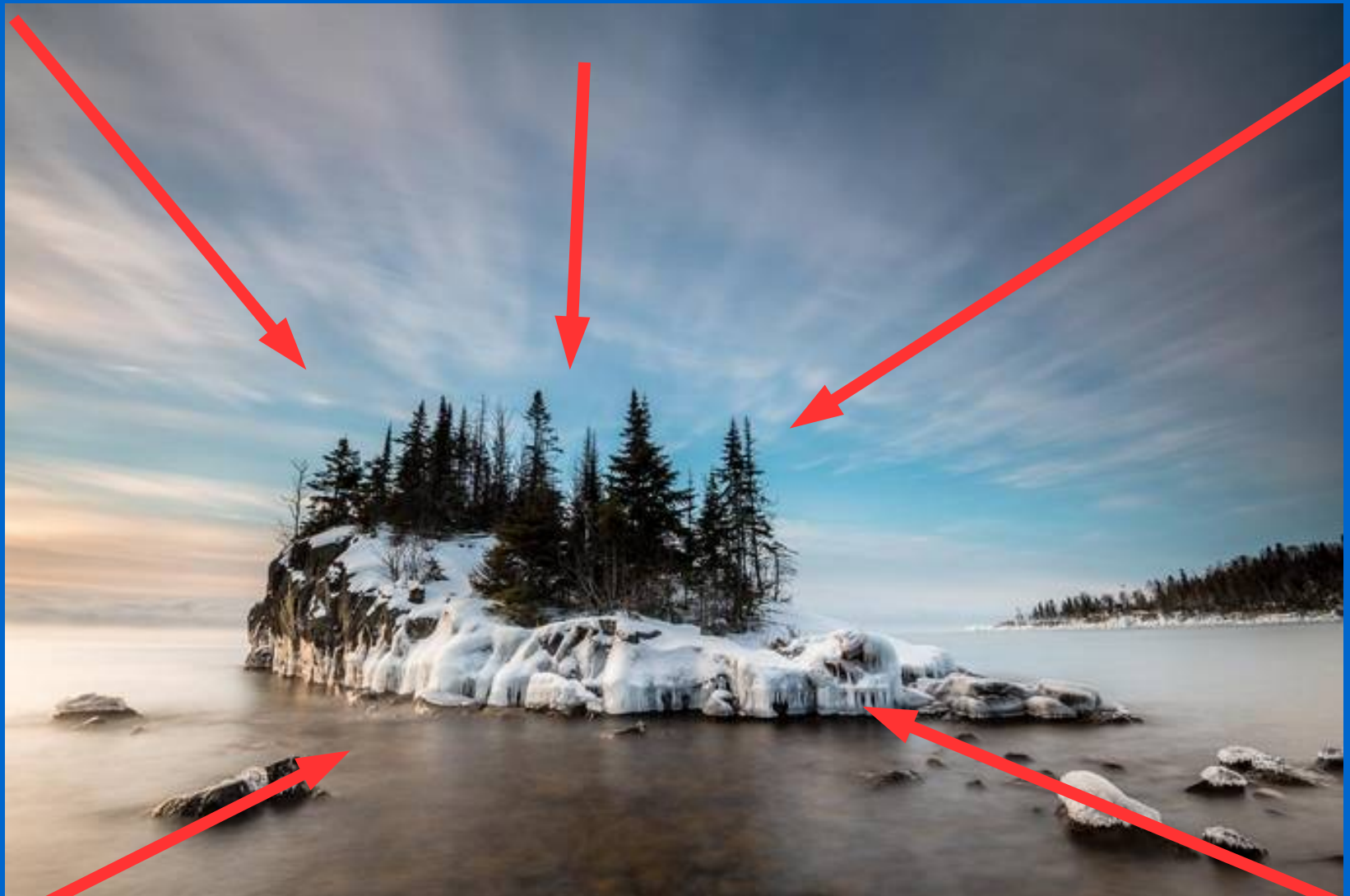
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Technique: Near/Far

- Divide the photo into three parts: foreground, middle, background
- Fill the foreground with something interesting.
- Fill the background with something interesting.
- Fill the middle with something interesting that helps connect the foreground and background.



Technique: Near/Far



Technique: Near/Far



Technique: Near/Far



Comp Technique: Perspective



Comp Technique: Perspective



Focal Length

- Use it for three main things:
 - Zoom in
 - Limiting the angle of view
 - Create compression
 - Manipulate background



Focal Length



Focal Length - Compression



Focal Length - Compression



Focal Length - Compression



Focal Length - Compression



Focal Length - Compression



Focal Length - Compression



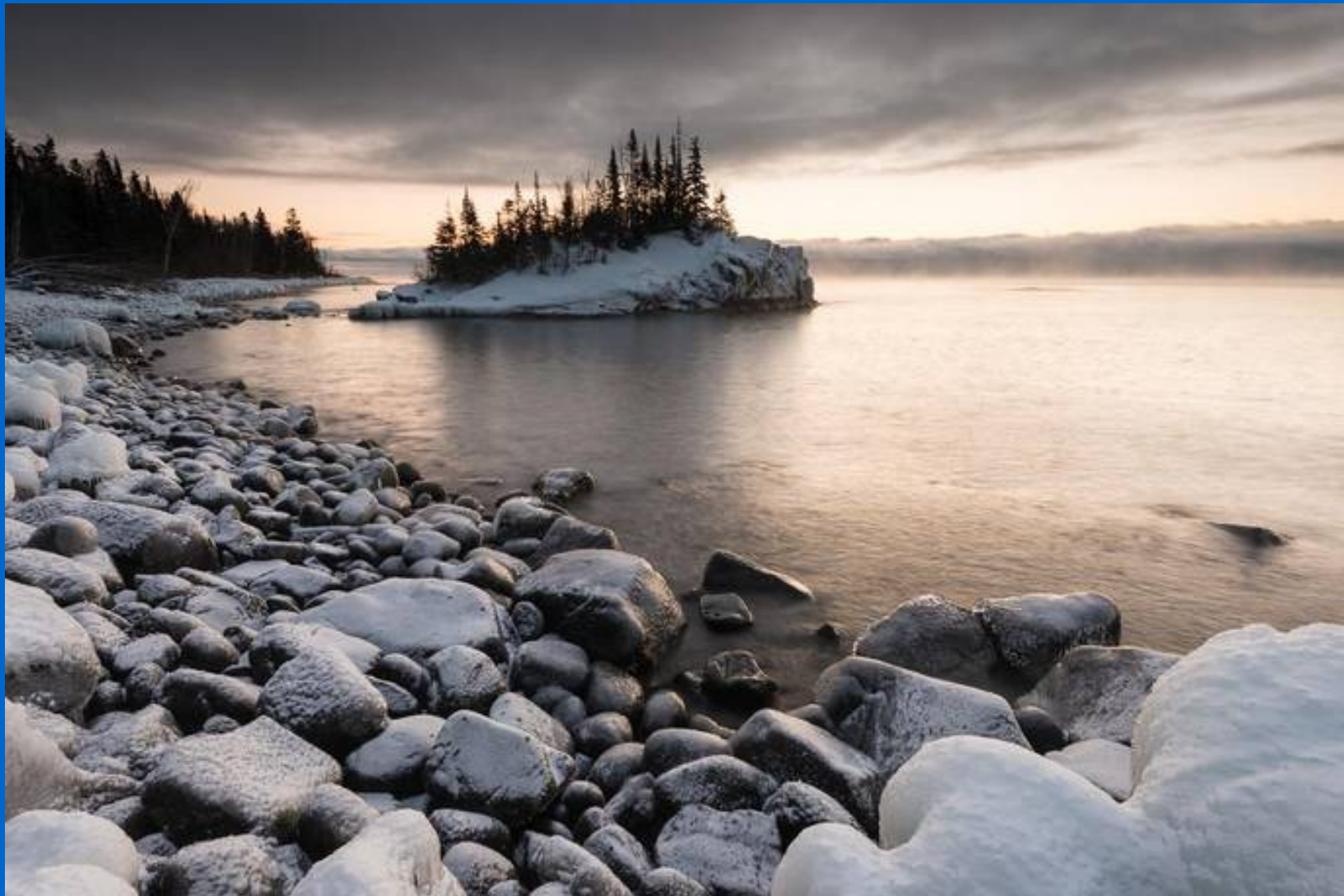
Focal Length - Compression



Focal Length - Compression



Focal Length – Background



Focal Length – Background



Focal Length – Background



Focal Length – Background



Focal Length: Maximize Sunset



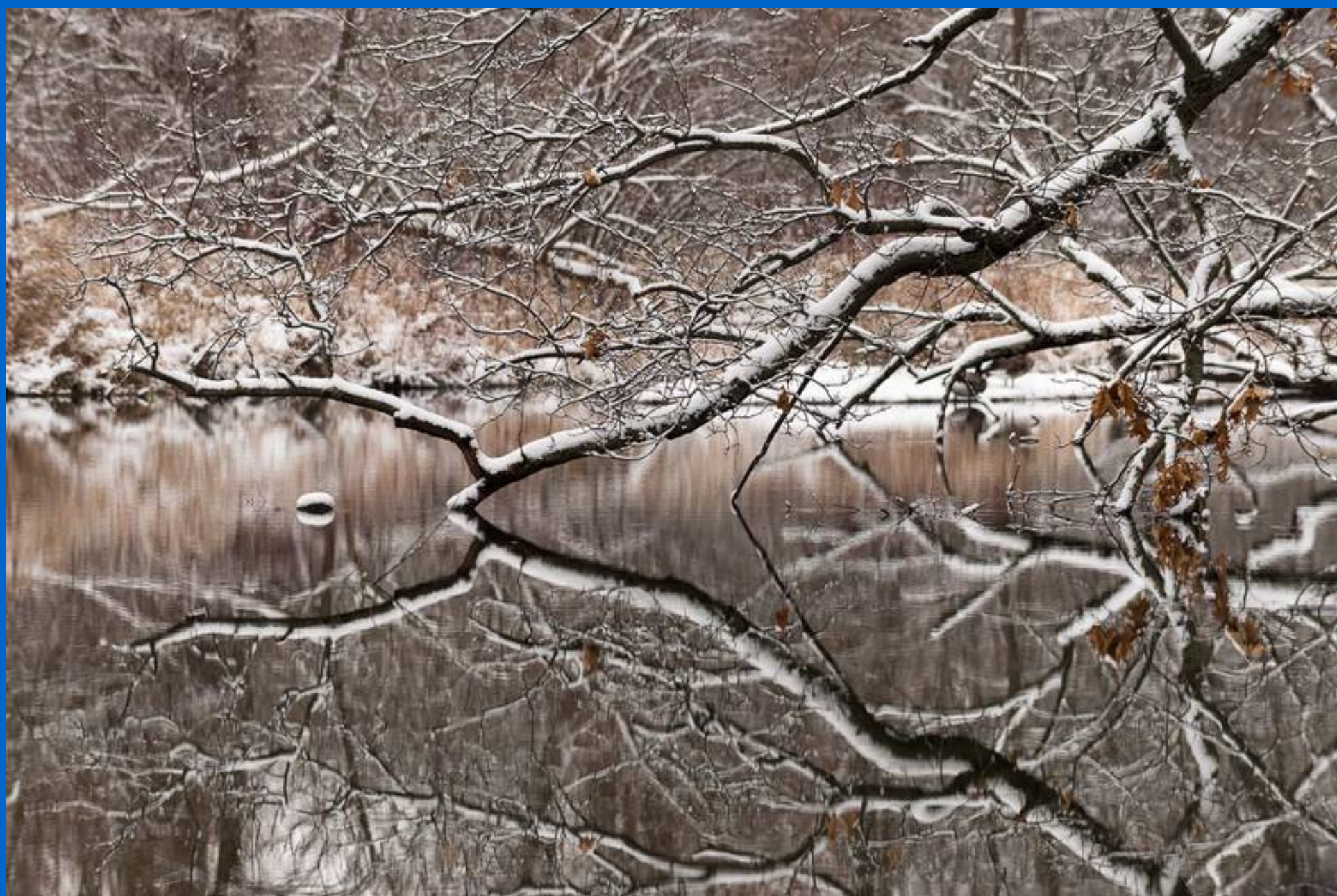
Echo, contrast, fit and expansion



Juxtaposition: Echo







Juxtaposition: Contrast







Juxtaposition: Fit



Juxtaposition: Fit



: Expansion



Juxtaposition: Expansion







Juxtaposition: Test



Composition: Test



Simplicity

Flow

Relationships

Questions?



Photography Workshops



Photography Workshops



Register at www.bryanhansel.com

- February 12 to 14, 2016 — Lake Superior Winter Photo Workshop
- April 16-17, 2016 — Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge Photography Workshop
- April 22 to 24, 2016 — Spring Waterfall Photography Workshop
- May 19-22 — Spring in Theodore Roosevelt National Park Photography Workshop - NEW
- June 22 to 26, 2016 — Badlands and the Black Hills Photography Workshop - NEW
- June 17 to 19, 2016 — North Shore Wildflower Photography Workshop - NEW
- August 3 to 7th, 2016 — Northern Night Skies: Night Photography Workshop -
- Labor Day Weekend, 2016 — Night Skies of the Gunflint Trail
- September 27 to October 2, 2016 — North Shore Fall Photography Workshop
- October 20 to 23, 2016 — Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fall Photography Workshop
- November 4 to 6, 2016 — Gales of November Photography Workshop
- December 2 to 4, 2016 — Badlands National Park Photography Workshop

