



Vignettes 163

January 11th, 2023

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Club News

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. A good turnout of 30 of us tuned in to the first (Zoom) club night of the new year which proved to be a very educational one with Ian Howard giving us a very enlightening and instructive evening of images across a wide range of genres.

Ian gives his talks for free but requests that we send a donation to The British Heart Foundation. With nearly 40 Club talks planned for this year, he is clearly very generous with his time and, on my reckoning, the BHF will benefit to the tune of a few thousand pounds as a result.



One notable feature of Ian's talk was his detailed explanation of his approach to each genre and each image. What he 'saw', his approach, what contextual information existed and how he could apply his set of 'rules' to achieve his objectives were all explained in detail. Whilst a lot can be put down to his extensive experience, (and there's nothing like experience to improve your photography), it was clear from Ian's slides that the key principles he discussed at the beginning of his talk made a big difference in creating his images even if some judges didn't like them! No change there! It's as if we need a crib sheet card in our camera bag to help remind us what to look out for and keep us on the 'straight and narrow'. 'Colour wheel' complementary colours, cropping 'to a golden' section, balance, use of '3's and 5's, negative space, 'tension', context etc can all contribute to improving image taking. We can all learn a lot from this approach.

Ian reminded us of that very good adage that, at the end of the day, it's our picture so don't be afraid to break the rules but if you do, make it intentional. I particularly liked his unusual close up abstract images and his street/graffiti ones. All in all a very good night. Ian has since sent a copy of his talk handout which is attached as an appendix and which we will put on the Club's 'OneDrive' if you want to have another look.

Just to finish, a few questions came up during the evening which we grappled with, and a few members have been in touch with comments to add to my own experience.



Polarising filters

This is the sort of thing you learn from bitter experience. In essence, a polarising filter won't work lower than a focal length (full frame) of about 20mm. Here's a good summary from a blog site which replicates one of my early holiday experiences with a wide angle lens.

A polarizer will work generally well on anything above about 20mm of focal length. The issue is that a circular polarizer works by blocking light polarized in a certain plane in the sky, dependent upon the angle between the lens, the sky and the sun. If that angle changes, the polarizing effect changes. With wide angle lenses which cover a very broad angle of view, you see a wide variation in this angle between lens, sun and sky causing a significant variation in the effect of the polarizer. The result is a sky that is darkened in some places and not darkened in other places - it looks pretty bad and blotchy. My experience shows that above 20mm, you are usually OK. In the 20-25mm range, you could see some small variability in their effect across the image in some circumstances - it will depend upon the exact circumstances whether you notice a variable effect in the sky or not. There is less of a adverse visual impact if sky is not included because of the plane angle with the sun.

That's exactly what I found so be warned.

Cropping in Lightroom

Ian's reference to 'fixed' cropping option grids (Golden sections etc) available in Photoshop is, as someone mentioned on the night, also available in Lightroom. Here's David Wallis:

Hi Martyn, Like you I was unaware of grids in Lightroom. If you go to the crop button this will normally give a grid. The "O" key will toggle the various grids. Easy when you know How!

Thanks David. Glad it's not just me!!

Colour Space

As someone mentioned, a subject matter worthy of a talk all on its own! I raised the apparent anomaly between the camera colour space settings (most DSLR's have sRGB or Adobe RGB) and the greater colour space options in processing software. Stephen responded, commenting that he recalled that the camera colour space settings are JPEG based and shooting in RAW is not affected by the settings. It struck a chord with me and David Wallis sent a follow up email:

Hi Martyn. The attached is quite a good description. Nikon I am afraid. [what!!]

<https://masteryournikon.com/2018/10/31/which-color-space-is-best-for-nikon-users/>

I think that with RAW it does not matter as you can easily change the colour space in Lightroom of Photoshop. However, even when taking RAW the image shown on the camera screen will be jpg and in the sRGB space. Thus it may be better to set camera to sRGB if shooting RAW but to AdobeRGB if only shooting Jpgs.

This might be a good project to take images with different settings to see what happens. Hope this helps. David

Thanks David. By the way, if you've not fallen asleep, I reprinted a couple of articles on Colour Space in V157.

These are Ian Howard's websites:

<https://www.eastkentphotography.com/>

<https://www.lensclof.com/>

<https://www.ekpgallery.com/>

Club night - 23rd Jan. Multiple Exposures practical night

Just a reminder that if anyone would like to share their experiences of experimenting with Multiple Exposures (the Comp 'E' set subject coming up) you are very welcome to join Mike and Stephen in giving us a few pointers before we have a go ourselves later in the evening.

Club night - 30th Jan - Speed Learning

Another date that is fast looming thanks to the idea from Jill and Liz. This is a night where the intention is to spread the word of all things photography and the evening is intended to be a light-hearted / fun / informative hands on event, with members bringing in cameras, equipment, books, tripods etc with an end goal of information sharing, but in a structured way. More info to follow in the next Vignettes.

Where's the Club's calibration 'Spyder'?

Brian Dinnage is looking to borrow the club's calibration Spyder so if you have it, either let me know or, better still, bring it along next Monday.

365 Challenge - Su's been back in touch

Following last week's Vignettes slot from Sue about the 365 challenge and her intro last Monday, she's been back in touch with a bit more info:

365 Challenge

Hi everyone. If you're still thinking about starting a '365 challenge' it's not too late.

There are plenty of online resources to provide prompts or inspiration:

<https://expertphotography.com/365-photo-challenge-calendar/>

and this one is all set up ready <https://365project.org>

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/how-to-do-a-photography-365-challenge>

<https://www.iphotography.com/blog/365-photography-challenge/>

It can be a personal project but if you want to share your images then Instagram is a platform a number of club members are using and posting with the hashtag #cirenc365 will allow users to see all the club-related images. If you've not used Instagram before there's some info on getting started here: <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/how-to-use-instagram>

Good luck

Sue

Miscellaneous

Cheltenham Salon of Photography 2023 (CISP)

Just to let you know that entries are now open for the 2023 CISP. Here's the details:

<https://cheltenhamcameraclub.uk/salon-2023/>

Nature In Art, Twigworth. International Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition IW POTY

Is it me or is everything coming around just a bit too quickly these days!!? Anyway, one annual exhibition not to be missed, and one we are fortunate to have on our doorstep, is the IW POTY at Nature in Art, Twigworth which runs 7th Feb - 2nd April. It seems a bit shorter this year - just over three weeks but definitely one for the calendar. Here's the link:

<https://natureinart.org.uk/event/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-2023/>

WCPF 2023 Knightshayes Trophy - Notice & Entry form for Club Members

We've just received this notice:

We are pleased to announce that the 2023 Knightshayes Trophy will return as a live event to be held on Saturday, 11 March at the Bovey Tracey Golf Club. The 2023 competition is for Prints only and this year's set subject is "Decisive Moment". Club members may each enter one or two mounted prints. Hand-in your prints on Sunday 5th February 2023 at the Exeter Corn Exchange (DPIC) or pass to any WCPF Exec member prior to that date.

Please find attached an advance notice (in word and pdf format) with full details of the arrangements and entry form.

Best wishes & good luck!

Stephen Jones

Secretary WCPF

secretary.wcpf@gmail.com

www.thewcpf.com

BBC Pictures

Another selection from the BBC's website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-64185167>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-64204674>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-64130541>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64162455>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-64055153>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-64173286>

Volunteers

Here's our regular volunteer spot for in house club events over the season. It's edging forward slowly as names are added. All we need is a few volunteers to just to be part of a team for the evening. In most cases it won't be for more than 20 minutes or so. From our experience time flies at these events and there's no doubt that you learn from the experience as a presenter. Once we have enough people we will liaise on which aspect each volunteer will talk about. We'll add members to each event as we get them:

So, at the moment here's the following 'In House' events which will require member input along with the latest volunteers:

23rd January - Multiple Exposures - *A timely dedicated genre which is the subject of a club competition (submission Feb). An opportunity for a few members to share their experiences, advise on techniques and we'll set some tables up to have a go.*

1. *Mike Cheeseman using strobe flash*
2. *Stephen Chapman*

30th Jan - Speed learning - *(not to be confused with speed dating!) more info to come..*

6th March - Take 5 - *5 member led 20 min presentation on their burning photography issues we all might learn from. Totally diverse and open to anyone with something to share.*

1. *Martyn Smith - Camera bags (a light hearted look!)*
2. *Dave Cahill - Blipfoto*
3. *Paul Norris - Straight pictures – what is the ‘driver’ to enhance the image in your camera.*
4. *Paul Jones - Non-competitive image presentation*

17th April - The Panel Challenge(s) - *The Panel Challenge is being expanded this year to provide for a dedicated Smart Phone Panel. We’re working on the rules so watch this space. No volunteers needed but just a heads up of what’s to come.*

17th April - Then and now - *As the Panel Challenges may not take up the whole evening we are working on a new idea from John Smith for members to revisit and capture old Cotswold postcard locations for an evening of ‘then and now’ images - watch this space. However, here’s a taster from the BBC’s website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-62820981>*

Date to be Confirmed - Travelogue Night - *Member led presentation giving tips on where to take great images. Short stay, long stay holidays (Uk and abroad), staying local, days out - just about anywhere you fancy.*

1. Sue Gunnee - TBC.
2. Martyn Smith - Holy Island.
3. Andy Kennedy - Manhattan.
4. Paul Norris - Near and Far - what inspires me on holiday.
5. Paul Jones - New Zealand
6. Alun & Val - Tye Outer Hebrides (subject to dates)

This Season's Club Competitions 2022 - 2023

	Competition Set & Open	Submission Date	Judging Night
A	Abstract + Open	03/10/22	31/10/22
B	Reflections + Open	31/10/22	05/12/22
C	Urban / Street photography + Open	05/12/22	16/01/23
D	Fog / steam / mist / smoke + Open	16/01/23	20/02/23
E	Multiple exposures + Open	27/02/23	27/03/23
Annual	2021-22 Annual competition	03/04/23	24/04/23

Club Competitions – Set Subject A-E Definitions

A: ABSTRACT

Abstract photography is the art of capturing subjects in such a way that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colours, and textures. It can encompass a huge variety of subject matter, take us out of our comfort zone, make us question what we see, or invite us to enter another realm. The subject matter is often implied or suggested rather than overtly and literally presented. Any image that is altered reality is acceptable.

B: REFLECTIONS

“Reflection photos refer to any shot, no matter what type of photography genre, that uses a reflective surface.” This can be a landscape, building, water, windows etc.

C: URBAN or STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Urban photography is a broad genre that can include anything within a built-up, urban environment, so the image must convey an aspect of a city or town. Your image must have been taken in a built-up urban environment but does not have to include people, so things like street signs, traffic, architecture, shop facades, light trails, crowds, bridges, are all part of urban life. Your image can be a candid shot of people i.e. Street Photography which is also accepted.

D: FOG / STEAM / MIST / SMOKE

This topic can include a wide variety of images, from misty morning landscapes to smoke wisps created at home – as long as the predominant effect / subject includes Steam or Mist or Smoke or Fog.

E: MULTIPLE EXPOSURES

Multiple exposure means superimposing two or more photos to create a completely new, different image either directly in the camera or afterwards in image processing.

Annual Competitions

(Submission Deadline 03 April 2023)

Award	Subject	Format
Pitchers Trophy (Topic chosen by Club President)	Quenington Sculpture 5-26 th June 2022	DPI
Dennis Moss Trophy	Open	Print
Leonard Jones Cup	Open	DPI
Cavendish Cup	Black and White Open	Print
Miles Shield	Open (Club outing)	DPI
Gladiator Trophy	Aviation	DPI
Pitchers Cup <u>Open to new members only.</u>	Open	Print or DPI

All DPIs to be 1600px x 1200px in sRGB colour space. DPI version of Prints must also be submitted.

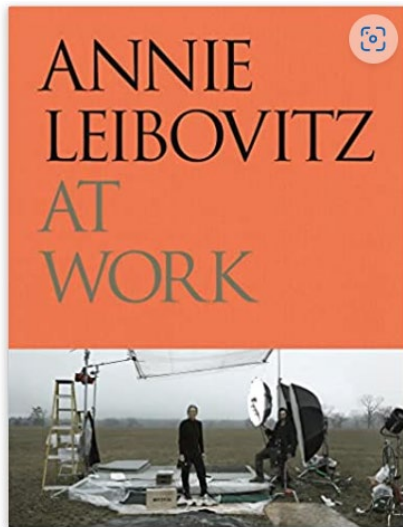
NB Portrait images must be 1200px on *longest* side.

The Dropbox link is featured on every Comp submission page, along with a News item - here is the link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/DpAdq7inLJSz17gWu2Bg>

Quote Of the Week

The camera makes you forget you're there. It's not like you are hiding but you forget, you are just looking so much - Annie Leibovitz



I got this for Christmas and it's an excellent read. Let me know if you would like to borrow it (Mike C)

That's it for this week. Catch up next week.

Cheers and stay safe

Martyn (thehoneys@btinternet.com)

Mike (mike.cheeseman1777@hotmail.com)

Appendix - Ian Howard Handout



The Colourful side of life

Captured in images!

Ian Howard



**The Fees from my talks and judging
are donated to the
British Heart Foundation**

**So be pleased that we are supporting a great
charity and the people in our community**

Many thanks for your support

Who am I



This is an image
by Martin Munkacsi

It was this image that
inspired me to become a
photographer

- Was a member of Deal Camera Club
- I have no photography qualifications or “letters “
- I am just a photographer
- I'm told I take uncomfortable pictures!
- Have several web sites
 - Lensclof.com
 - EKPgallery.com
 - Eastkentphotography.com
- Sell images on line, at art exhibitions and retail
- Enter online competitions
- Have won several of the big magazine competitions
- Run photography group courses and one to one sessions

Colour is our standard format
so it must be easy!

*Develop **your** style*
*Take the images **you** like*
*Be the photographer **you** want to be*

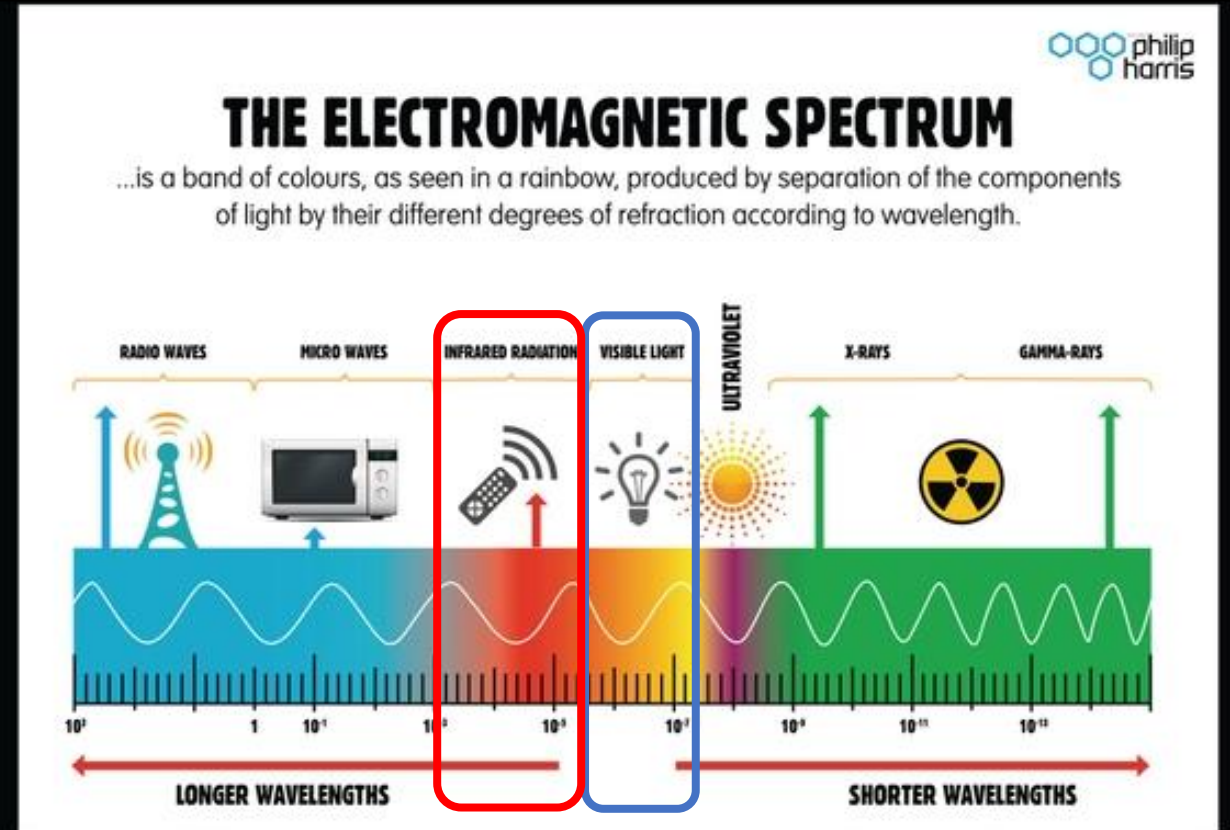


This is an image
by Vivian Maier

It constantly reminds me I
need to be a better
photographer

What is Coloured light?

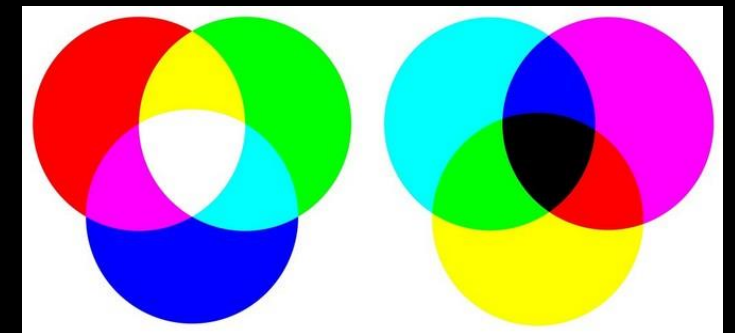
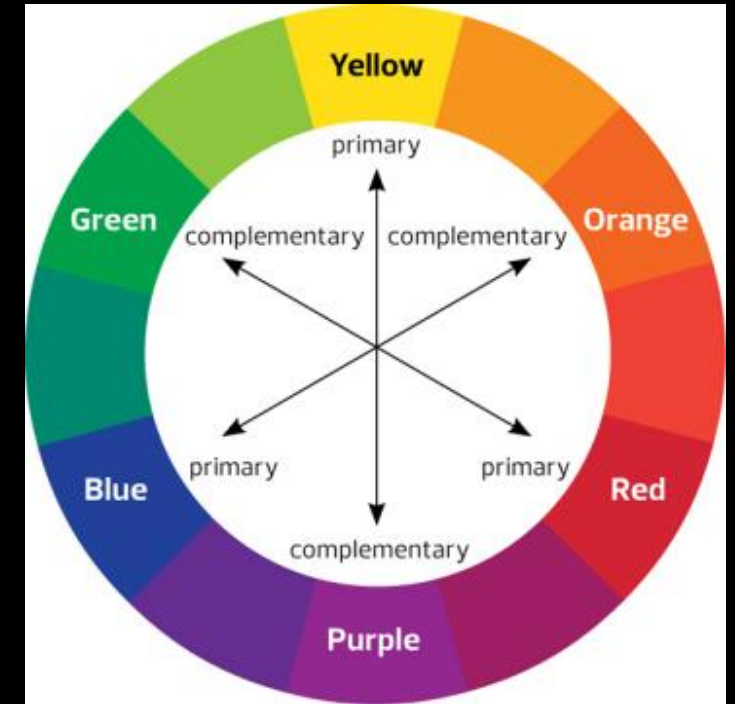
- Electromagnetic radiation in the visible range
or sometimes photographers use invisible light!
- Infrared radiation



How does Colour work?

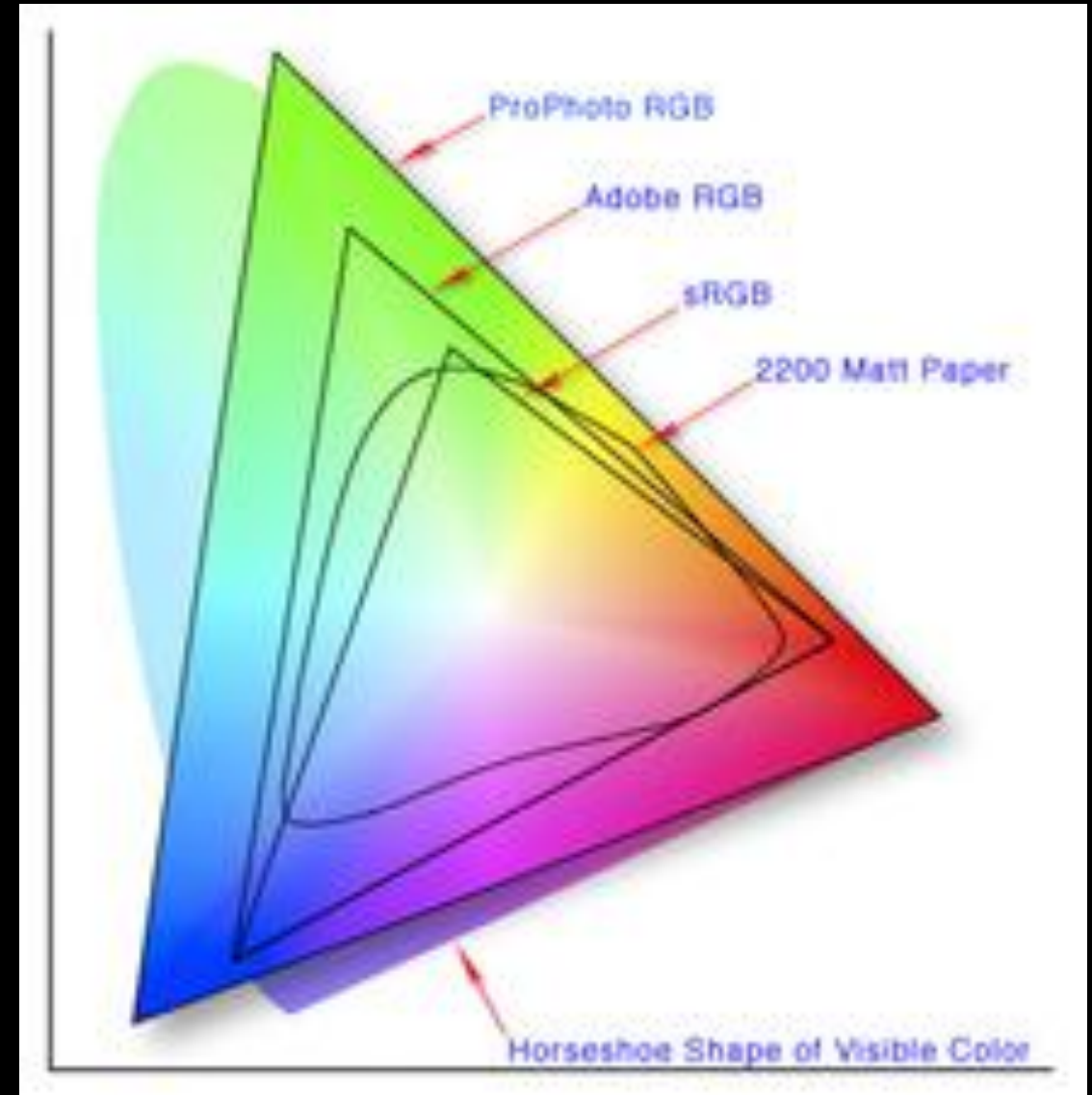
What we see is the only non absorbed colour or reflected colour

- Primary colours are the core colours everything is based on.
Red + Green + Blue
- Combining the primary colours you get the secondary colours
Yellow + Cyan + Magenta & White
- Combine the secondary colours to get the primary colours
Red + Green + Blue & Black
- RGB = **Red + Green + Blue** (sRGB means standard red, green, blue)
- CMYK = **Cyan + Yellow + Magenta + Black**
- *Opposite colours are a good thing*




What is Colour Space?

- This relates to the number of colours available depending on which colour space you use



Composition

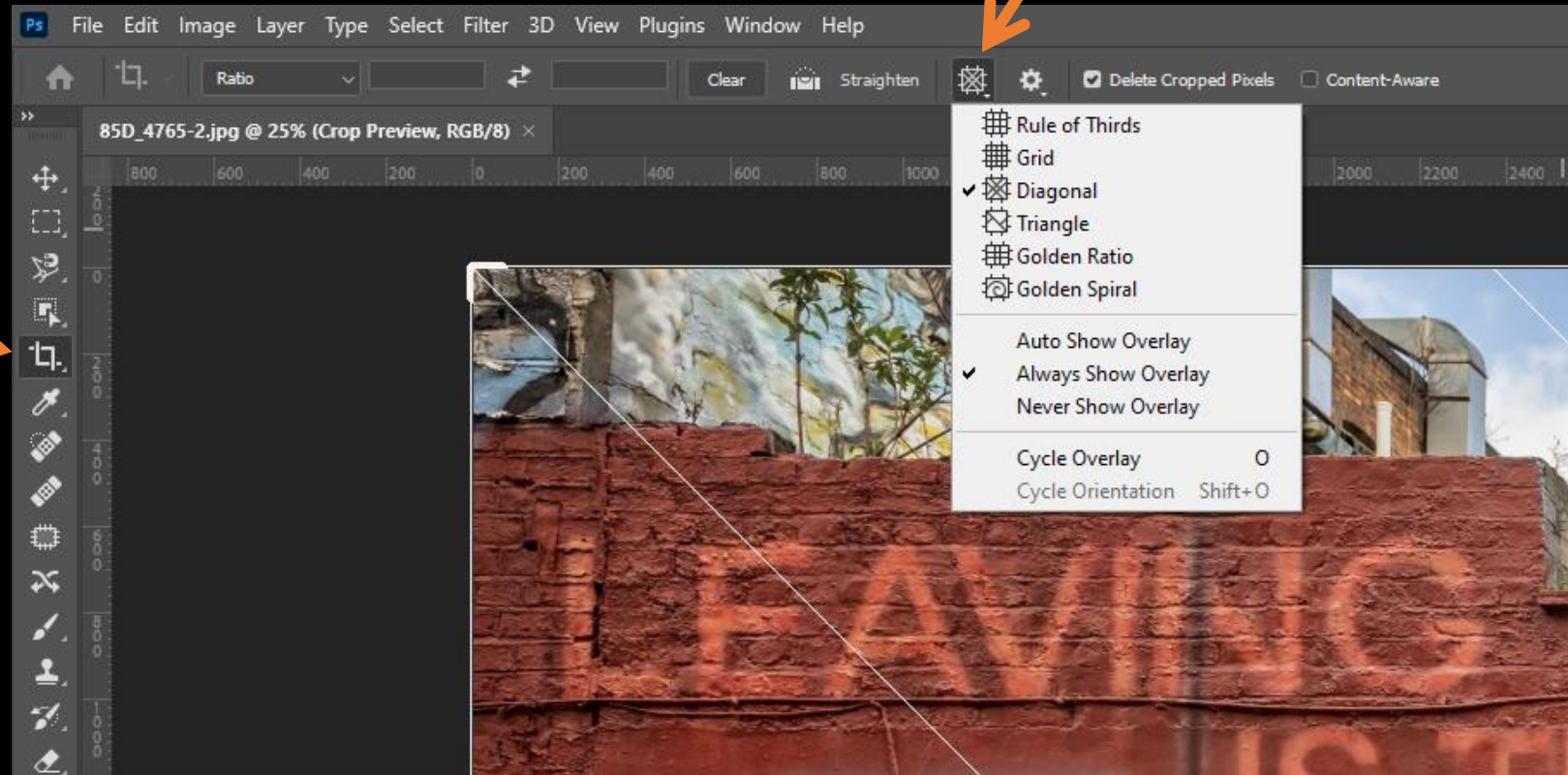
- Many different theoretical formats
- Originate from the art world
- Don't limit yourself to Rule of Thirds
- You can meet more than one of the standard composition layouts in one image
- Does not need to be inch perfect
- **Triangles** work well in composition
- **Odd numbers work well**
- **Space to travel into** 
- Break the rules!!!

Crops

- Crop and crop AGAIN

Composition Options

Crop Tool



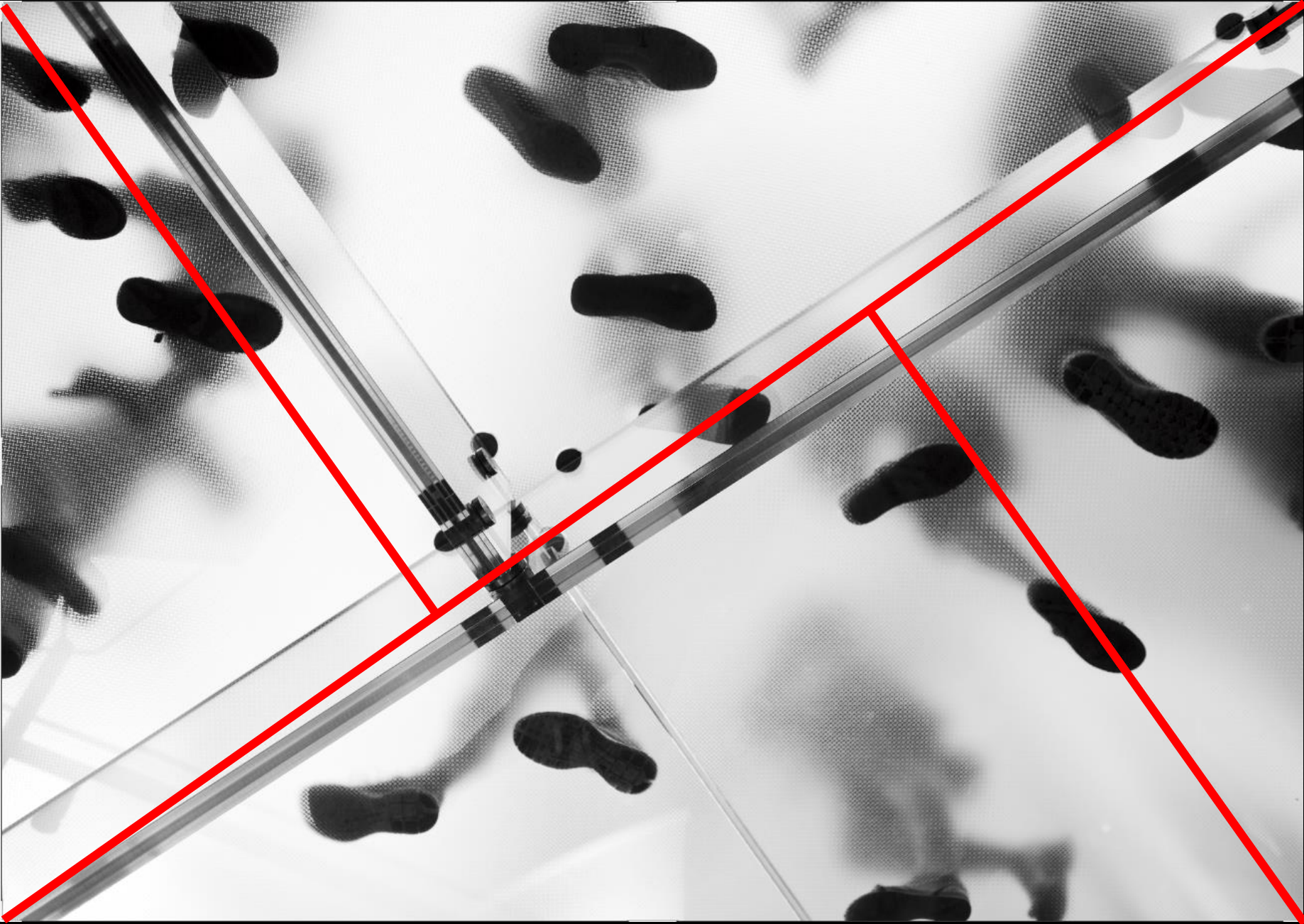
Use O to cycle through options
Use Shift O to rotate selected options

Golden Ratio

Direction of Travel

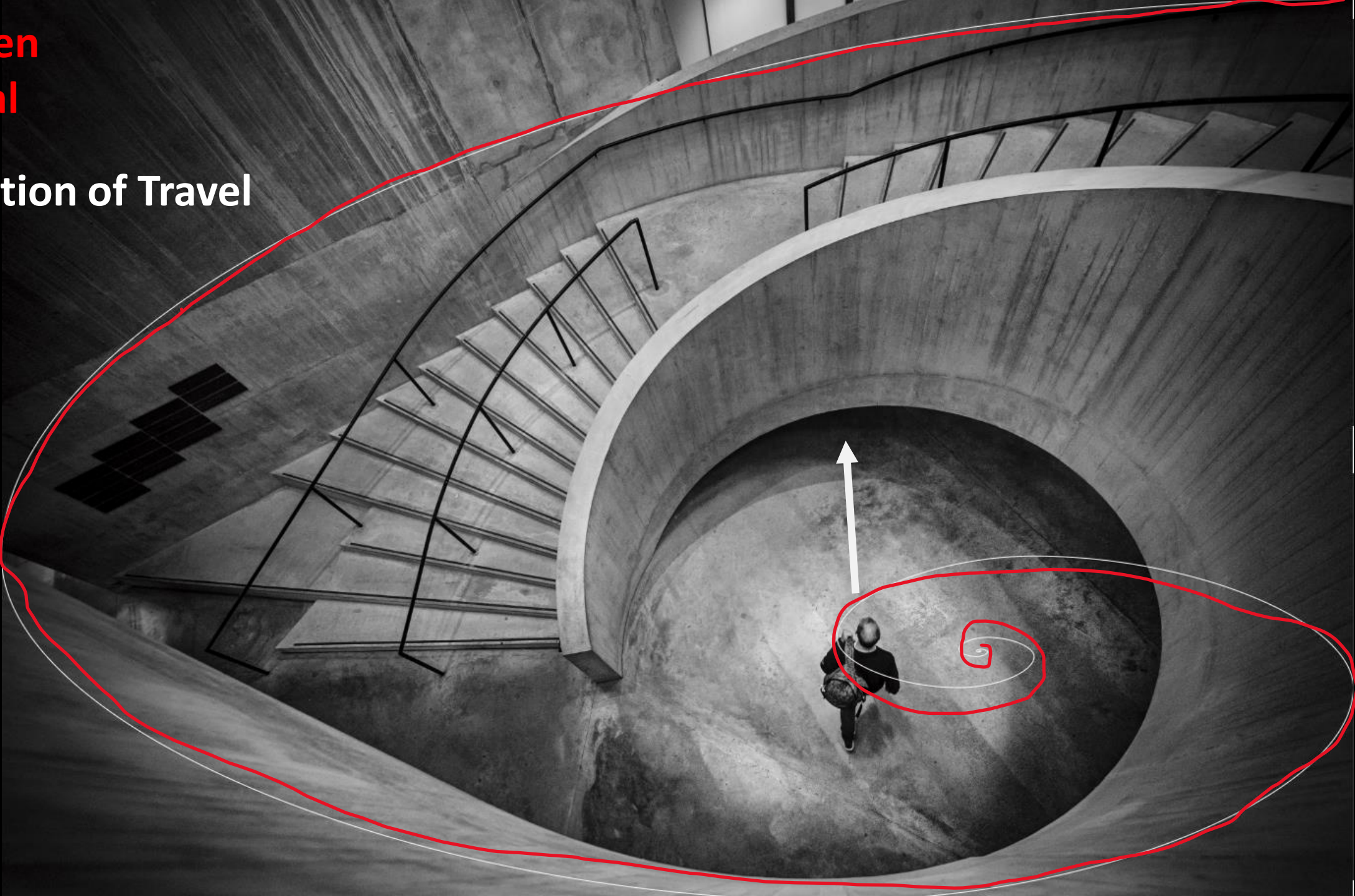


Triangle



**Golden
Spiral**

Direction of Travel





Diagonal

Direction of Travel



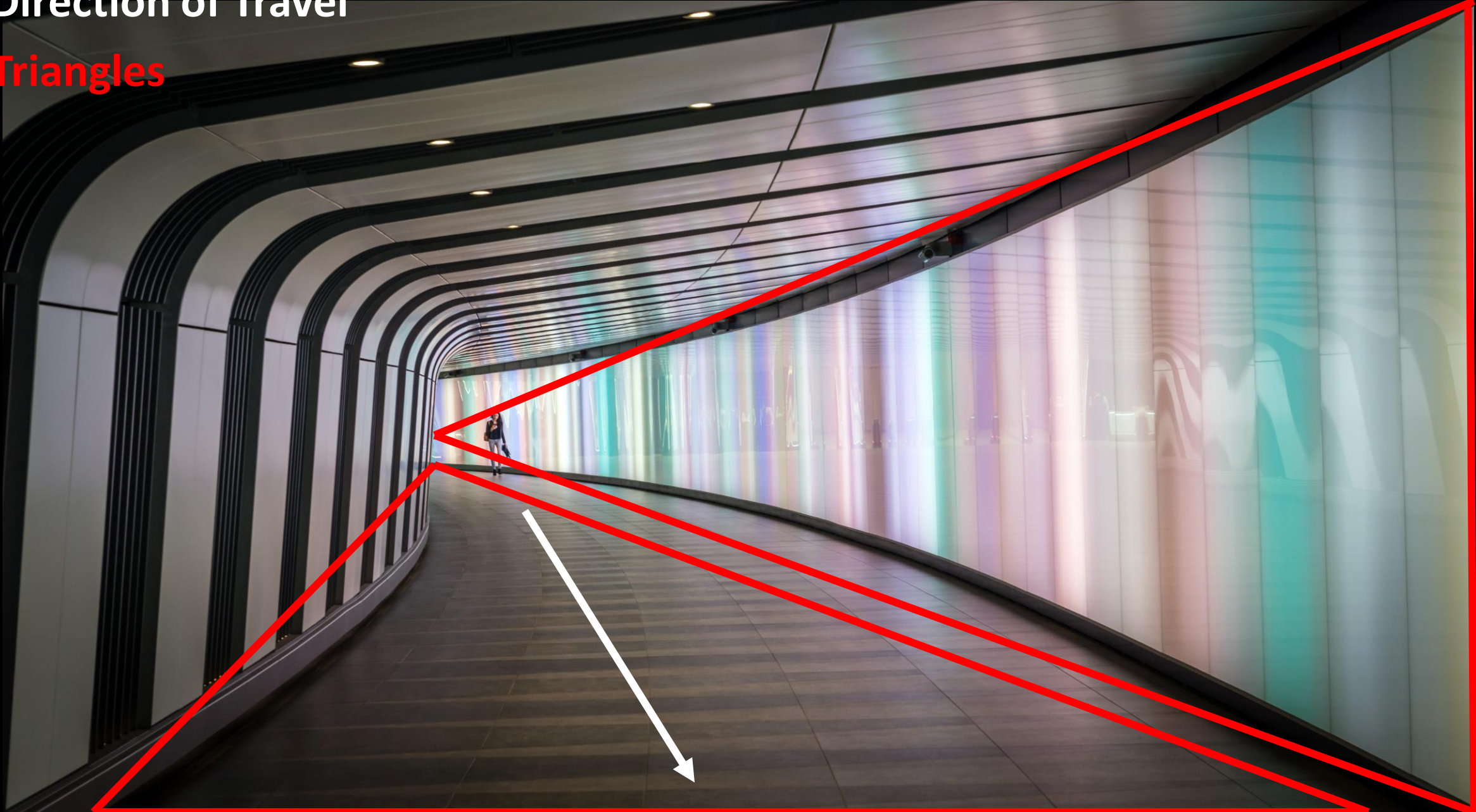
DIYLOXX

Triangles

- Add dynamic tension to an image

Direction of Travel

Triangles

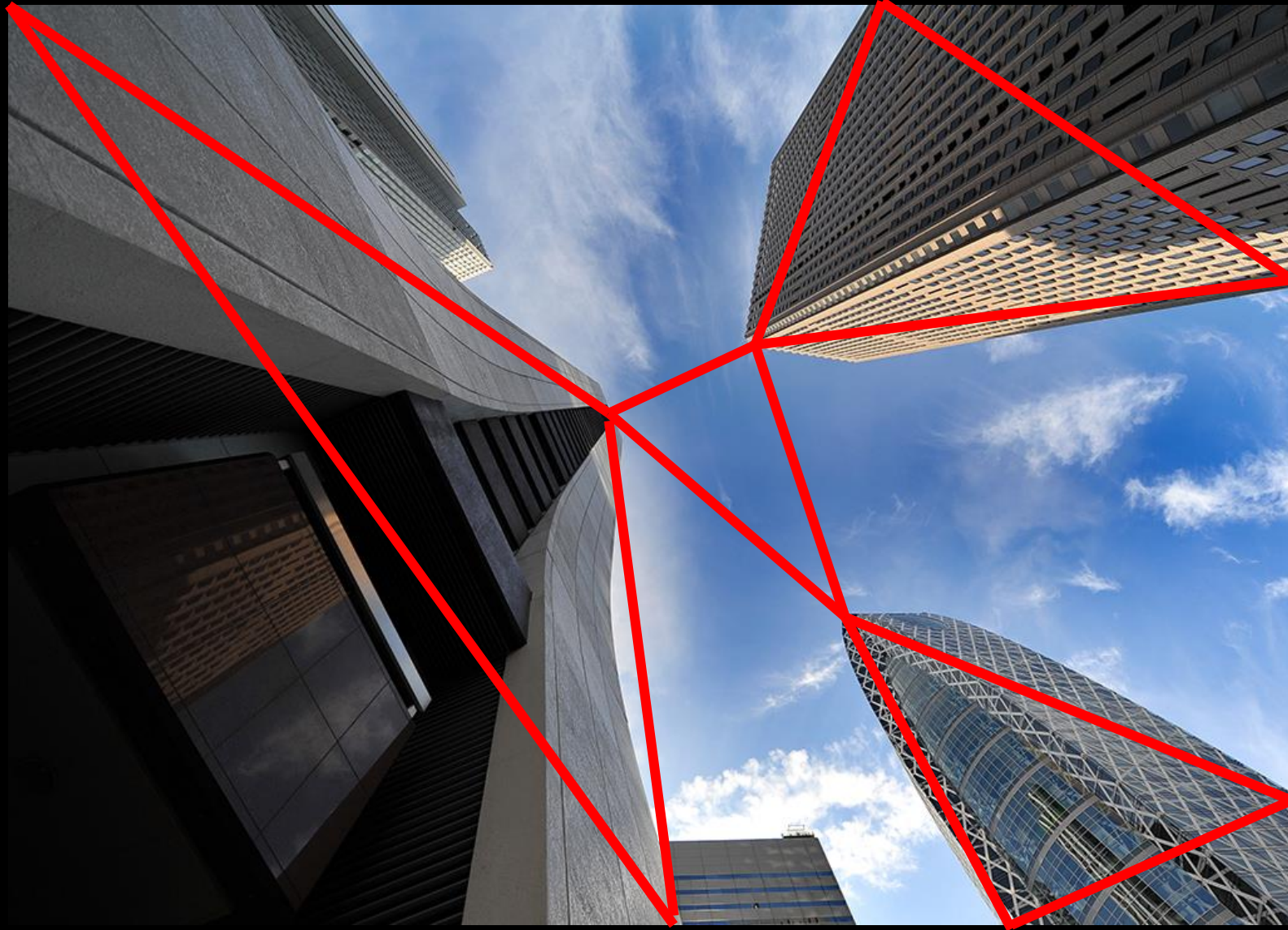


Direction of Travel

Triangles



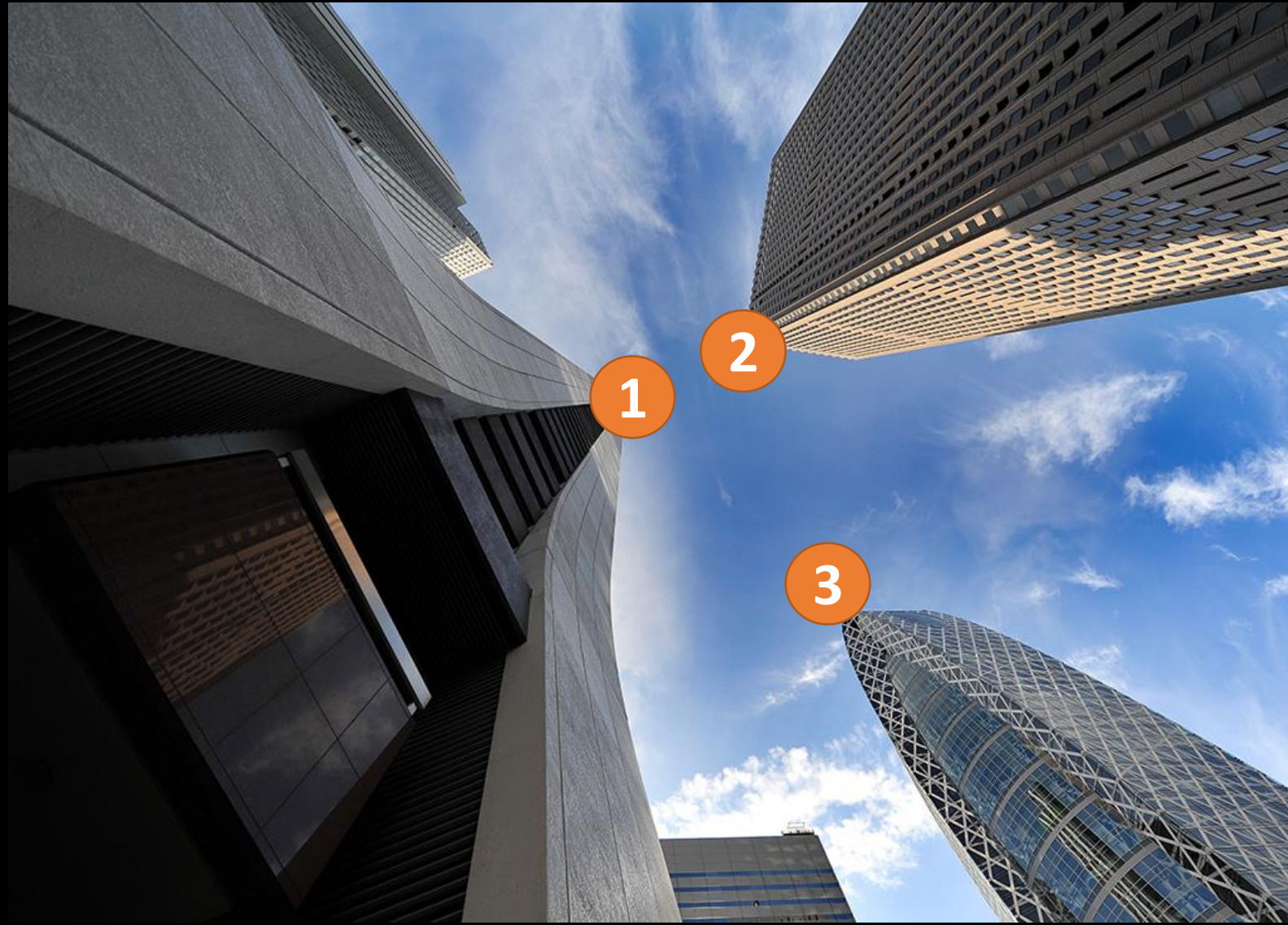
Triangles



Odd Numbers

- 3 and 5 work best







Diagonal

1

2

3

Wildlife Photography

- I'm not the person to ask - *I am rubbish at wildlife – Not got the patience!*
- Too much time is spent sitting in a sheds waiting for something to happen
- For me it lacks creativity as I have no control over what will appear where
- The shots can look amazing when done well
- Never get the credit they deserve for the patience of the photographer
- Judges never account for the fact that its a moment in time
- For me TOO MANY RULES
- There are better people in the room than me , but here are some of my shots

People & Street

- This is my area
- People struggle with this genre through fear
- You can capture some great personalities
- I like to isolate people in the image
- Try and tell a story

Abstract

- Love abstract
- Make the viewer think
- Sometimes can be uncomfortable images
- See something other people missed
- Sometimes less is more

Architecture

- I love buildings
- Can get the whole the part or an abstract
- Tell great stories
- Pieces of art
- Need a good WIDE angle lens

Landscape

- I need to work hard at this
- Can be urban or rural
- Need to understand filters
- Need to understand the best f stop to use
- Need to understand where to focus for best DOF
- Need to understand composition to take people through the image
- Wide angle lenses will capture amazing skies

Sports

- Check that you are allowed to photograph or if you need a permit
- Make sure you do not interfere with the sport via position or noise
- Orientation relative to the play is not always what you think it will be
- Helps to include the ball or blur as it denotes action
- Can get some good abstract images
- There are better people in the room than me but here are some of my shots

Panorama

- Use a tripod
- Shoot in RAW
- Set white balance to a value so does not vary as you shoot
- Normally better to shoot in portrait mode
- Use a remote trigger and move so you don't cast
- Set exposure at 2/3 brightest point and flip to manual – (Take A Test Shot In Aperture Priority) Mode
- Keep focal point consistent ideally at maximum DOF
- Rotate camera about its centre point not yours
- Ensure at least 1/3 overlap of images
- Take a photo of your hand before and at the end