

## **BALANCE IN YOUR IMAGES**

Although there are no infallible principles, a well-balanced picture can often be achieved by using the "**RULE OF THIRDS**". If you imagine a picture divided into three, horizontally and vertically, then you will see that placing a subject **on** any of the intersections (Yellow Spots) of the horizontal and vertical lines [ or **along** one of the vertical or horizontal lines] will contribute to a balanced result. This seems to work because the extra visual weight of the subject is balanced by the larger but visually lighter remainder of the frame. Alternatively two points of interest could be located at diagonally opposite intersections. This is **not** a hard and fast rule, but it may help when composing an image.

Different colours and different tones (in black and white) have different visual weights. Even small highlights and splashes of bright colours (such as red) have a great deal of impact and should not really be near the edge of the picture -unless **you** want to achieve some special effect. If they have to be near the perimeter, try to balance them out with large areas of lighter tone or another point of interest.

When using colour, a whole new range of possibilities opens up. Beware of shooting colour for colour's sake, however. While a mass of bright colours in any setting may appear an ideal topic for colour work, you will probably get better results by having just one or two small areas of bright colour. Place a parrot and a colourful bouquet in the same picture and both will compete for attention. But a few splashes of bright red among the pastel greens and browns of a misty rural scene or a suburban garden can make a picture sparkle.

Whatever advice you are given, however, photography is ultimately a matter of **PERSONAL CHOICE, EXPERIENCE** and **JUDGEMENT**.. Though exotic locations lend themselves to exotic pictures, beautiful or interesting photographs can be found anywhere. Look around your home or go out into your local neighbourhood and try to look at everything with a fresh eye, exploring even the most mundane objects for photographic possibilities. You may be surprised how much material you can find. However, remember it is **your** image and you can do anything that pleases **you**.

Text amended from "The Photo". With thanks.

Image by Fran Cross

