

Composition Notes

Composition - The design or organization of the artwork

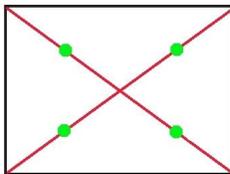
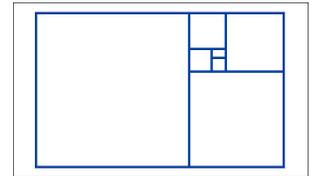
- A GOOD composition...
 - Creates a design that is pleasing to the eye (you like it)
 - Holds your attention and keeps your eye moving
 - Directs the eye to a strong focal point
 - The space is arranged to emphasize the subject/mood/intention of the artist and make it aesthetically pleasing to the eye

Focal Point - The area of an artwork where you look first also The area within an artwork of importance

How do I make a strong composition?

“Great compositions don’t just happen by accident. They take planning, patience, and a knowledge of all the visual elements at your disposal. The great thing is, no matter how much or how little talent you have, you’ll always be able to improve your art by sketching out a good composition before you begin.” [From 9 Steps to Creating Better Compositions on Empty Easel](#)

- **Golden Section (uneven cross):** There’s a mathematical ratio commonly found in nature—the ratio of 1 to 1.618—that has many names. Most often we call it the Golden Section, Golden Ratio, or Golden Mean. Used in art, the golden ratio is the most mysterious of all compositional strategies. We know that by creating images based on this rectangle our art will be more likely to appeal to the human eye, but we don’t know why. [A Guide to the Golden Section](#)



Visual Points of interest in the Golden Section: There places in every square or rectangle that appeal to eye more than other places. These sweet spots are where you want to locate your focal point. You can find these by marking from corner to corner (the red lines) and then finding the $\frac{1}{2}$ way point between the corner and the center (the green dots)

- **Rule of Thirds:** In the diagram, a rectangle has been divided horizontally and vertically by four lines. The rule of thirds states that the centers of interest for any rectangle lie somewhere along those lines. Photographers have dubbed the intersections of those lines power points. By placing your focal point along those power points we can make the composition more pleasing to the eye. [The Rule of Thirds: Why it works](#)

