

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 20, 2017

By: Jean Davids, Secretary Monticello Camera Club

The meeting began shortly after 7 pm and was presided over by Steve Fowler. There were 13 members in attendance.

Our assignment for this month was Summer Landscape. We had 3 members share their photos. Thank you all for sharing your great images with us.

Our topic for the month was Minimalism. Steve Fowler led the discussion and shared examples. The text of what he shared will be included at the end of these meeting minutes.

- <https://www.lightstalking.com/minimalist-photography/>
- <http://photodoto.com/8-tips-to-become-excellent-at-minimalist-photography/>
- <https://photography.tutsplus.com/articles/a-10-step-guide-to-superb-minimalist-photography--photo-4487>
- <https://contrastly.com/minimalist-photography/>
- <https://photography.tutsplus.com/articles/less-is-more-50-examples-of-minimalist-photography--photo-3914>
- <https://digital-photography-school.com/minimalist-photography-4-tips-to-keep-it-simple-with-a-maximum-impact/>
- <http://www.designyourway.net/blog/inspiration/the-amazing-art-that-is-minimalist-photography-39-examples/>

Bob Somerville talked about the 2018 Monticello Photo Show. The 15th and Final Photo Show will be held at the Best Western on March 17th-18th, 2018. It has been confirmed with them. It is a smaller room so we'll only have space at the ends of the room for displays. This probably means just camera club displays.

Bob Somerville also shared his aurora photos that he shot at "The Grade" above Grand Marais at Devils Track Lake and also by Teal Lake by Grand Portage.

Our Photographer of the Month was Heather Reinhart. She shared some of her images and briefly explained the types of photography that she likes to do; which include family, scenic, sports and work.

Updates to our calendar are shown below.

The meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.

Meeting Calendar for remainder of year is shown on next page.

October

- Assignment: Minimalism
- Topic: Fall Colors
- Photographer of the Month: Anthony Hall

November

- Assignment: Fall Colors
- Topic: *If you remember what we came up with at the meeting, please let me know ASAP*
- Photographer of the Month: Phil Pippo

Steve Fowler's presentation on Minimalism:

INTRO – What is Minimalism

In minimalist photography all of the attention is focused upon the photo subject – without any elements on the image which may distract from the subject.

So, any element of the photo should be kept at a minimum. Long story short, you need to use as little elements as possible to convey the scene.

In today's visually saturated world, the simplistic style of minimalist photography offers visually soothing results – with plenty of breathing room. Minimalism provides a refreshing visual break from the constant flood of information, and visual noise that we face every day.

Minimalism gained traction in America in the 1960s with links to the Japanese traditional culture of Zen Philosophy.

Minimalist photography is quickly growing in popularity with many photographers, and it's easy to see why.

Some tips will help you with it.

Understand Minimalism

Minimalism is a style employed by many 20th Century artists, using a minimum amount of components such as color, shape, line and texture. Within the art world it is considered an extremely subjective concept, leaving interpretation and meaning up to the viewers perception of the work.

Minimalism is the art of less. (Get rid of the clutter)

It is characterized by extreme sparseness and simplicity. Some love it, others do not. Many artists thrive in the openness of the concept; others have a problem with the lack of definition and direction.

Traditional photography composition consisted of simple lines, geometric patterns, strong shadows, contrasting colors, and various rules.

So guess what: The same applies here.

Keep It Simple

When understanding how to achieve minimalism, obviously the rule here is to keep it simple. But that doesn't mean it needs to be boring or uninteresting. Try to pick something that catch the eye. The subject has to be the strongest element of the shot, even though it may not take up the majority of the frame.

For example, if you have a picture sky, clouds, and birds, you can crop the image the way to leave only a bird and a piece of blue sky.

Why Should You Try This?

It draws the viewer's attention - If you'd like to emphasize one small part of an image, this is a great way to do go. There's no substitute for eliminating every other distraction from the frame.

It's more of a challenge – How can you use less to satisfy the observer? Create a [Strong Composition](#).

Minimalist photography relies upon simple compositions, but this doesn't mean that it should be boring – minimalist photography allows a lot of room for creativity. The challenge is applying the concept of minimalism, and keeping all distracting and unnecessary details out of the photo, allowing all of the attention to be brought toward the concept, or subject of the photo.

Use Negative Space in Composition

Negative space is one of the most important elements of composition that you should consider in your minimalist shots.

Negative space is space around as well as in between the subject or subjects.

It will create more negative space, in other words a plain background for example will put more emphasis on your subject. That's the whole idea.

Strong Leading Lines

In art, as well as photography, They draw the viewer into a composition, or they show a sense of depth or distance.

Use of Color

It has great eye catching capability.

Since minimalist photography relies on keeping the things as simple as possible, the one area you can really use to make up for this is color.

Plainest of Plain Backgrounds

This means to shoot up at the flowers, and the sky is going to be your background.

Respect The Rule of Thirds

It has been shown that our eyes will drift naturally to these intersecting points instead of to the center.

Put in some Texture

A significant part of minimalist photography is texture.

You can see this with the examples.

Geometric Patterns

Look for geometric patterns when composing minimalistic photos. Architecture is a great place to find geometric patterns, as you can often find entire walls of patterns to incorporate into a shot. Staircases, park benches, bridges, windows, and brick walls are all excellent places to find interesting geometric patterns.

Contrast

Contrast is one of the most important qualities when it comes to eliciting an emotional response. Contrasting colors, shades, patterns, shapes, or even contrasting ideas are effective ways to create compositional tension that

grabs the viewer's attention and makes them think – it will also show a powerful message.

Light and Dark

The importance of lighting in minimalist photography cannot be overstated! Both light and shadow can both be used to create these photos. Try to look for opportunities where the light really brings out the colors or textures in a scene. Or look for dark shadows to feature as a central part of your [composition](#).

Tell a Story

Minimalism attempts to use as few details as possible to convey a concept, create a unique visual experience, or to tell a story. By incorporating an interesting subject, the right elements, lighting, and angles, you can create a photo that tells a story, and provides the viewer with a glimpse into a moment in time. Remember, simplified photos can have a powerful effect when they are well composed.

Learn to See

Photo opportunities are all around us, but they are all-too-easy to overlook. Learning to think outside the box, and look for hidden opportunities is the first step towards mastering minimalist photography.

So in conclusion

You can say that Minimalist photography is not an idea you can master overnight. It takes thinking in a minimalist style because we're surrounded with such excess in our "bigger-is-better" culture and society. But if you are able to look through this excess and appreciate the beauty of minimalism, then you're on the right track to taking your art to a whole new level.

Minimalism has become more popular in recent years, especially in interior design and photography.

Maybe the best thing about it is that it teaches us to focus on the little things. It is like seeing a World within a World.

Minimalism is highly subjective, but also intuitive and expressive. So don't be concerned if others don't see things exactly how you do. Just remember to enjoy the learning curve, and have fun.