

## Three Main Rules

Three main rules of photography (as I have been taught) are:

- Theme - the photograph should have a general, universal theme. It should not be just the subject, well, actually it can be. But the photograph should convey a message about some story about the subject. But the subject should be well identified and clearly seen.
- Focus attention - by using different techniques the photographer draws attention of the viewer to the subject (more about it see in the other articles).
- Simplify - a lot of details that do not help to tell the story will diminish the value of the photograph. The clutter draws attention of the eye from the subject and the eye cannot stay on the main subject, where it should.

I will try to use some examples to explain the rules. I am not sure that the photograph is the best example of the rules, though.



A teardrop of the ocean.

The picture above encompasses all of the rules explained on this page. What about the theme and the subject? I think, it's clearly stated that the subject is the small jellyfish and the theme is about the sea or ocean. The story is in the tide, which threw away the small piece of life. Sometimes a name of the photograph adds direction for thoughts and can be very helpful for unusual photographs. Though many famous photographers reluctant and against giving names to photographs.

What about focusing attention? Ok, let's look at the focus of the image. What is in focus, what is not? The jellyfish is in a good focus, but the ocean is blurred and distant. What else can we digest? The front plane of the image occupies the biggest part of the image and the eye is drawn to it, and there the jellyfish resides. So our eye doesn't wander in the image and doesn't leave (immediately).

Simplicity? The image is almost empty, there are only four "objects": sky, water, sand and the jellyfish. The people, gulls and even the sun were left out of the frame. So, the image is very simple and that adds space and focus to the eye.