A rough guide to Composition for photographers.

Photographers often only 'see' their compositions *after* they have taken the shot
in the print.

It is a matter of building a visual language and using it "semi-automatically".

All photographs are an alteration of reality.

No composition is also "composition!"
The act of taking a photograph is a manipulation of reality. (What is reality?)

A photograph is an object which can be just an object (like a flat abstract painting eg) or a transparent surface through which we perceive a reality.
That reality is different for every viewer.
(See Camera Lucida by Roland Barthes: the punctum, the studium and stigmatum)**

A photograph can be a combination of the above assertions in any degree of either.

Any and all of the following apply
1. **Negative space**, the space between objects
Balance – equal balance or unequal
balance.
Line or vector
Shape
Weight
Fullness
Sparseness
  Golden Mean*
Foreground
Background
Horizon Line
Perspective
  Direction
Lead around a picture

  Carefulness vs Rashness.
is it: Slapdash, hurried.....or is it
finnicky - which can show a lack of confidence.
  Movement
Blur
Points of Focus
Depth of Field
 If Out of focus why?

What are the **Focal points** of the image
Does the image have a focal point…is there a sense of place, a sense of space…does there need to be?
 Combinations
Pairs - triples - fours - fives etc....mandalas.

Colour
Mono-colour
Lack of colour – or over saturated
Composition can be breaking the composition rules.
In fact there are no rules.
All the above help to explain composition and build your own visual library/database for future reference.

Lead into
Lead out of
Look into
Look out of
  Texture
The Subject may be the only reason for the picture eg. news shot; however it may still have intriinsic composition
  Obviousness:
It 'looks' out of alignment - is it on purose.
 If It is out - a Long way out (being obvious works, however,
being subtly "out" needs to be a clever incorporation.)

Sensitivity
Delicateness
Boldness - Hard Line - Soft line

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