



Photography and the Art of Seeing

A VISUAL PERCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR FILM AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Freeman Patterson

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THIRD EDITION

Photography and the Art of Seeing: A Visual Perception Workshop for Film and Digital Photography

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"A practical and inspiring guide."

This Third Edition familiarizes readers with the traditional principles of composition and visual design. The jargon-free text provides practical techniques and innovative exercises for breaking with traditional concepts of design to enable the photographer to develop a keen awareness of subject matter and a personal direction.

Topics include: Barriers to seeing Learning to observe: rethinking the familiar Learning to imagine: abstracting and selecting Learning to express: Subject matter and the photographer Elements and principles of visual design and more.

This edition of Photography and the Art of Seeing is updated to include technical guidelines adapted for both digital and film photographers and includes photographs from Freeman Patterson's personal collection. Extended captions include valuable technical information and personal commentary reflective of the superb craftsmanship and stunning photography from one of the most highly acclaimed and celebrated photographers worldwide.

Photography and the Art of Seeing: A Visual Perception Workshop for Film and Digital Photography Details

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Author : Freeman Patterson

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Patricia Baxter says

This book was recommended to me by a photographer as an excellent one when I asked about learning more about the art of photography. Thanks, Gina for pointing me toward this one!

Kt Roth says

Great book for fundamentals and for photographers, artists and designers who are stuck in a rut. My favorite part is the photos that describe different aspects of composition, expression and perspective.

Abbie Graham says

My favorite photography book ever. My Dad found it for me at a used bookstore (I'm betting it was the Dusty Bookshelf in Lawrence) when I was a teenager.

This isn't a how-to book. It's all about the process of finding and taking pictures, how to break the rules, see things differently and be more creative with your photography (also out of print, I think, but it looks like they may have a newer version available).

I don't read photography books very often, but I've read this one over and over. I highly recommend it.

Kathy Stinson says

This book provides all kinds of information and guidance for how to take one's photos beyond "I saw this and found it interesting" to something artful, truly expressive of both the subject itself and what the subject makes the viewer feel. Clear writing, great examples, and some fun exercises to help you practise seeing - really seeing.

Caristy Olson says

It's a really great book. Lots of good information to soak in so that it helps you think about what you are taking pictures and how to actually use more creativity in your photography. It doesn't get into the technical aspects of photography, this book is more about the creative side of photography.

J. Bill says

Outstanding. A classic.

Timothy Neesam says

Every few years I pull Freeman Patterson's Photography and the Art of Seeing off the shelf for a re-read. It's a strong book on the fundamentals of composition and visual design, including tone, light, shape, perspective, colour, dominance, balance, proportion, pattern, rhythm...the list goes on), and exercises aimed at developing a keener awareness of the subject and moving beyond first inclinations. It's a first step toward 'contemplative' photography (hello 'relaxed attentiveness'). I seem to give away this book each time I buy it (including the copy I just read). Highly recommended for those interested in understanding what makes a picture 'work' and ways of capturing images that reflect how we feel.

Pat Loughery says

Freeman Patterson's book is a classic, and with very good reason. It was helpful for me in many areas: composition of visual art; contemplative photography; focusing and discovering my vision; intentionally making images rather than just discovering them. I recommend it highly for photographers of all kinds, and for visual artists of all kinds.

Khalid AlHaqqan says

since I'm a photographer .. this was a great topic which I needed the most. it is exactly what every photographer needs to know.

Shazly says

great book

Louis says

I read this as a child and it was a different introduction to photography. It opened up photography as a general way to meet the world, without labels.

Karen Hartshorn says

I turn to this book anytime I am needing a little inspiration to take out my camera and make pictures. It is my favorite photography book.

César Viteri says

Concise, well written, organized text on how to use the visual elements of design to make your subject matter express the subject of your photographs. Thought provoking, proposes a number of exercises to help you break free from limiting photographing habits. Gorgeously illustrated with beautiful landscapes and macro pictures. The only area where I found it lacking is on how to apply this to pictures featuring people, my main interest. It focuses mainly on landscapes and still lives for all examples.

A recommended read to all photographers, specially those who feel a bit stuck in routine.

Malvin says

An enlightening read with insightful examples on learning to observe, imagine and to express subjects using various subject matters through visual design. With lessons on thinking sideways, breaking the rules, eliminating preconceptions, rejecting labels and understanding principles of design, Freeman kindly offers a number of exercises to train and challenge his "young" readers. Highly unsuitable for those seeking technical tips or gear recommendations, the following paragraph sums it all up, "When a child thinks of drawing his mother, he may intuitively abstract love as one of her most distinguishing traits, and in his drawing he leaves out many of the physical details of her body but not the one that counts - her smile". Highly recommended!

Barbara says

Reread my copy today--which was the second version from 1989---and thoroughly enjoyed it. This book is about how to be creative, and insightful and expressive, as well as a good designer of images.
