

What makes a good photograph?

1. The photograph must be interesting to the viewer and sometimes challenging. It should stimulate discussion as to, “how or why did he/she do that?”
2. The photograph should tell a story, make a statement, or set a mood. This may be one that is easily understood as seen in a landscape or may be abstract as seen in creative or contemporary work.
3. The subject should stand out from the background. Either, sharpness and depth of field or the use of contrasting colour or tone can accomplish this. A soft focus on a person’s face or a flower or blur within the image is acceptable if this was the photographer’s intention when he/she made the photo.
4. The composition of the photograph should be aesthetically pleasing or challenging. This may be achieved through either the cropping of the original image, the arrangement of objects within the frame or the use of space in the image.
5. The photograph should be properly exposed to show what the photographer intended. It should be done so that the viewer can understand what the intentions of the photographer were when they made the photo.
6. The photograph should have good color rendition of the subject. This may through the use of natural colour or colours that have been reversed or altered, but they must be complementary to the viewer’s eye and to each other.