

HOW TO TAKE BETTER PICTURES

- 1 - Keep your pictures simple. Limit the number of subjects. Avoid 'busyness,' crowding.
- 2 - Establish a mood. Let the color, the expressions, the scene convey or suggest an emotion or a memory familiar to the viewer.
- 3 - Make effective use of color. Sometimes a touch of color is more effective than a bed quilt. But boldness counts.
- 4 - Rely on framing. You can frame at the sides and at the bottom as well as the top. There are also full frames and three-quarter frames. Frames anchor and keep your pictures from flying off in every which direction.
- 5 - Look for reflections. A pond or a puddle, a window, a mirror, a tuba or a French horn, shiny chrome - anything that reflects has the potential for enhancing a picture. So search out reflective surfaces and make use of them.
- 6 - Make use of contrast. Short and tall, curves and straight edges, light and dark, fat and skinny, young and old, male and female, knife and fork - anything that portrays or suggests contrast can enhance your picture.
- 7 - Tell a story. A photograph is a means of communication. If you show a picture to another person you are trying to share something with that person. Make sure your pictures have something to say, that they have a point of view.
- 8 - Look for patterns. If you can find a pleasing pattern in an ordinary subject, you have the makings of a picture - providing there is a center of interest. A fallen flower petal or two on a linen tablecloth is of more interest than just the weave in the tablecloth alone.
- 9 - Show some action. Action pictures are everywhere. A person walking along the street is 'doing' something. There is a dynamic to a blade of grass blowing in the wind. Wherever something is happening there is a picture for the taking.
- 10 - Leave them laughing. It helps to have a sense of humor. Very few things are as pleasing as a visual joke. Sharpen your eyes - and your sense of the ludicrous.

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