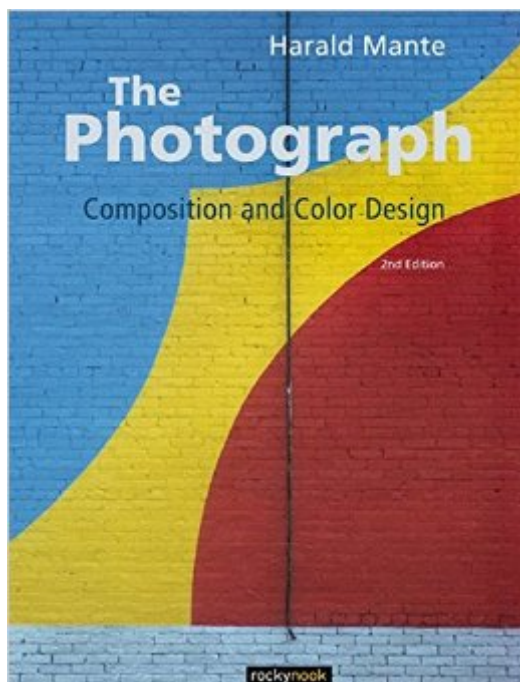


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The Photograph: Composition And Color Design



Synopsis

Harald Mante, one of the most distinguished teachers of the photographic arts in Germany and an internationally recognized master of photography, brings his teaching to us in the English language for the first time in more than 30 years. In *The Photograph* Mante explains the elements that are essential to achieving the highest level of visual design in photographs. This book is geared toward the serious intermediate and advanced photographer who strives to create outstanding images. While a deep understanding of photographic techniques is required in order to master photography, technical knowledge alone is not sufficient to create outstanding images. Beyond the technical aspects, the crucial elements that determine the quality and strength of a photograph are the content of the image and its organization within the image frame. This is where the "art" of photography comes into play. Truly creative photography is based upon knowledge and mastery of design, and insight into how the viewer perceives images. The creative photographer can exploit this knowledge and push image making in new directions. In this book, Mante explores the principles of line, shape, point, color, contrast, composition, and design in significantly greater depth and at a higher level than most any book available to date. He also covers a number of techniques to enhance expressiveness in a photograph and support the photographer's intentions. These in-depth lessons are beautifully illustrated with more than 750 images from Mante's own portfolio, including over 160 diagrams. *The Photograph* is a unique book that is sure to become an invaluable reference for anyone involved in photography—from the hobbyist to the professional; for both the digital and analog photographer; and for those practicing, studying, criticizing, or administering in the visual arts. This second edition has been extensively revised and updated, and includes 60 new images and illustrations. Also included are new chapters that cover analyzing shapes and colors and a discussion of the square image format.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Update for the second edition: 17 November 2012 This review covers just the new material in this second edition, which is the English translation of the German third edition. I commend the reader of this review to my detailed review of the first English edition (2007), elsewhere on .com. The content of this new edition is identical to that of the first except for some new topics, some reorganization of the sixth section, and the addition of two new sections. I did not do the translation of the new material. "Identical" is not quite correct. From his first German edition to this one, the photos he uses to introduce each section change and are almost reason enough to own each edition. They are excellent and beautiful. In the sixth section, "Using the Tools," Mante has inserted a chapter on visual aspects of the square format. From this same section, he has broken out the chapters on photographing sequences and series into their own two chapter section. Lastly he has added a new, eighth section on analyzing images to discern their elements, universal contrasts, and color contrasts. This last section reminds me of the presentation in his Van Nostrand Reinhold books in English from the 1970s and is an important addition to the content of the 2007 edition. This new section should be several times longer, or given more chapters. It shows in schematic manner, using both a color and B&W rendering of each image along with small thumbnails, how a shooter or viewer can start training oneself to see the components of an image's, or potential image's visual structure. The thumbnails identifying the main color contrasts do not indicate where in the image such contrasts are, but they do encourage the viewer to search for them in the main image.

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