

# Grade 3 – Composition Collage



Space

# What makes a great photograph?



Praia do Forte, Cabo Frio, Brazil © 2012 Audrey Guidi

# What makes a great photograph?

- **Composition:**  
how major shapes in your photo are arranged or how you move your body to create an interesting arrangement
- Lighting
- Subject



British Houses of Parliament, London, UK © 2014 Audrey Guidi

# What makes a great photograph?

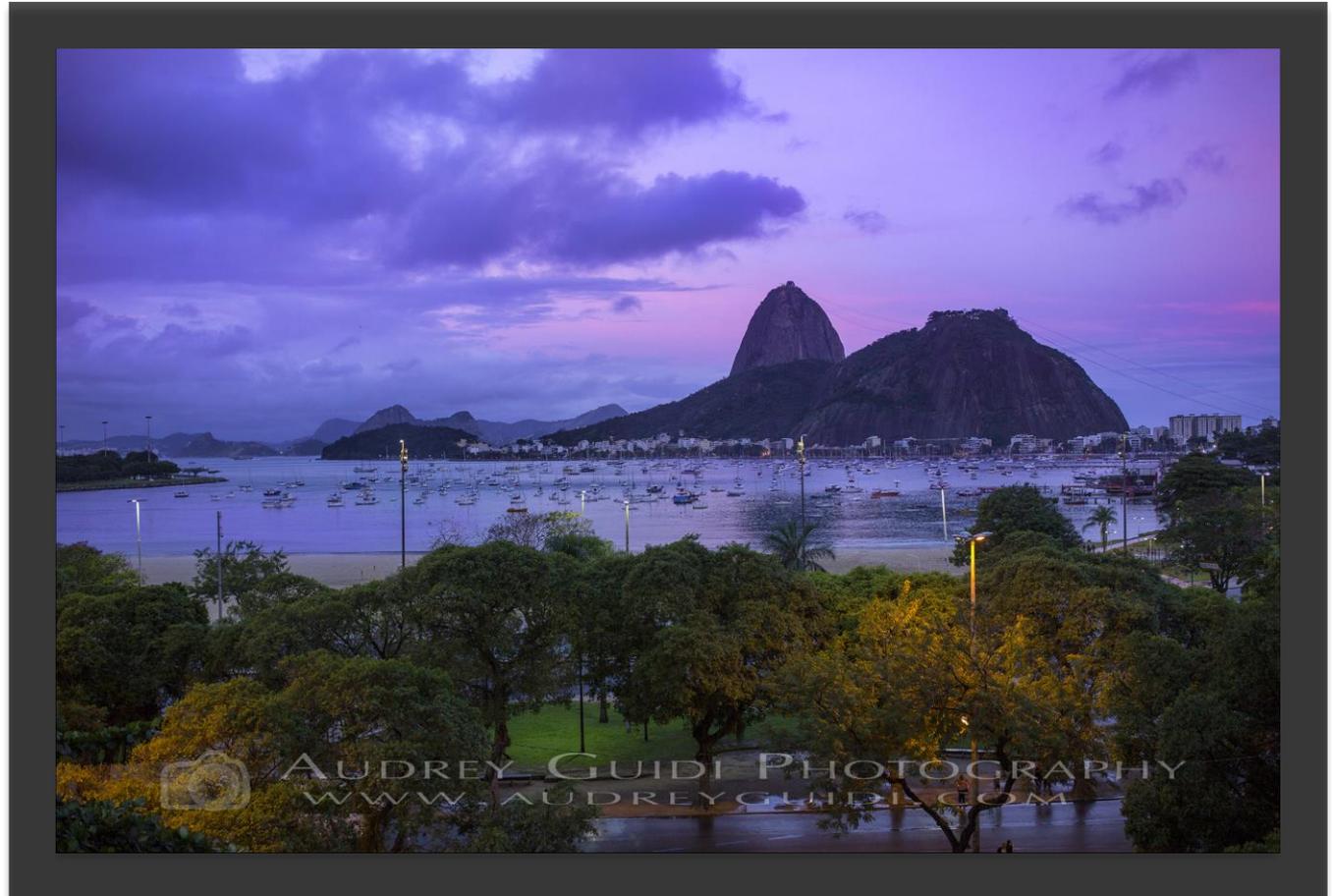
- Composition
- **Lighting:**  
how you use  
natural or electric  
light in your photo
- Subject



Glacier National Park, Montana © 2014 Audrey Guidi

# What makes a great photograph?

- Composition
- Lighting
- **Subject:**  
what the photo is about, what the photo shows us



Sugar Loaf, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil © 2017 Audrey Guidi

# Artistic Focus: Space



San Francisco City Hall, California  
© 2017 Audrey Guidi

**SPACE** is the area above, below, around, and within an artwork; the illusion of depth or space on a flat surface, created by means of the following techniques: rendering shapes and forms so that they overlap and using size, detail, value, color, and linear perspective.

## **Today's objective:**

1. Learn how to apply the rule of thirds and lateral symmetry in art and photography
2. Create a collage that follows these common rules of composition

## **WA State Visual Arts Standard**

Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.

(VA: Ce7.1.3)

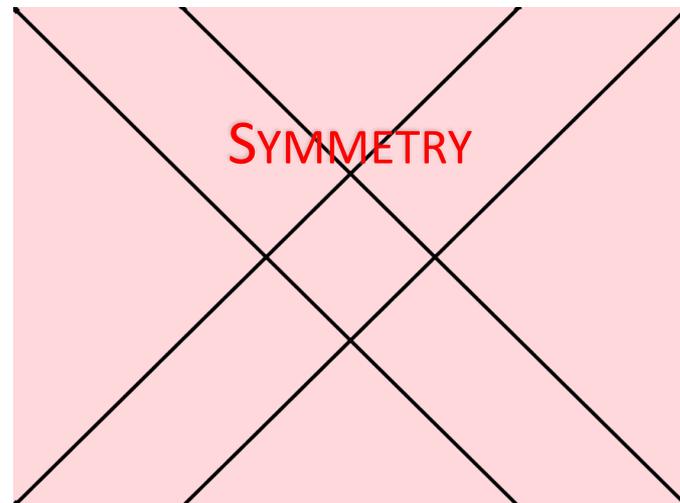
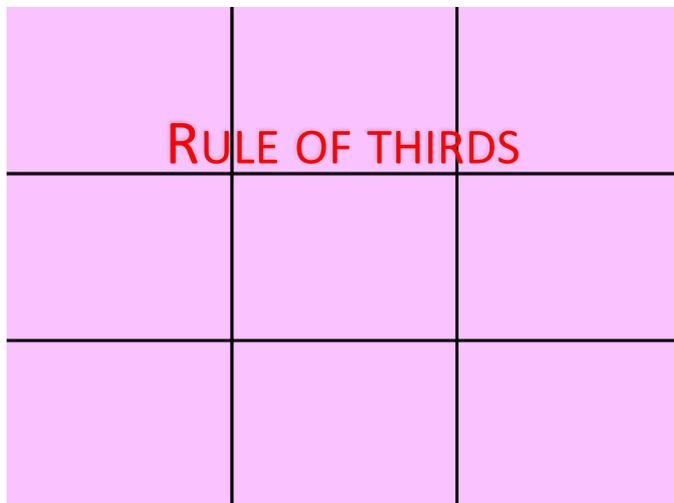
# Audrey Guidi, Photographer

- Lives in Redmond, Washington
- Cuban-American
- Photographer of people and places all around the world
- Enjoys playing with photo editing software to create fun effects
- Teaches visual arts to elementary students

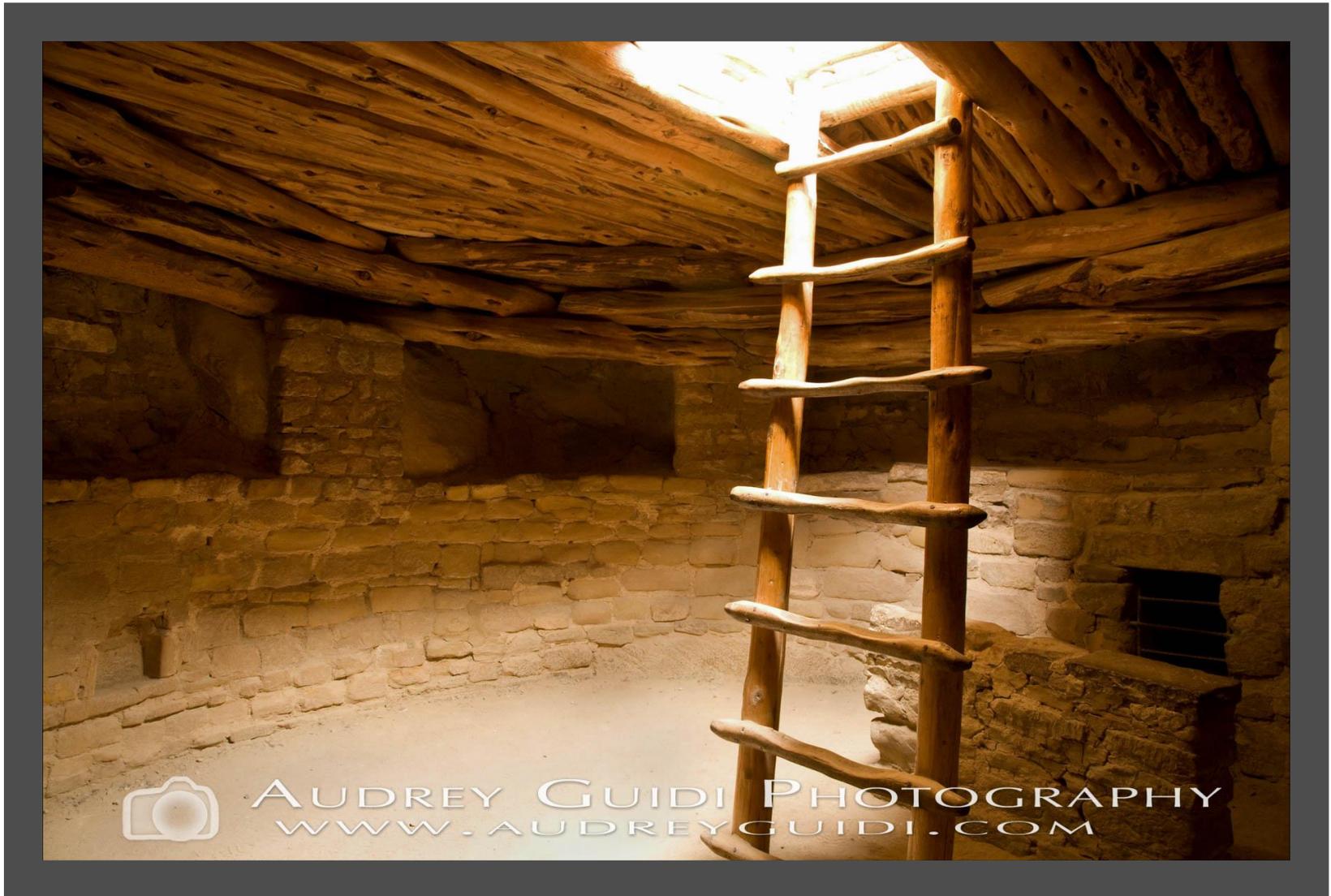


# More about Composition

- The arrangement of a scene or choice of viewpoint.
- Photographers use different rules to arrange objects within the **space** of their photos, so that they are pleasing to the eye.
- Two popular rules are the **rule of thirds** and **lateral symmetry**.
- Why the **rule of thirds**? Lines divide 3 equal rows and 3 equal columns.
- **Lateral symmetry** is present when you can fold an image into two nearly identical, mirrored halves, like a person's face or an open book.
- These guidelines help you organize major shapes to follow the rule.



# Which Rule of Composition?



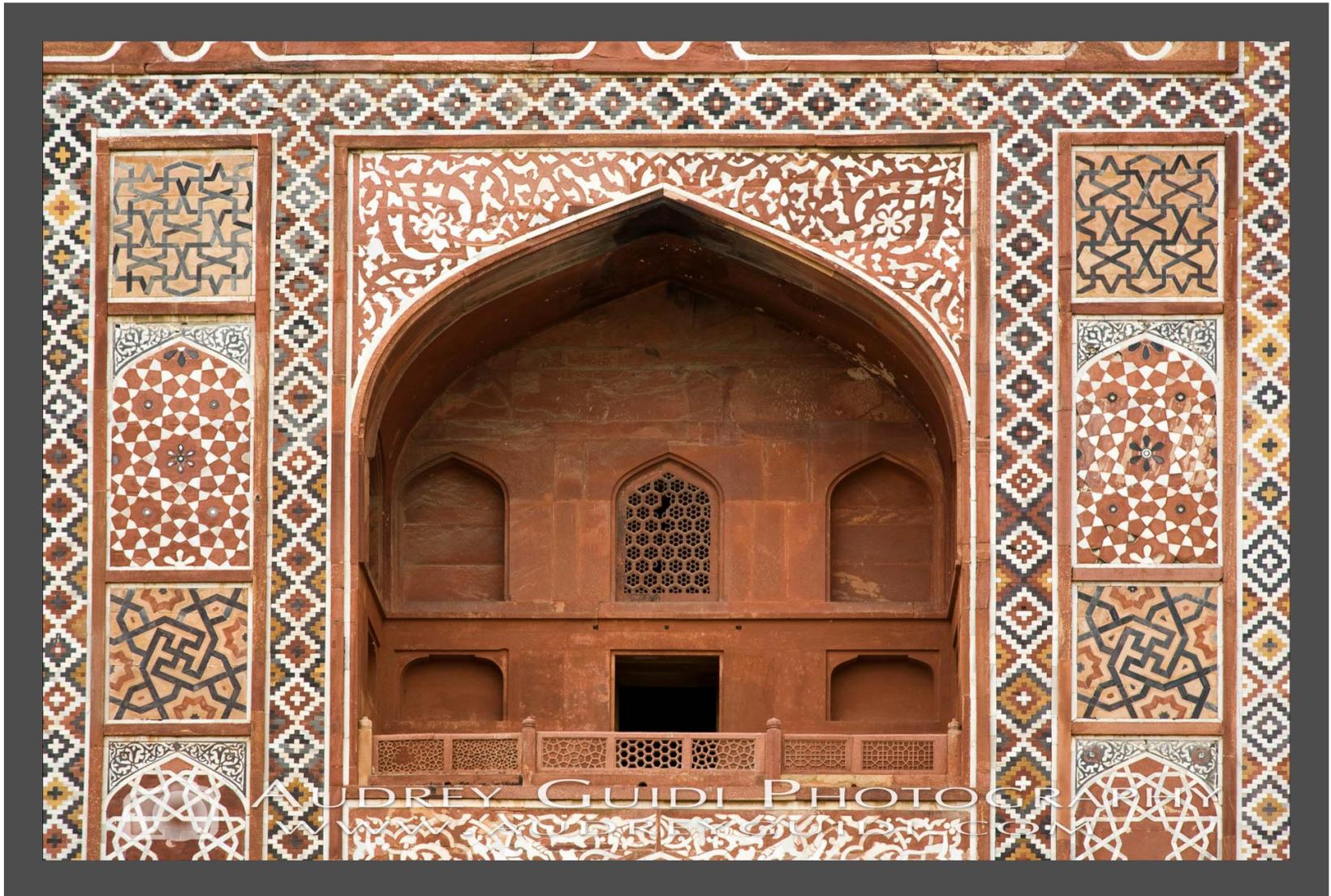
Kiva at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado © 2007 Audrey Guidi

# Composition: Rule of Thirds



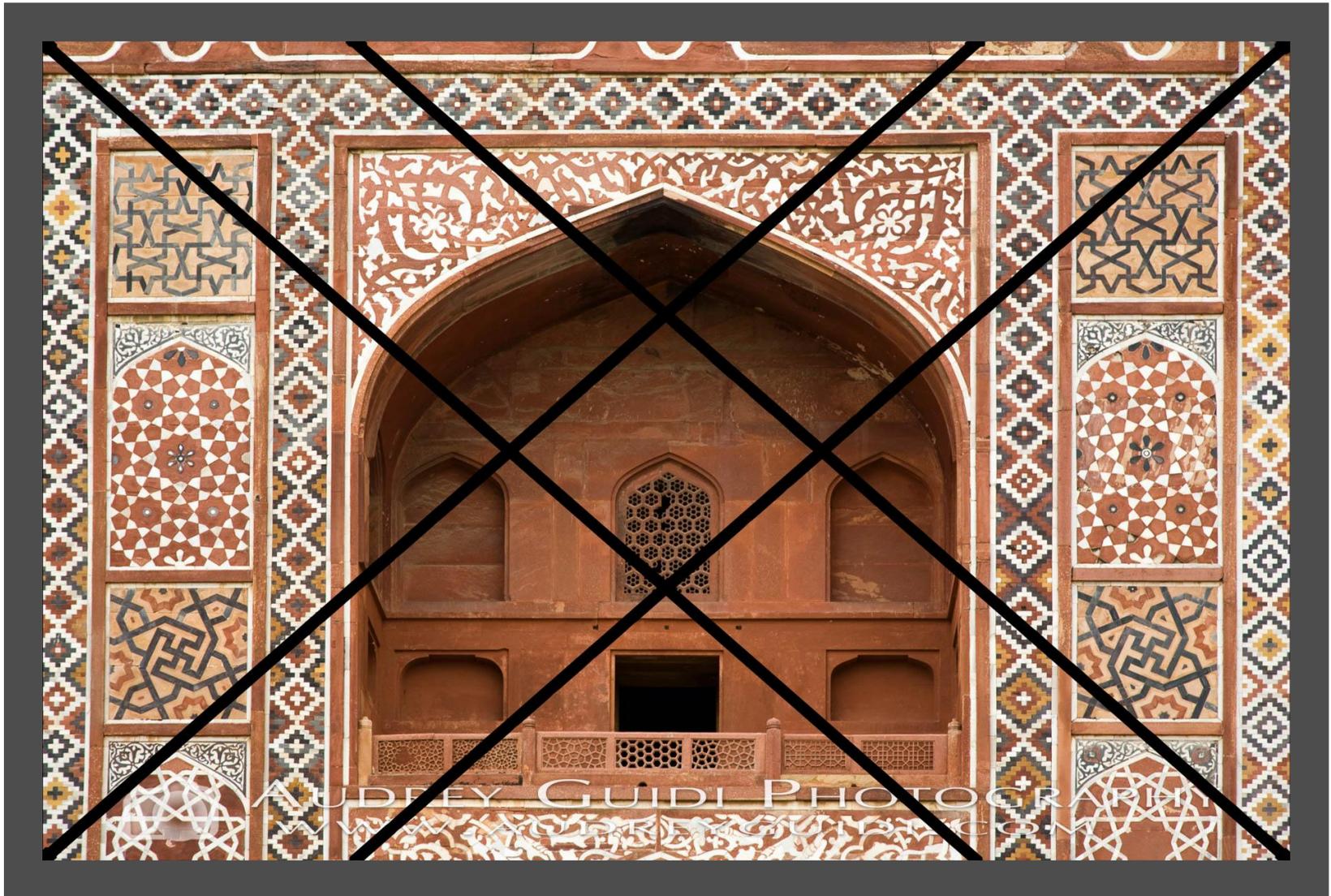
Kiva at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado © 2007 Audrey Guidi

# Which Rule of Composition?



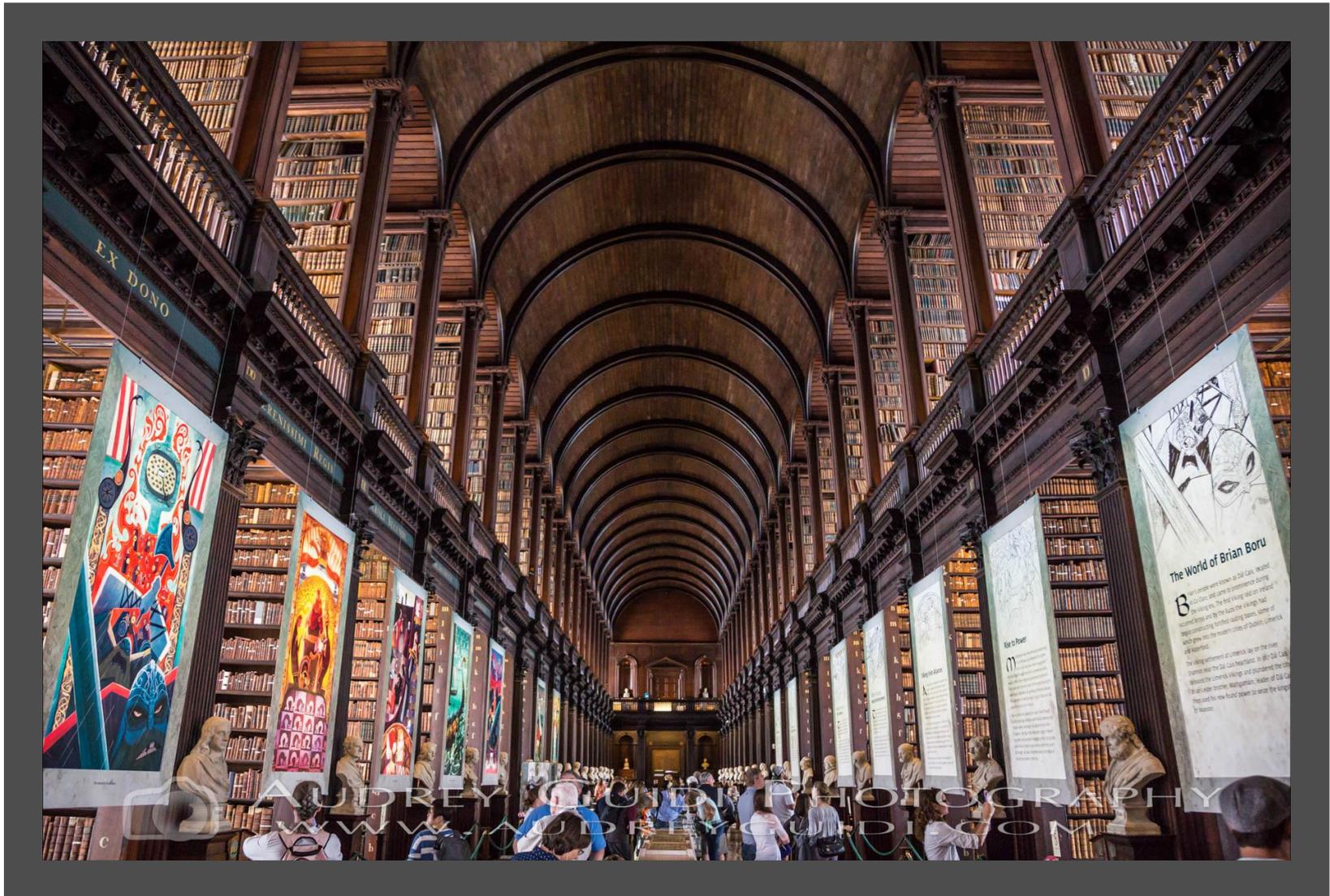
Tomb of Akbar the Great, Agra, India © 2006 Audrey Guidi

# Composition: Lateral Symmetry



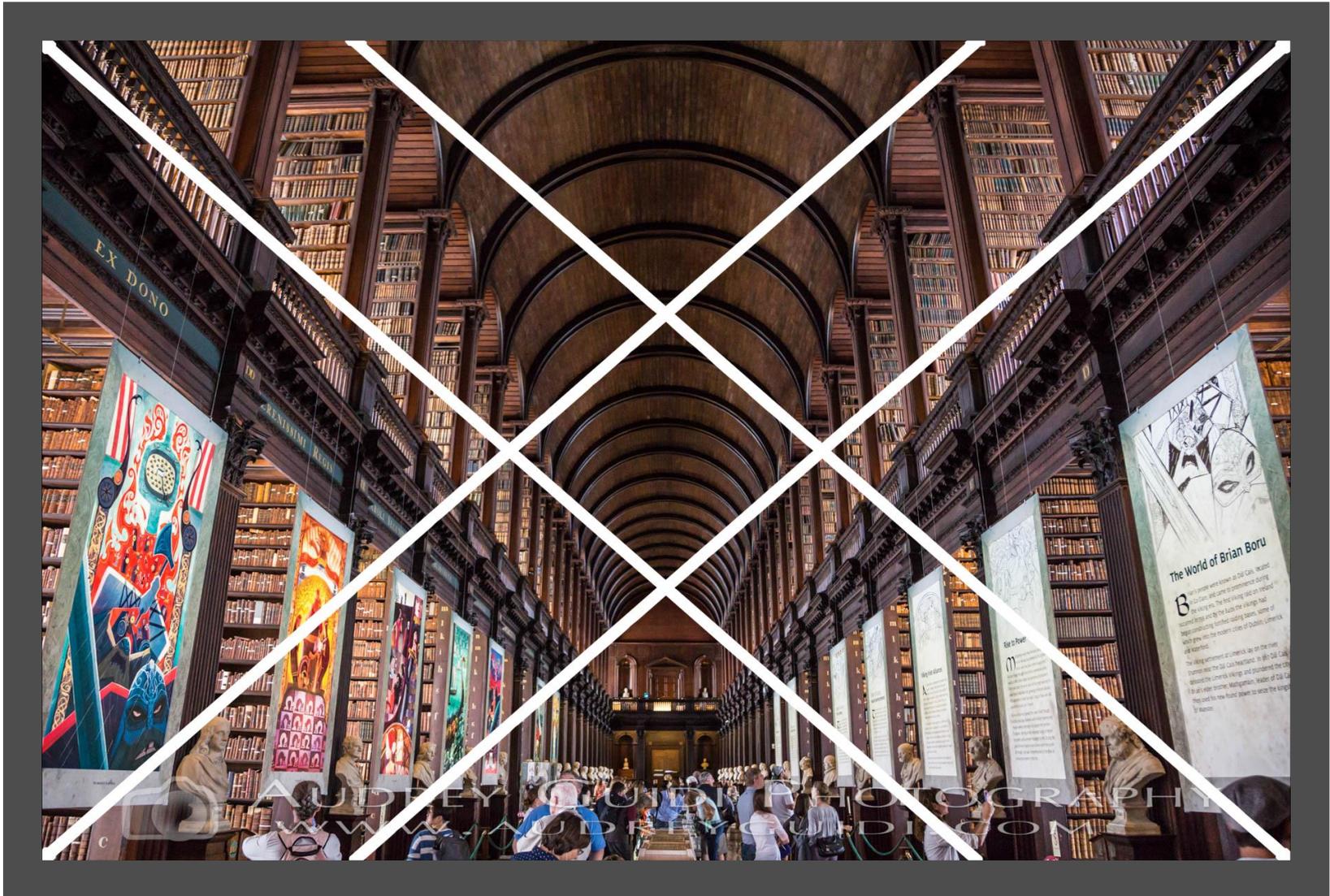
Tomb of Akbar the Great, Agra, India © 2006 Audrey Guidi

# Which Rule of Composition?



The Old Library at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland © 2014 Audrey Guidi

# Composition: Lateral Symmetry



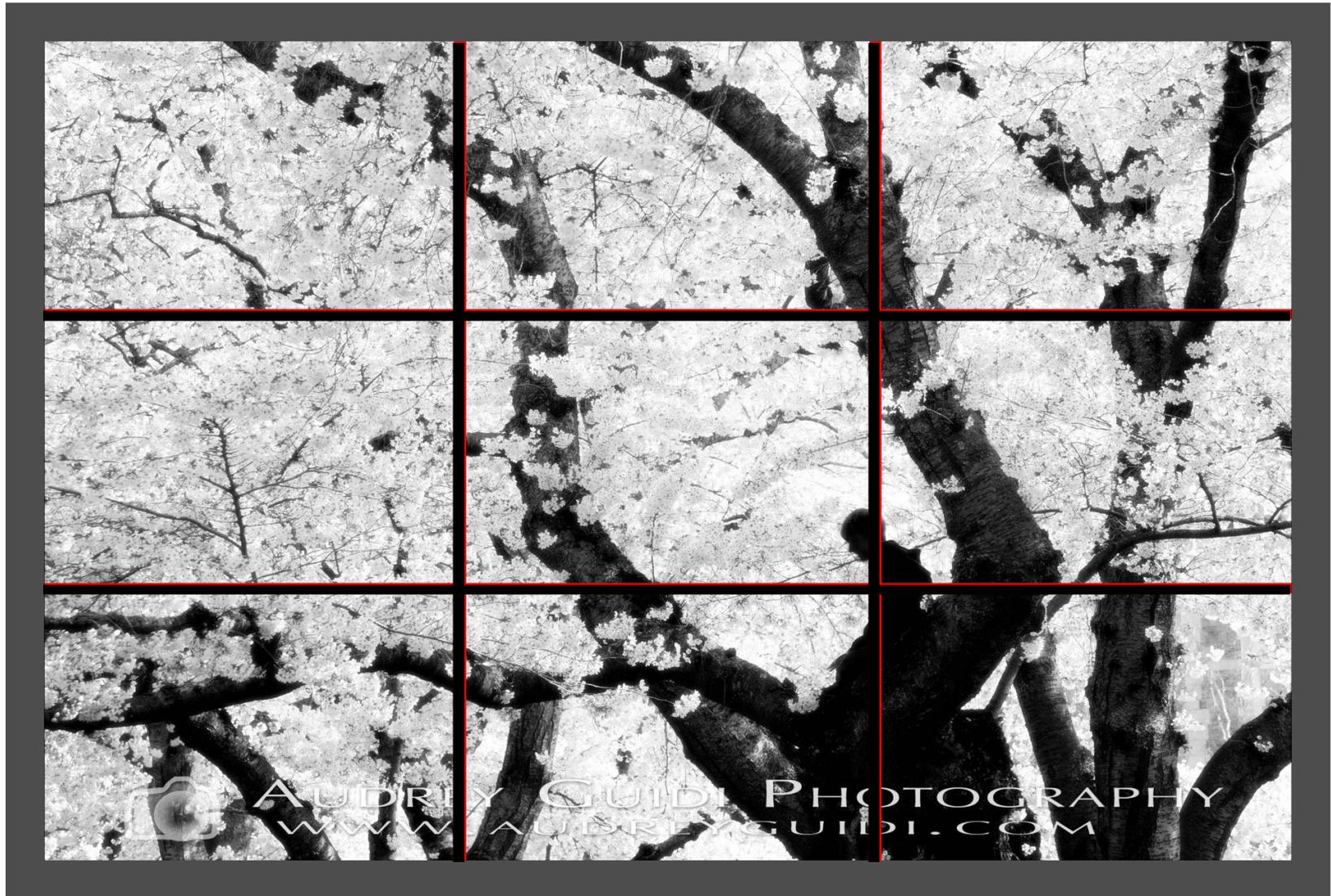
The Old Library at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland © 2014 Audrey Guidi

# Which Rule of Composition?



Cherry Blossoms, Seattle © 2012 Audrey Guidi

# Composition: Rule of Thirds



Cherry Blossoms, Seattle © 2012 Audrey Guidi

# Which Rule of Composition?



Yodobashi Camera, Tokyo, Japan © 2001 Audrey Guidi

# Composition: Rule of Thirds



# Which Rule of Composition?



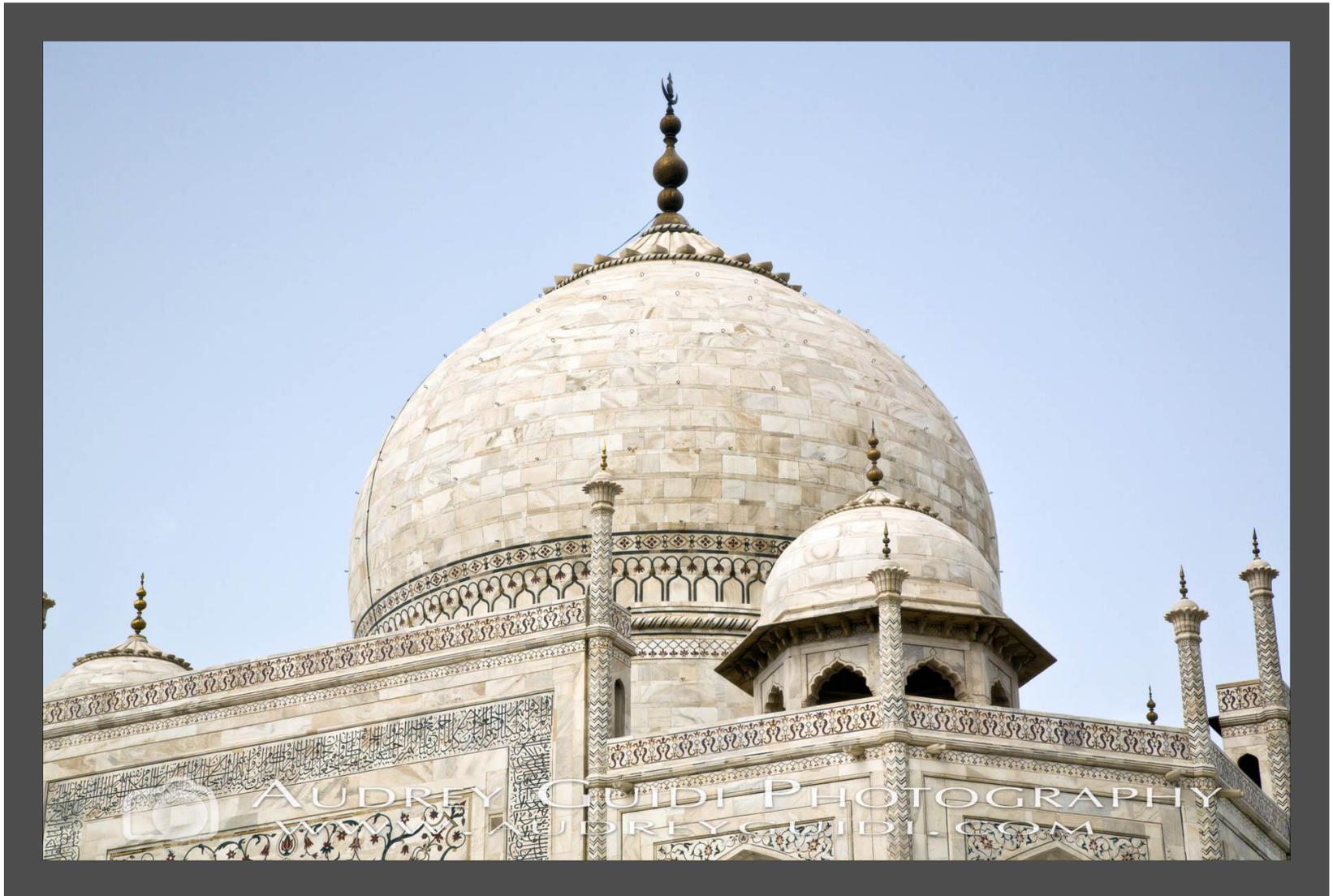
Taj Mahal, Agra, India © 2006 Audrey Guidi

# Composition: Lateral Symmetry



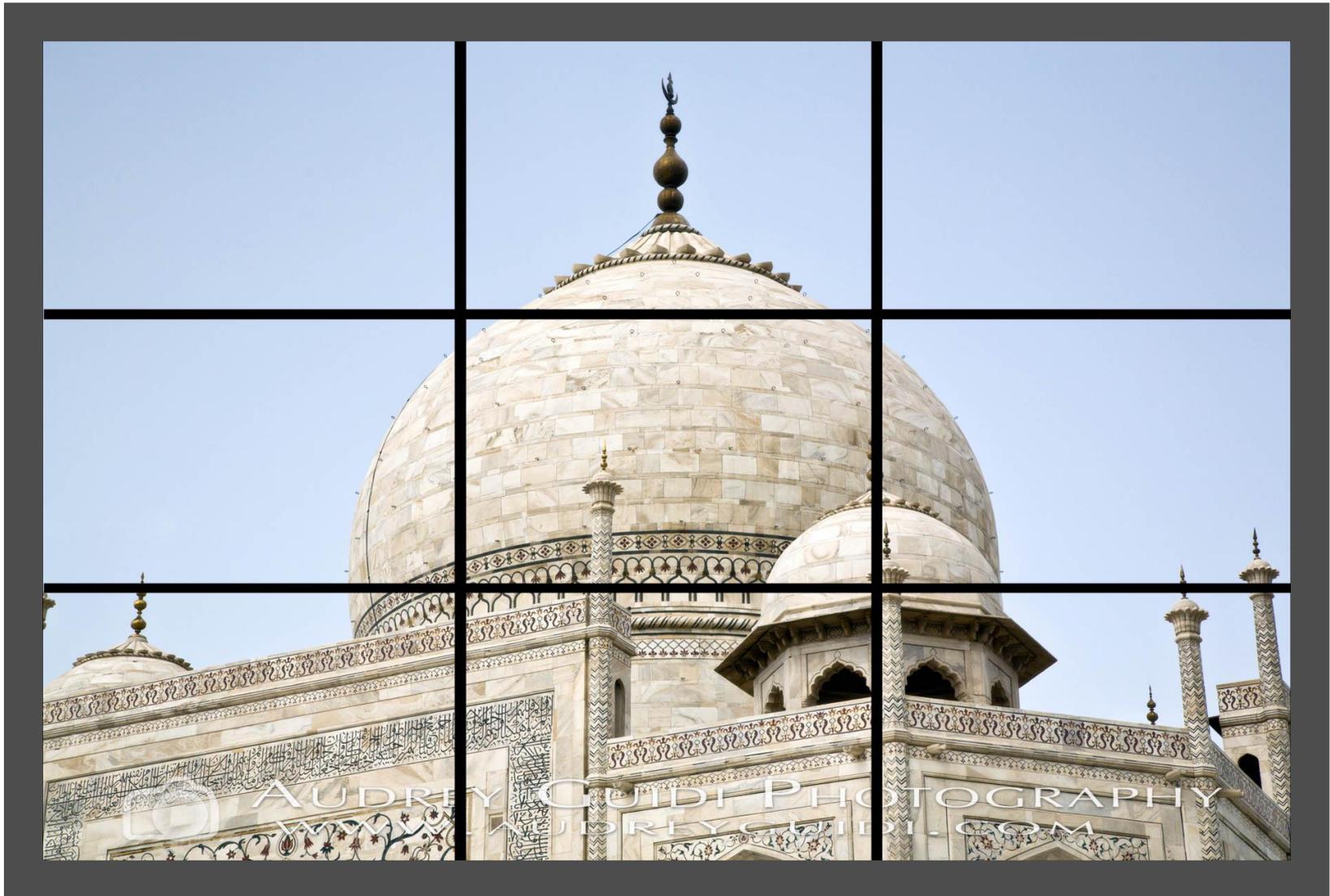
Taj Mahal, Agra, India © 2006 Audrey Guidi

# Which Rule of Composition?



Taj Mahal, Agra, India © 2006 Audrey Guidi

# Composition: Rule of Thirds



Taj Mahal, Agra, India © 2006 Audrey Guidi

# Materials

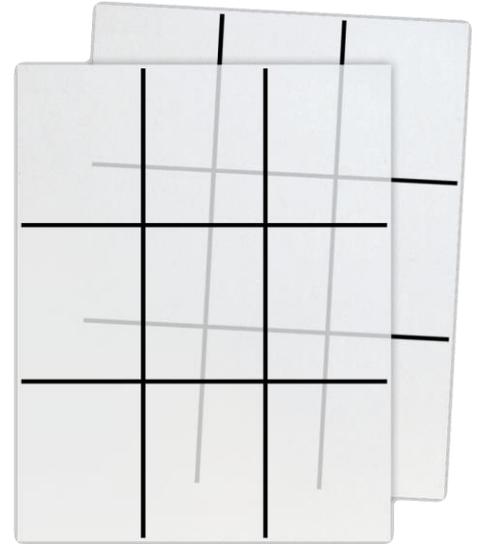


Construction paper, 9" x 12"



Glue stick

Transparent guides



Any fun paper scraps



Scissors



# Example of Today's Project



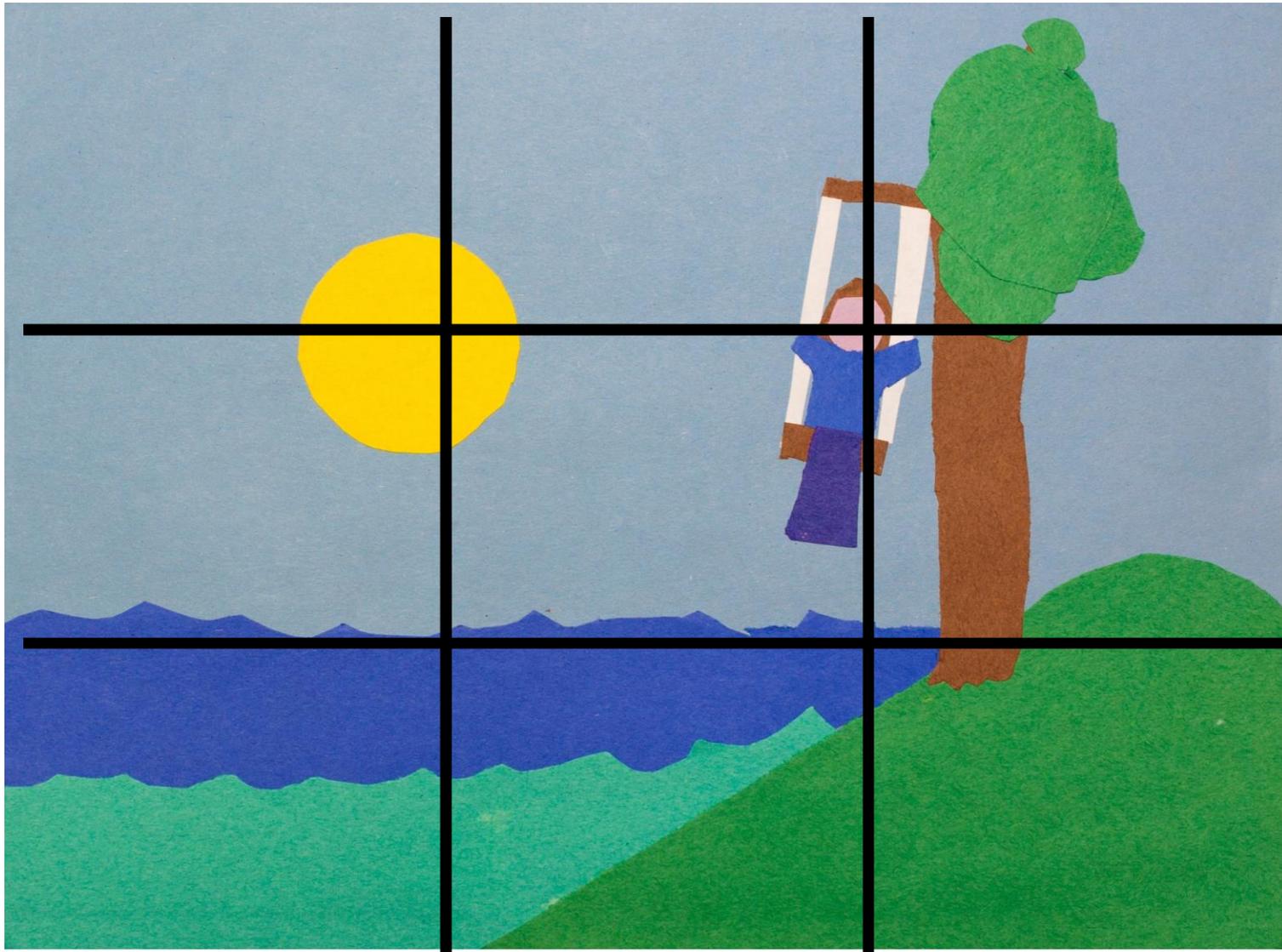
# Example of Today's Project



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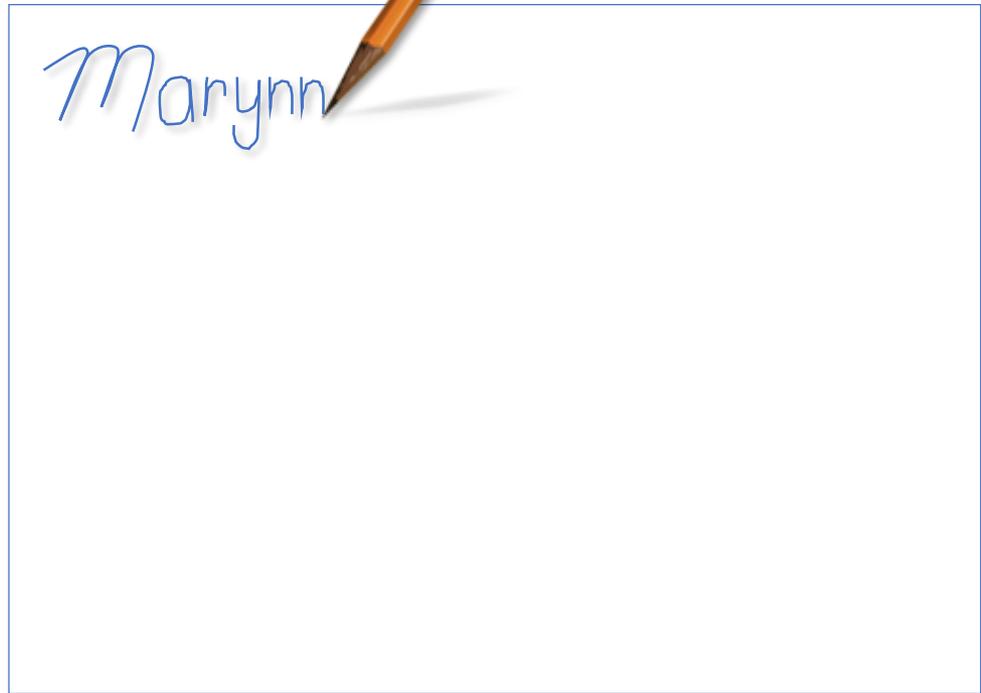


# Example of Today's Project



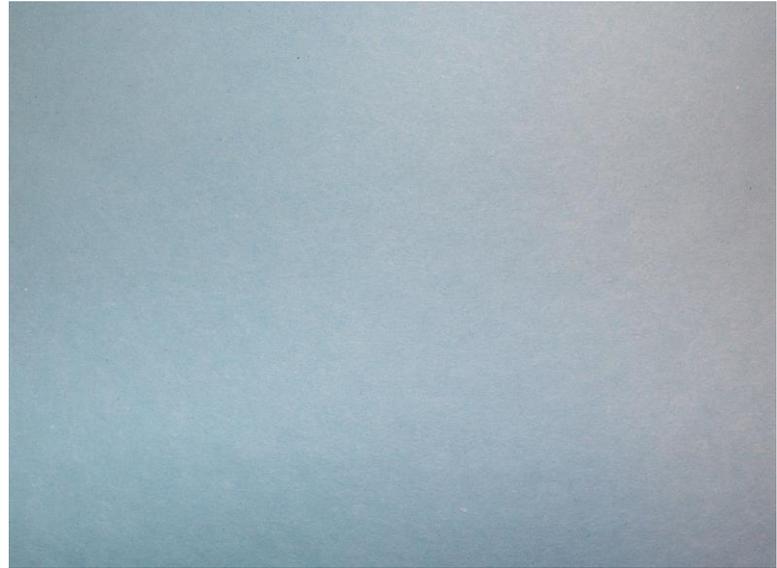
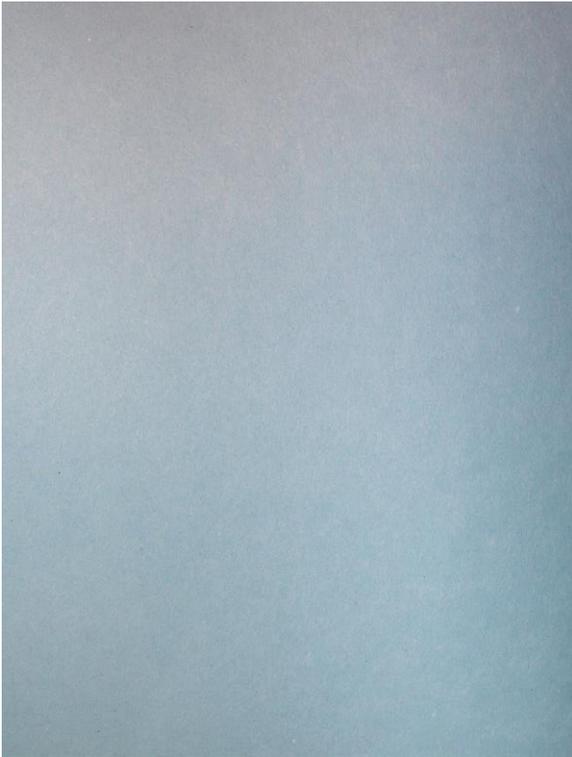
# Before You Begin

1. Write your **name** in pencil on the **back** of the paper.
2. Flip over your paper.
3. **Roll up your sleeves!**



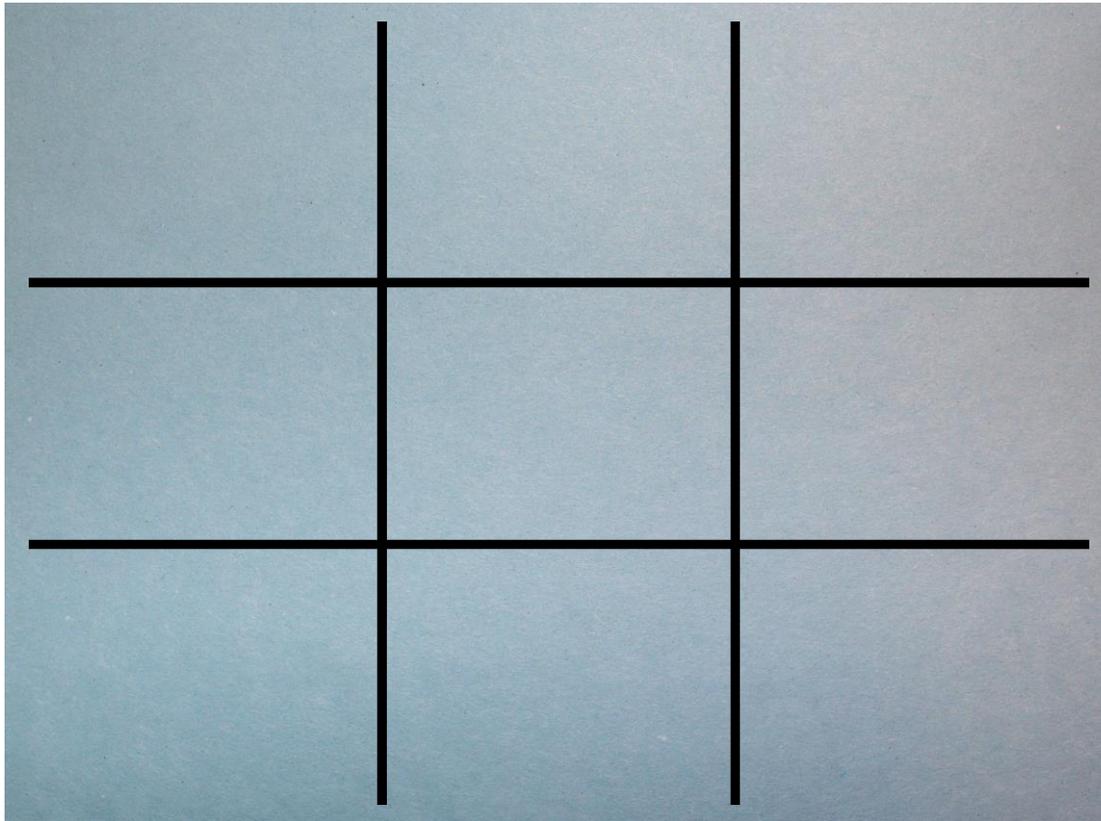
# Step 1

- Decide how you want your paper oriented, vertically or horizontally.



## Step 2

- Set your composition transparency guide on top of your paper.
- The plastic guides are a bit smaller than your paper. That's okay.
- See where the lines fall on your paper.
- Do not cut or glue your plastic guide!



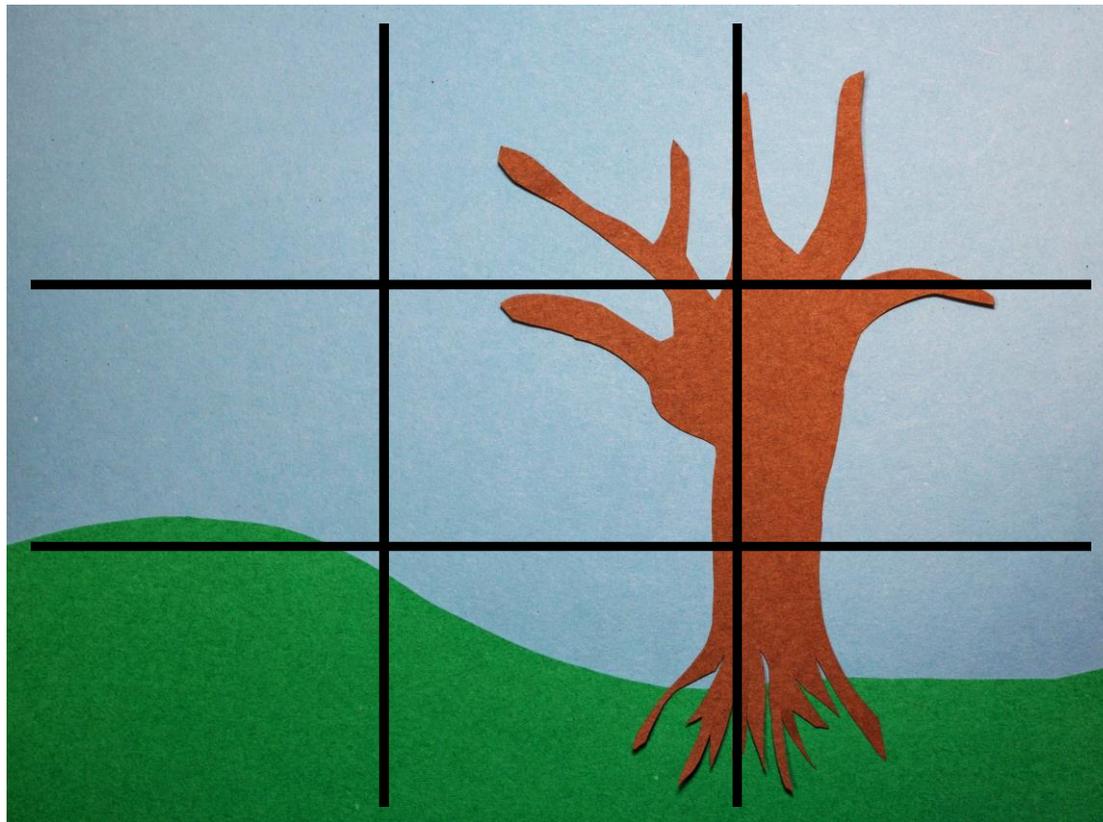
# Step 3

- Choose a few paper scraps



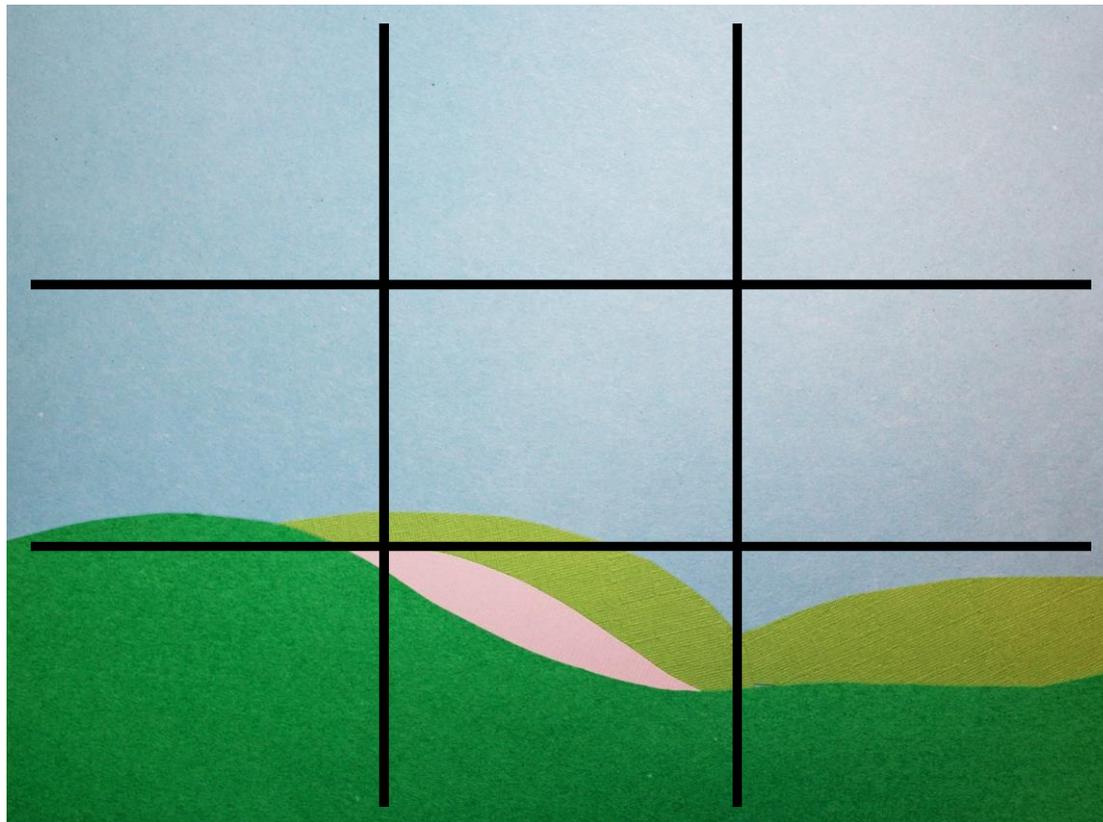
# Step 4

- Cut out some shapes, and arrange them under the transparency guides.
- **Don't glue them down yet!**
- Think about how you arrange your shapes in space.
- Start simple, with just two or three shapes.



# Step 5

- Consider overlapping or layering your shapes.
- Arrange more most important shapes under the black guidelines.



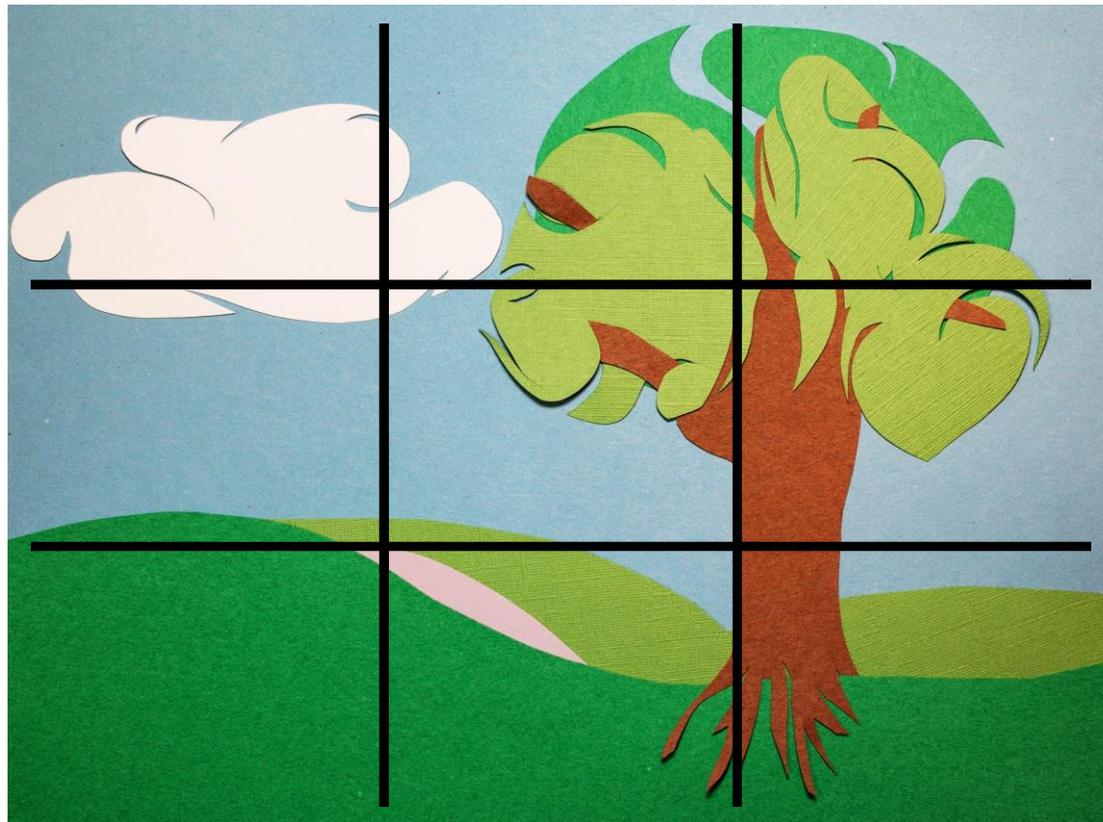
# Step 6

- Try different arrangements.
- Place major shapes under the black lines.
- Does this arrangement follow the rule of thirds? No!
- Try moving them around and look through your guide.



# Step 7

- Are you satisfied with the composition ?
- Are the most important parts of your scene under the black lines ?
- **Now** start gluing down your shapes.



# Reflection

- Did thinking about rules of composition change the way you arranged your shapes in the **space** of your collage?
- What is the **rule of thirds**?
- What is **lateral symmetry**?
- What was your favorite part of this project?
- Would anyone like to share their art?



# Credits

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The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.

