



Photographing Textiles

By Christine Miller
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Guild Meeting

**VISUAL LITERACY
IS ALL ABOUT
UNDERSTANDING
WHAT YOU SEE.**

Visual Literacy

- A picture is worth a thousand words.
- Researchers found that their subjects spent 2.6 seconds scanning a website before focusing on a particular section.
- Be clear and direct with your images to tell the story you want people to understand.



Decide where you focus needs to be

- If you focus in front, it might soften as you go back
- If on a garment stand, hanger, or mannequin be sure the piece is in focus - check several areas
- Decide if you need to get everything in focus, maybe you don't

You may not get everything in focus



Don't use a flash!

9 times out of 10 you don't need a flash. A flash will flatten and wash out your textile. If you need more light, you can use a piece of foam core and bounce light off it to your piece



Check your light!

Check the light and make sure it's not washing out your shot! Back lighting is harsh...and be sure you aren't in deep shadow! Is the light dappled? It might throw subtle shadows across your textile which you don't want.



“Style” your photo

- Are there threads sticking out?
- Is there a random bit of an object peaking into the frame
- Are you (or something else) casting a shadow onto the textile?
- Is your textile flowing or clumpy & awkward?

Use a critical eye for details, the more you practice the better you will get!

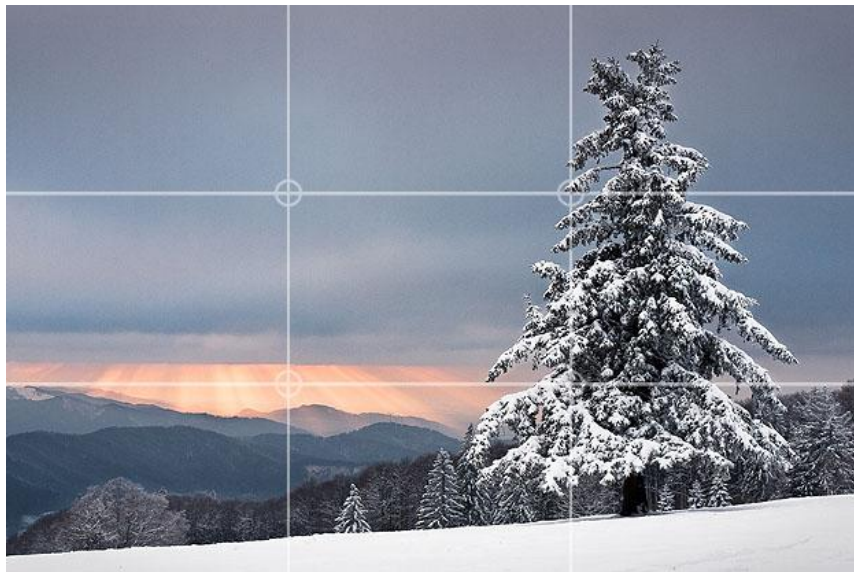


Photo source:

<https://www.photographymad.com/pages/view/rule-of-thirds>

Go to the Settings function on your phone, go to the camera app, and turn the grid function on in your phone.

Turn on the Grid in your camera

The grid creates a “rule of thirds”, a classic compositional approach. Where the lines intersect (at 4 places) is a compositional “sweet spot”. You can arrange a focal point in that area and your brain really likes it. It can create an asymmetrical balance composition. Try to avoid putting the focal point in the middle of the picture; we call that a “bulls eye” composition, and it’s not as interesting as a “rule of thirds” composition. Play with these ideas and see what you think!



Frame your shot

- Are you level?
- What do you want your focus to be?
- What story are you trying to tell?



Filters

The trend is for saturated color, especially on social media platforms. Without a filter “pop” our photos can look washed out.



Adjusting color in your phone

You can make changes to the warmth or coolness of your photo in your phone. Check for the filters in the “edit” section of your photo app.



Photo source: <https://www.photovisi.com/>

Collage Style Trend

Before using a collage template, ask some questions:

- What is the end purpose?
- What do you want to highlight?
- Does a lot of visual information help the viewer focus on your textile, or does it make them work harder to “see” your work?



CHRISTINE MILLER HAS
A FRESH NEW BATCH IN HER WEB STORE!

Handwoven Dish Towels

[HTTP://WWW.EXPLOREFIBER.COM/PRODUCT-CATEGORY/HANDWOVEN/](http://www.explorefiber.com/product-category/handwoven/)

Use Collage Strategically

- Let your images shine individually
- Let objects have room to breathe
- Use collage to create a visual story



A photo micro story

Cropping in brings the viewer into your photo and let's them focus on detail. Take photos from all angles of your textile. Change your body position and your camera position to look for additional interesting angles.



11/2/2019 - 1/5/2020
Opening 2-4, 11/2

BENEATH THE SURFACE

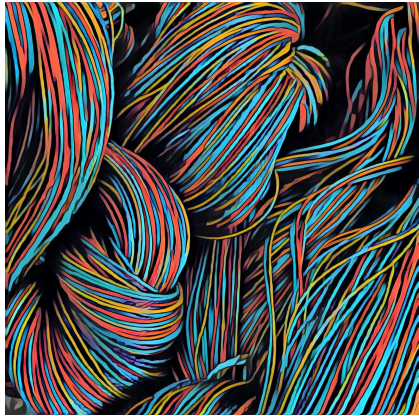
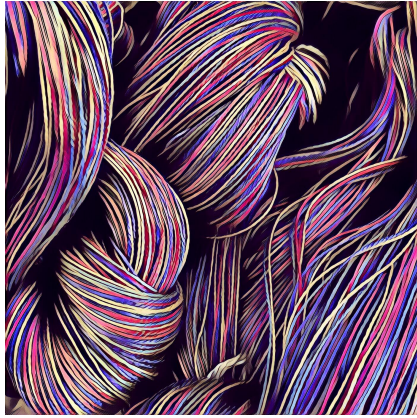
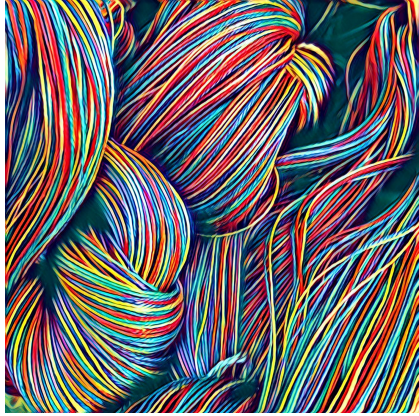
A Coral Reef Installation
by Christine & Keith Miller

The Discovery Gallery
Texas Discovery Garden
3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Dallas, TX 75315

for info: explorefiber@gmail.com

www.canva.com

Canva is a great free graphic design program that can make your shots look super professional! You can choose graphic design templates and pop your photos into them.



It's a visual world!

Use photo apps on your phone to manipulate your photos for different looks & effects. I did this for my logo image.
Time to play!





Still have a question?

Google it! You can get instructions and tutorials for almost any phone, computer, or application.

And, want to get better at photography? Take LOTS of pictures! The more you shoot the better you will become.

Have fun and good luck!