

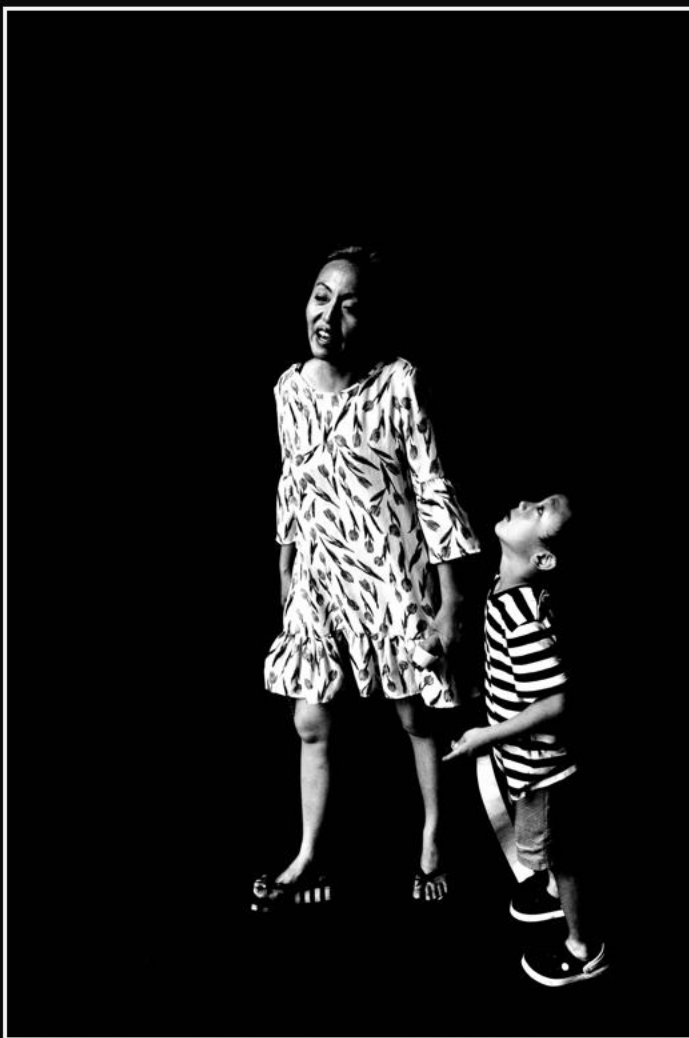
FLUX ACADEMY · A SCHOOL FOR SEEING

MODULE 4 · COMPOSITION

Simplicity, Abstraction & Negative Space

BY DANTE SISOFO

LESSON 018



Strip It Down to Essentials

- Subtract until only the essential is left
- Light and shadow do the isolating
- Simplicity is the loudest statement



What You'll Walk Away With

- Isolate a single subject cleanly
- Use shadow and empty space on purpose
- Turn the mundane into abstraction



Distraction Kills the Emotion

- Clutter buries the moment
- Minimalism lets emotion shine through
- Clarity is what the viewer feels



Reality Is Boring Until You Frame It

- Reality can be boring on its own
- The camera turns it extraordinary
- You're showing what life could be



Strip Down to Light and Shadow

- Hone in on light and shadow play
- Cleaner, more focused images
- The basics, done deliberately



Underexpose to Crush the Clutter

- Underexpose by one stop
- Crush the unnecessary into shadow
- Highlight only what matters



Darkness Adds Mystery

- Underexpose to highlight the one moment
- Crush everything else into shadow
- Mystery from what you can't see



Negative Space Is a Choice

- What you exclude matters as much as what you include
- Empty space gives the subject room to breathe
- Don't cram — simplify



Isolate the Subject

- Separate the subject from the backdrop
- Crush the shadows to lift them out
- One subject, said clearly



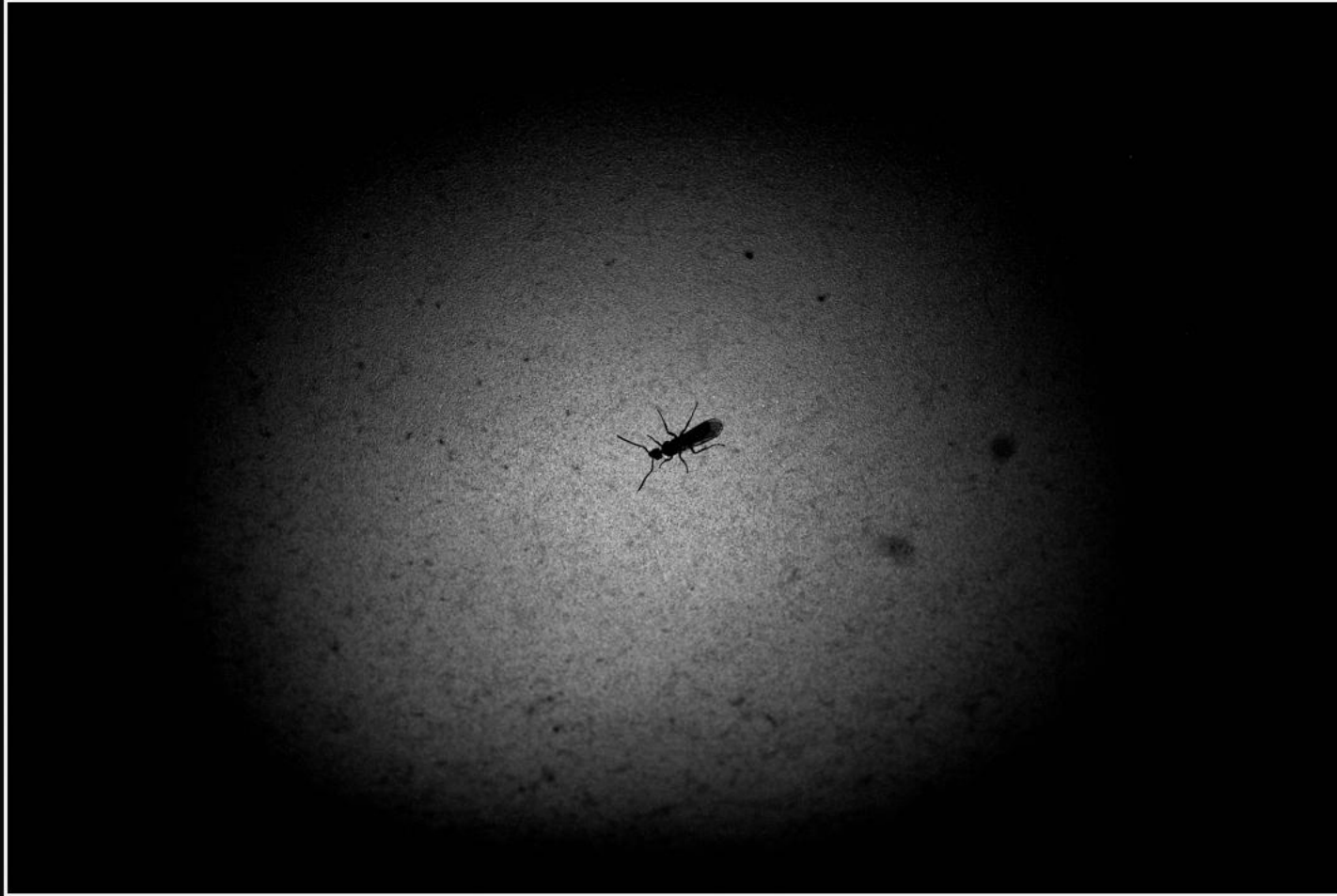
Abstraction Meets Emotion

- Strong form, geometry — and raw emotion
- Don't choose documentary OR abstract
- Synthesize both



Why Black and White Abstracts

- B&W strips out color's distraction
- Crush shadows, expose for highlights
- Focus on moment, gesture, emotion



Abstraction Without People

- A photo doesn't need a person
- Light and shadow alone carry mood
- Mystery without a subject



One Quiet Detail, Isolated

- One gesture, one detail, all clarity
- Simplicity isolates the emotion
- The superfluous removed



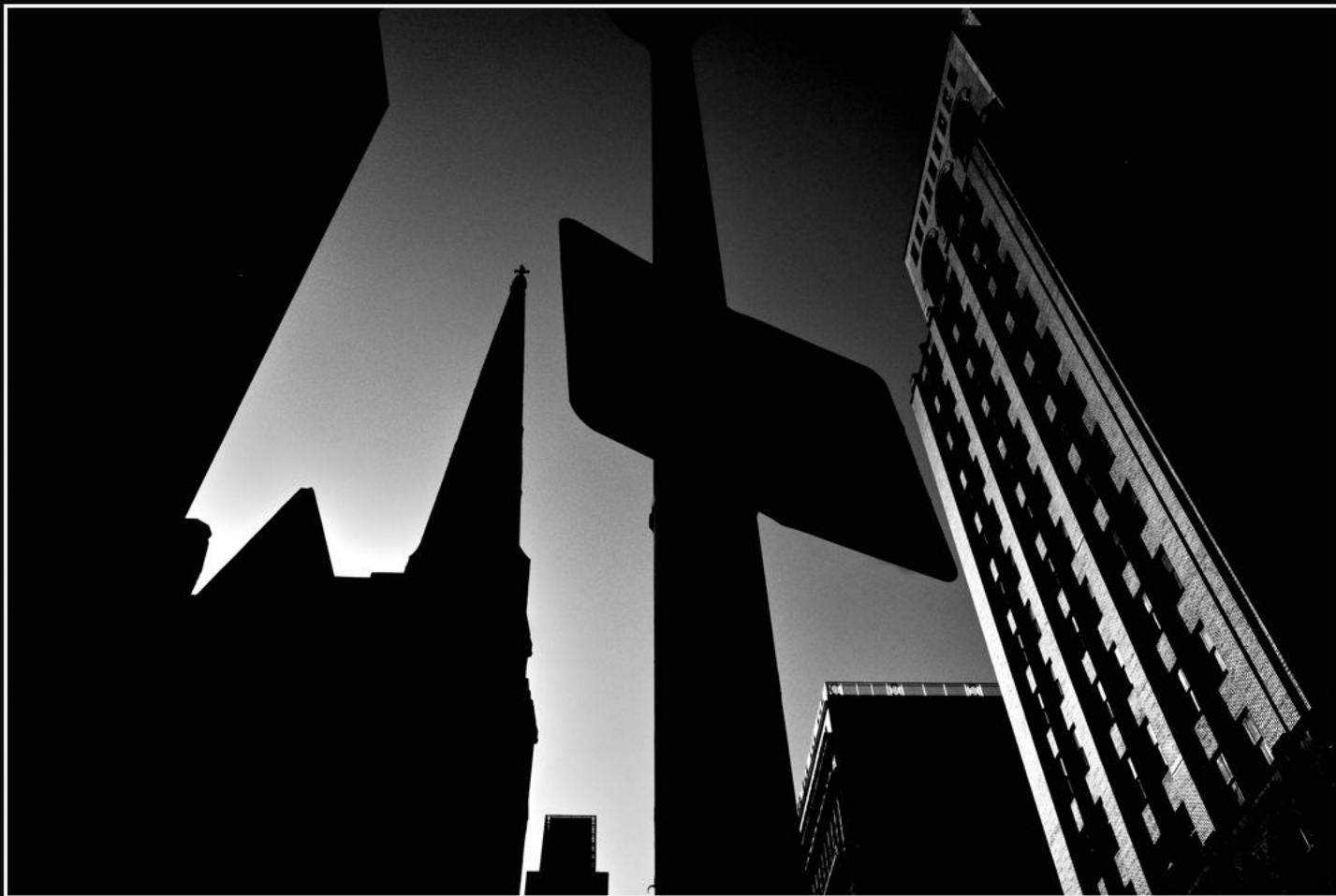
The World Is the Canvas

- Cigarette butts, wall textures, found objects
- The world around you is the canvas
- Elevate the overlooked



Macro Turns Detail Into Abstraction

- Switch to macro, get extremely close
- A crack becomes a canyon
- Detail becomes pure abstraction



Slow Down, Then Let Go

- The slower you walk, the more you see
- Stop controlling every element
- What you see isn't what the camera saw



Shoot a Minimal Series

- Underexpose one stop, all day
- One subject per frame, nothing else
- Let the background go to black



The Macro Detail Hunt

- Switch to macro, get on the ground
- Hunt textures, cracks, found objects
- Find abstraction in the overlooked



Too Much Empty, or Too Cold

- Empty space must have purpose, not just gap
- Too distant = the moment feels cold
- Simplicity still needs soul



Cramming and Cropping Later

- Don't cram every inch full
- Cropping later isn't simplifying
- Simplify in-camera, with your feet



Building on Physical Composition

- Lesson 017: composition is physical
- Now we subtract instead of stack
- Same body, simpler frame



From Form to Gesture

- Next: Gesture & Body Language (Lesson 019)
- A minimal frame makes one gesture sing
- Form sets the stage for feeling



Subtract Until It Sings

- Strip to light, shadow, one subject
- Empty space is a tool, not a gap
- Subtract until only the essential remains