

FLUX ACADEMY · A SCHOOL FOR SEEING

MODULE 5 · LAYERING

Introduction to Layering

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LESSON 023



Layering Is a Way of Seeing

- Layering = structure, not complexity
- Not a trick, not a rule
- A way of being present



What You'll Walk Away With

- See structure before subjects
- Build a frame, don't chase moments
- Read foreground, middle, background



Layered Photos Feel Alive

- They mirror how we live experience
- The eye travels and stays
- Depth = engagement



Most People Leave Too Early

- The real failure isn't seeing — it's leaving
- Give the scene time to breathe
- Patience is the dividing line



Human First, Photographer Second

- Photography has almost nothing to do with photography
- It's how you engage with life
- The camera is an extension of the body



Layering Is Structure

- Putting order to chaos
- Deliberate placement: spatial, visual, emotional
- Structure I feel before I see



What Layering Is NOT

- Not more people, objects, chaos
- Not rule-of-thirds or leading lines
- Not impressing other photographers



Relationships, Not Subjects

- Not a single face or gesture
- How elements relate inside the frame
- People in relation to space and light



Composition Is Physical

- Com = together, position = to place
- Solve compositions with your feet
- Drop low, shift left, respond



Layering Exists in Time

- Not just space — duration
- Stay until the scene leaves you
- The shutter confirms, it doesn't create



Commit to the Background First

- Set the stage, then wait for actors
- Background = mood, structure, light
- A strong subject won't save weak structure



Work a Choke Point as Your Stage

- A bus stop or corner as a choke point
- Set a graphic background first
- Wait for people to flow through naturally



Structure Stillness Against Spectacle

- Pair a quiet figure with a lively backdrop
- Tired stillness against glowing energy
- Structure carries the emotional weight



The Photograph Exists Before the Moment

- Background and frame committed before the moment
- The peak action is the moment, not the photo
- The photograph existed before the moment arrived



Single Moments vs. Layered Moments

- Single moment = timing and reaction
- Layered moment = duration and preparation
- Both valid — choose intentionally



Removal, Not Addition

- Don't add interest — remove distraction
- One step left; wait for one, not five
- Layering rewards restraint



The 3 Ps: Your Field Mantra

- Patience — let the moment unfold
- Presence — be fully tuned in
- Position — solve it with your feet



Build the Frame, Step by Step

- Find the background first
- Plug in a foreground; let the middle come
- Wait for relationships, then know when to stop



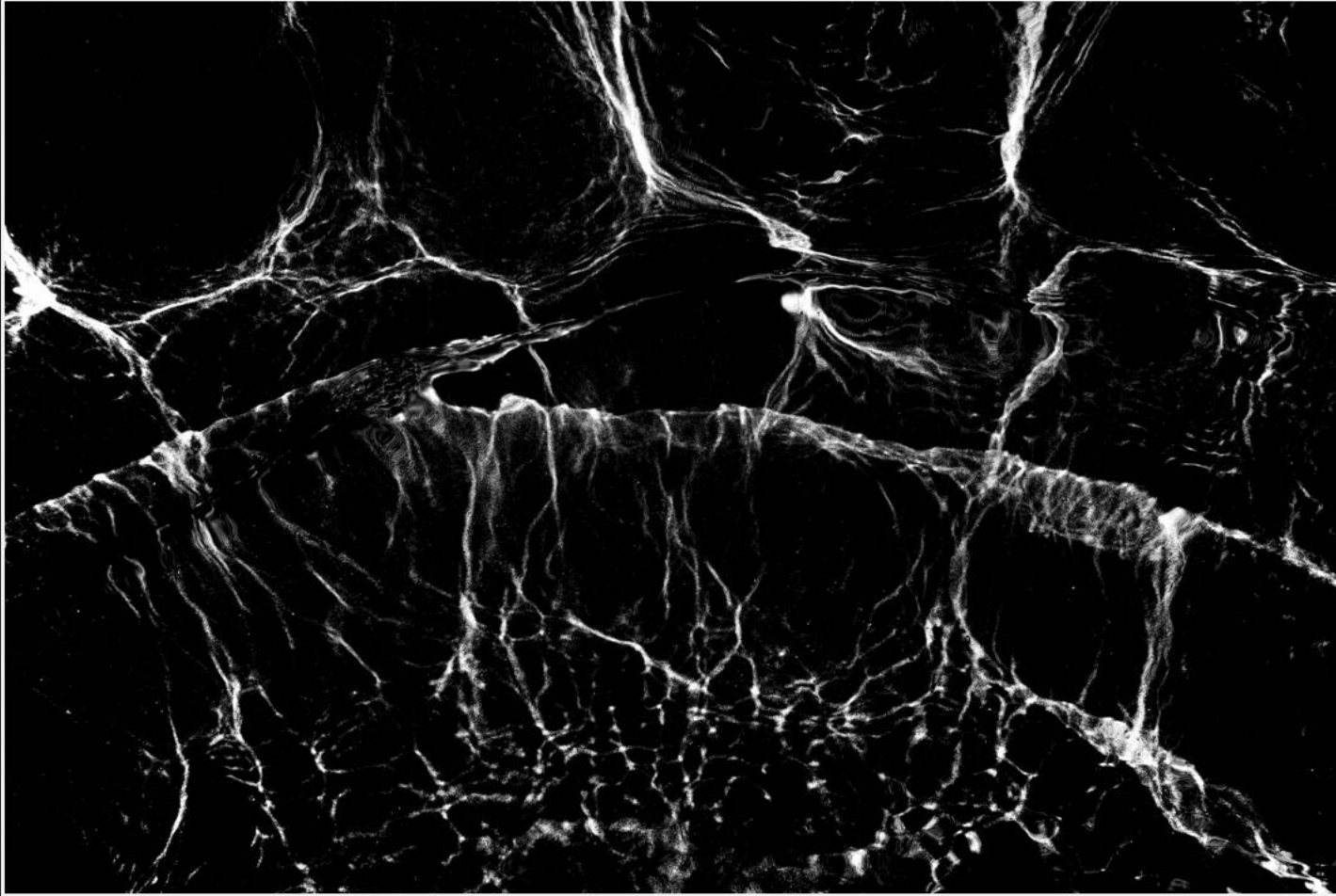
Work a Choke Point

- Pick a spot where people naturally funnel
- Commit and stay — minutes, not seconds
- Let the scene finish itself



Leaving Too Early & Forcing It

- Leaving before the scene resolves
- Standing far and hoping things line up
- Distance flattens; stacking chaos kills clarity



From Composition to Layering

- Lesson 022 closed the Composition module
- Layering is composition with depth
- Same physical seeing, now stacked front-to-back



Into the Three Layers

- Next: Foreground, Middle Ground, Background (Lesson 024)
- The spatial breakdown of every layered frame
- Then: building depth and light in layers



Feel the Frame Before You Make It

- Layering is structure and a way of seeing
- Patience. Presence. Position.
- Feel the photograph before you make it