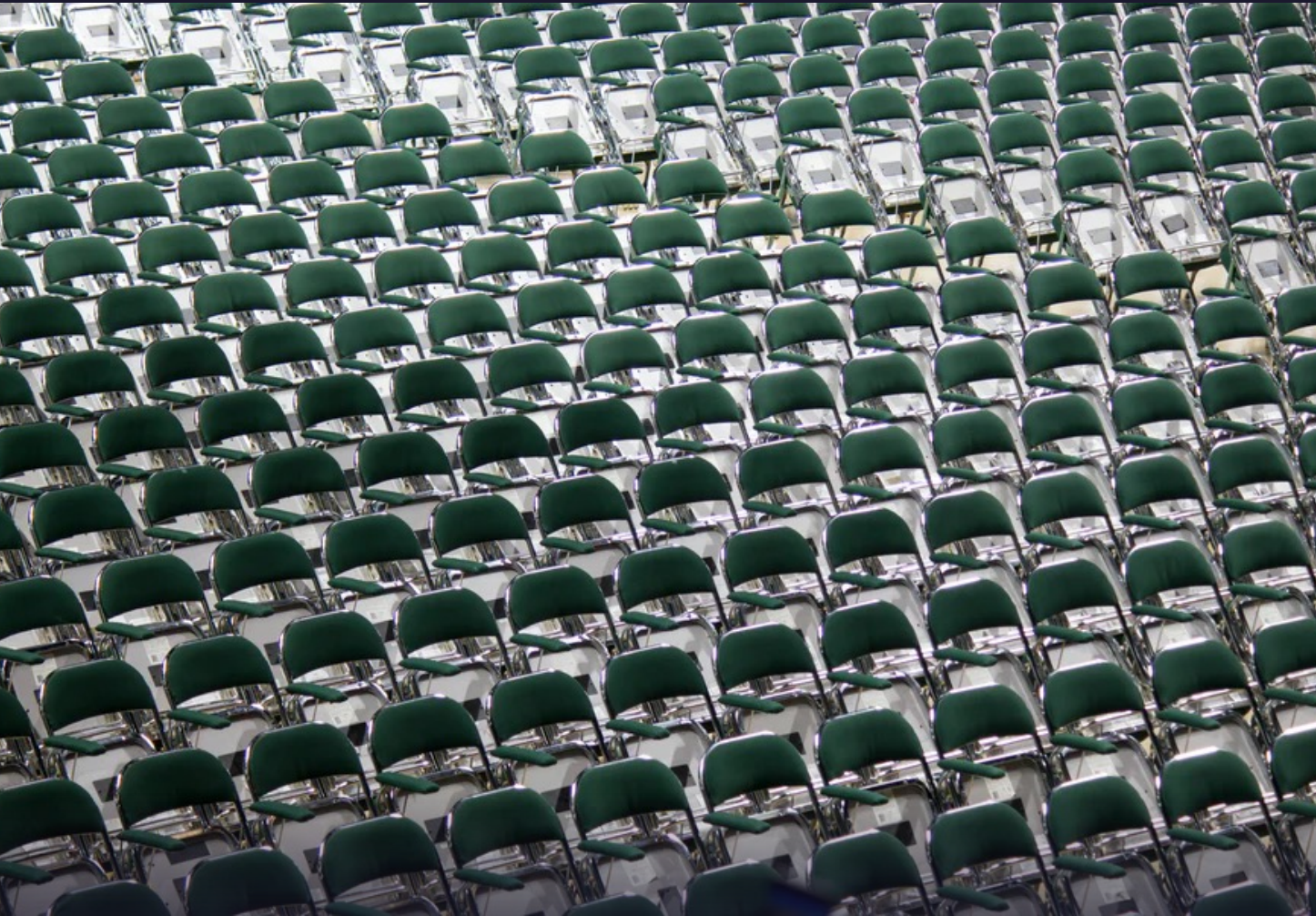


Symmetry



Rules of Photography



What is symmetry?

- Sound familiar? You may remember symmetry from geometry lessons or art classes.
- In simple terms, symmetry is when two halves of an object are equal – almost like there's a mirror going right down the middle.
- In photography, symmetry is defined in a similar manner. When two or more parts of an image are made up of similar or the same elements.



Why is symmetry important in photo composition?

- Symmetry is both a natural occurrence and human-made form.
- Animals, plants, landscapes, organisms all have elements of symmetry.
- Buildings, structures, architecture, and designs also use symmetry. This is because symmetry creates visual balance.
- Visual balance can create a sense of calm to the viewer. Symmetry can also generate interest because views have more to look at in a photo.



Types of Symmetry

Horizontal or Vertical Symmetry – this creates the impression that an image is in two equal halves.



Radial Symmetry

- This when symmetry develops around a central point. This common in flowers and other organic materials.



Reflective Symmetry

- As the name suggests this when an image uses reflection to create a symmetrical effect. This is often accomplished using glass or the surface of water.



Closing thoughts...

- Symmetry can be a very powerful focus for composing photographs. Humans are naturally drawn to symmetry or visual perfection.
- Symmetry creates visual harmony.
- You can find symmetry in both complex and simple scenes – and you can even create your own symmetry in the field or in post-production.

