Interactive Session: Exemplar Photographers: Michael Kenna

Purpose of the Interactive Sessions

- Examining the photographic art of successful image makers is an excellent way to better understand what memorable/impactful/successful images look like as we strive to become better photographers ourselves.

- When we see a photographic opportunity, we should remember and apply relevant compositional approaches and post-processing techniques to express the thoughts and feelings the scene produced in us.

https://www.michaelkenna.com/gallery.php?id=123

Why Michael Kenna?

- Extensive career (50+ years)

- Large, consistent body of work that makes drawing conclusions about images relatively easy

- Images are thoughtfully composed and executed; they are also thought-provoking

> " Photography is a means of personal expression…We reflect our inner being while documenting what we might consider to be an exterior scene."
>
> Michael Kenna
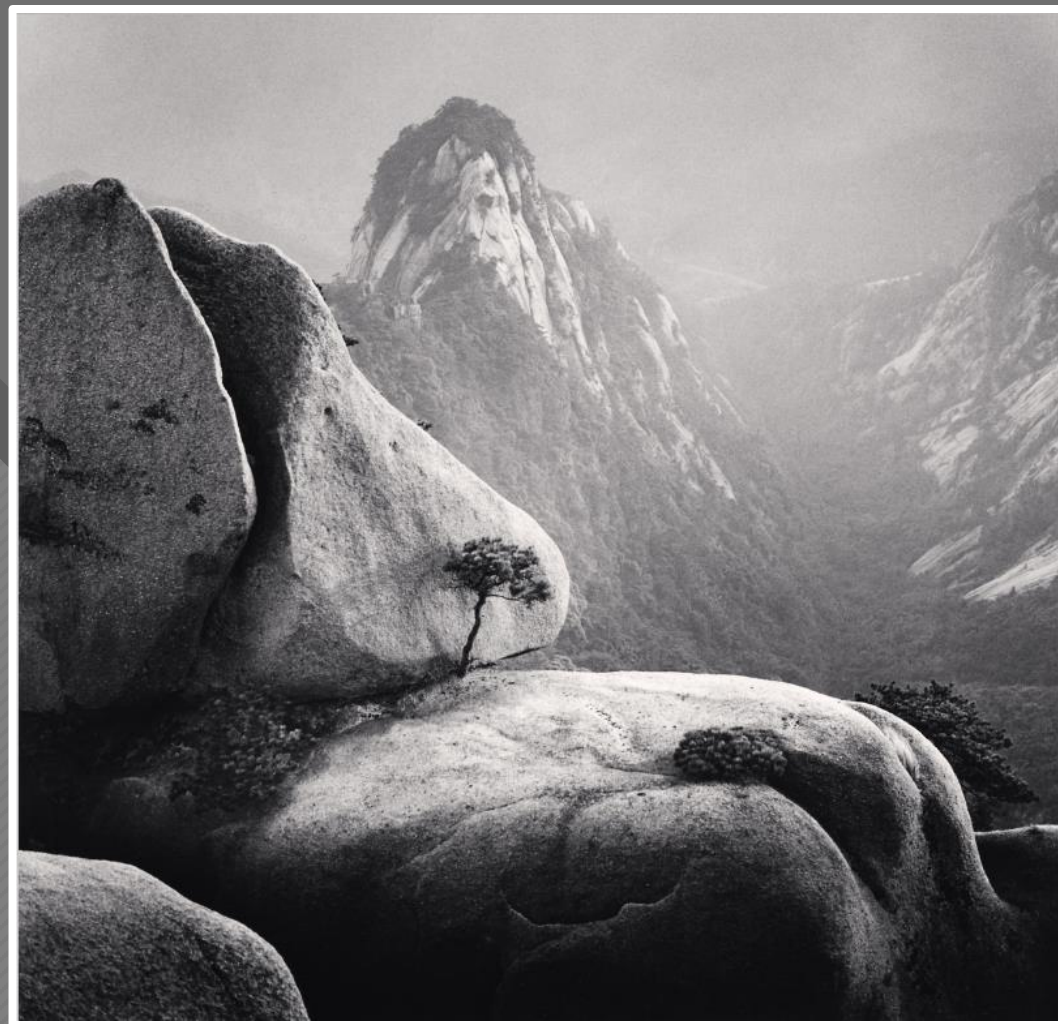
Huangshan Mountains, Study 27
Anhui, China, 2009
Michael Kenna

Recap of Assignment

- Select one or more images from Kenna's "New Japan" collection that speak most clearly and urgently to you.

- Try to identify what elements in the images contribute most to their impact on you and how the images were constructed.

Analysis Questions / Process

- Pay attention to your first impressions.
- Observe how an image makes you feel. What do you like about it? What works? What surprises and delights you?
- Consider the subject, the message, and the techniques used to convey that message or create a mood.
- Look at the composition: Where does your eye go and how does it move about the frame? What is the relationship between the different elements in the frame?
- What role does lighting play? What other details do you notice?

Clear Designation of Subject; Interesting Shapes

Michael Kenna

Prominence of Shapes as Subjects
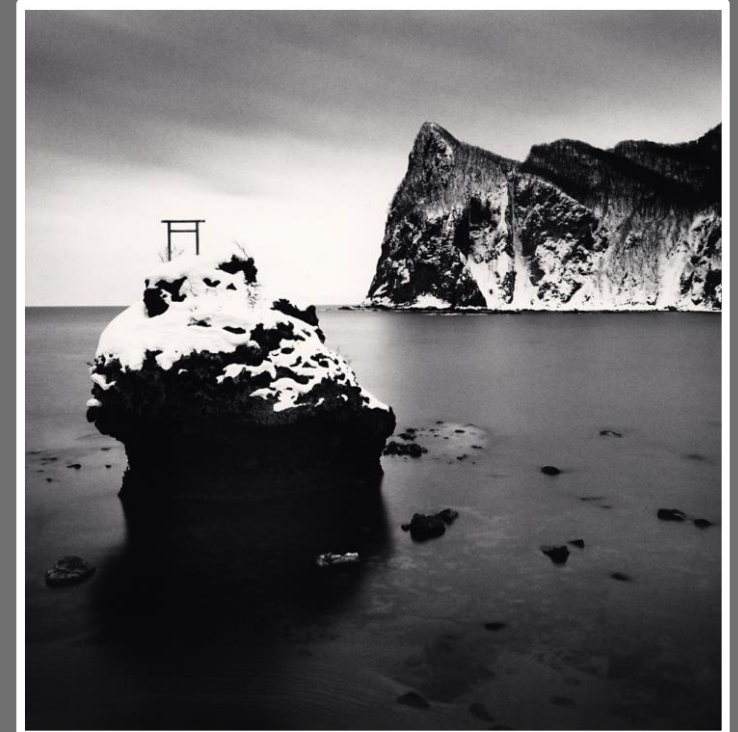
Michael Kenna

Shapes Divide Frame; Small Objects Resemble Writing

Michael Kenna

Long Exposures Used to Smooth Water

Michael Kenna

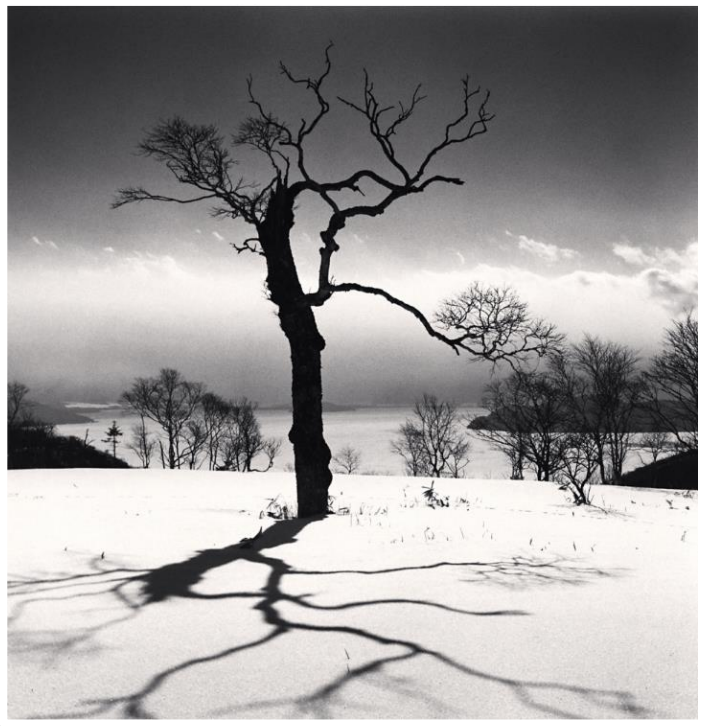# Repetition of Elements

Michael Kenna

Shapes Divide Frame

Michael Kenna

Effective Portrayal of Depth

Michael Kenna

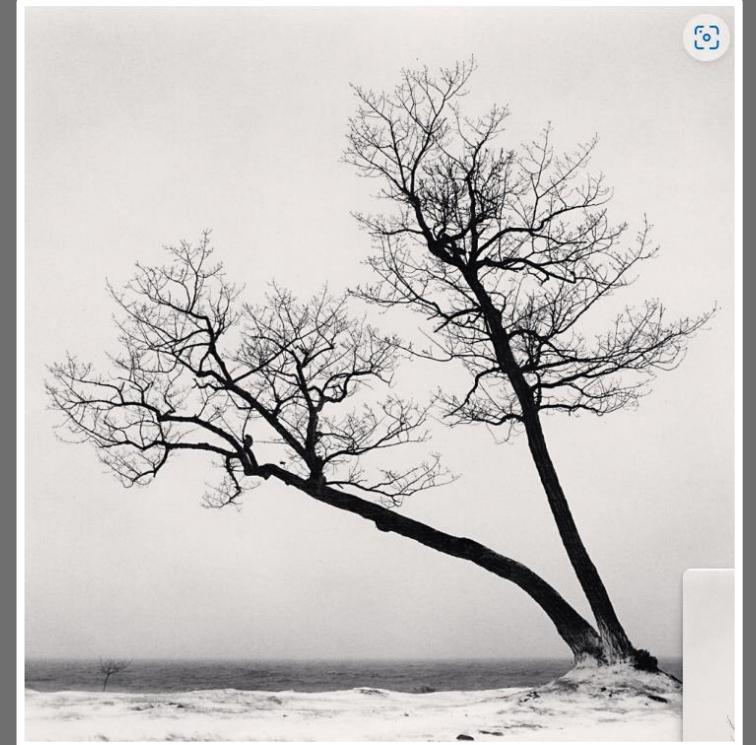# Size Defines Relationships; Strong Contrast

Michael Kenna

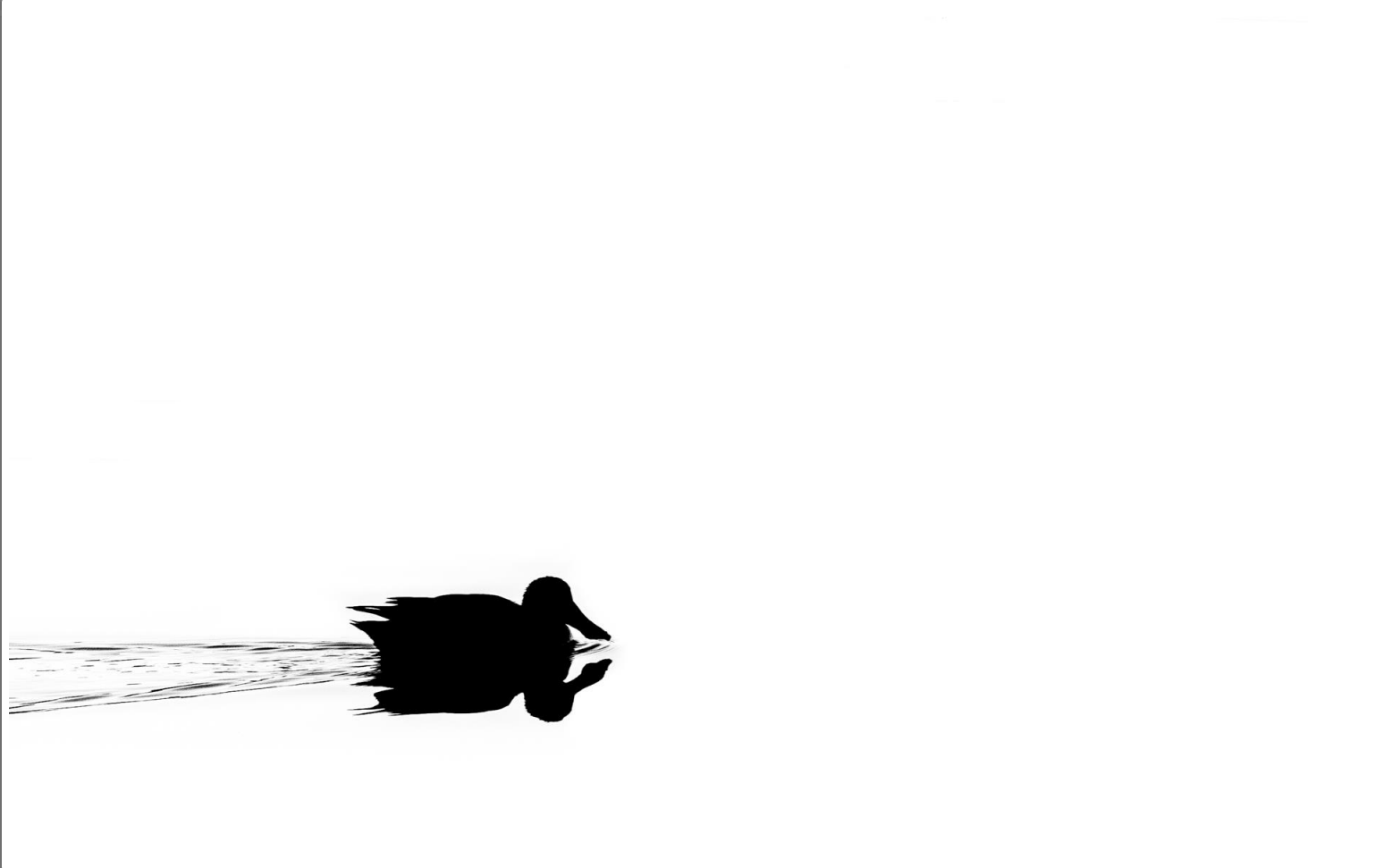# Frames Accentuate Subject; Consistent Format (Square)

Michael Kenna

Realistic Subjects Function Also as Abstracts

Michael Kenna

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Kay Hale

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Michael Kenna
(selected by Nancy Mack)

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Michael Kenna
(selected by Nancy Mack)

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Nancy Mack

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Nancy Mack

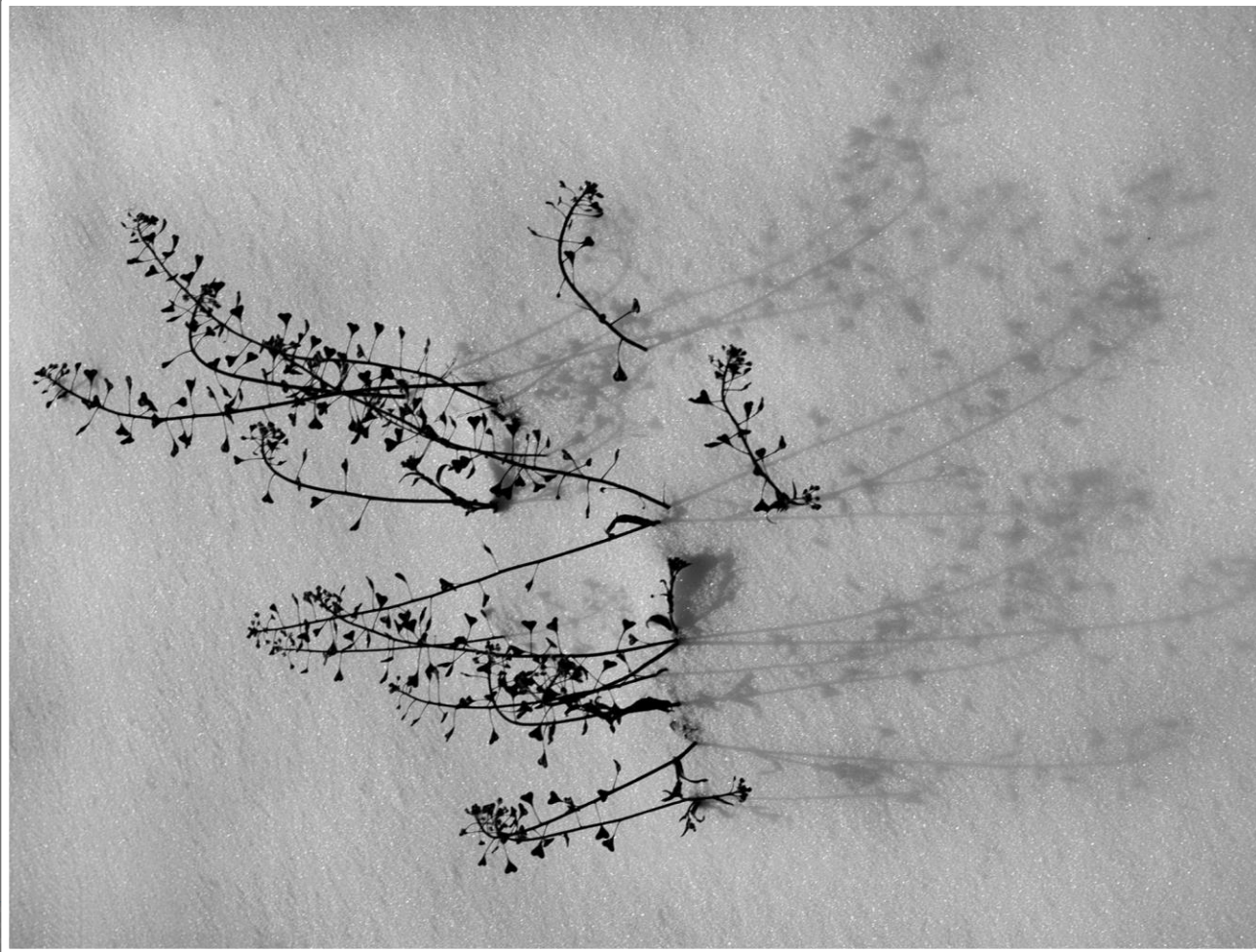# Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Nancy Mack

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Larry Petterborg

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Keni Evans

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Jay Hoppenstein

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Jay Hoppenstein

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Dennis Fritsche

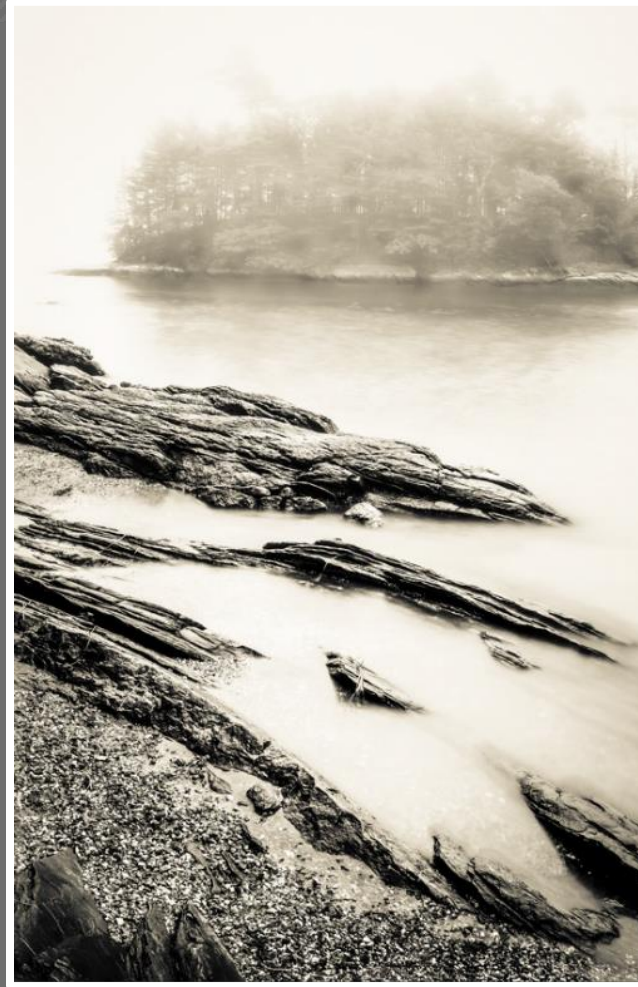# Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Dennis Fritsche

Your Images, à la Michael Kenna

Jeff Sarembock

My Images, à la Michael Kenna

Alan Whiteside

My Images, à la Michael Kenna

Alan Whiteside

My Images, à la Michael Kenna

Alan Whiteside

My Images, à la Michael Kenna

Alan Whiteside

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My Images, à la Michael Kenna

Alan Whiteside

My Images, à la Michael Kenna

Alan Whiteside

What Are the Take-Aways?

- Identify characteristics of successful images

- Think about what drew you to a particular scene, specifically your *feelings* about it

- Apply compositional and post-processing techniques that help capture and present the viewer with what and how you were feeling about the scene

Thank You