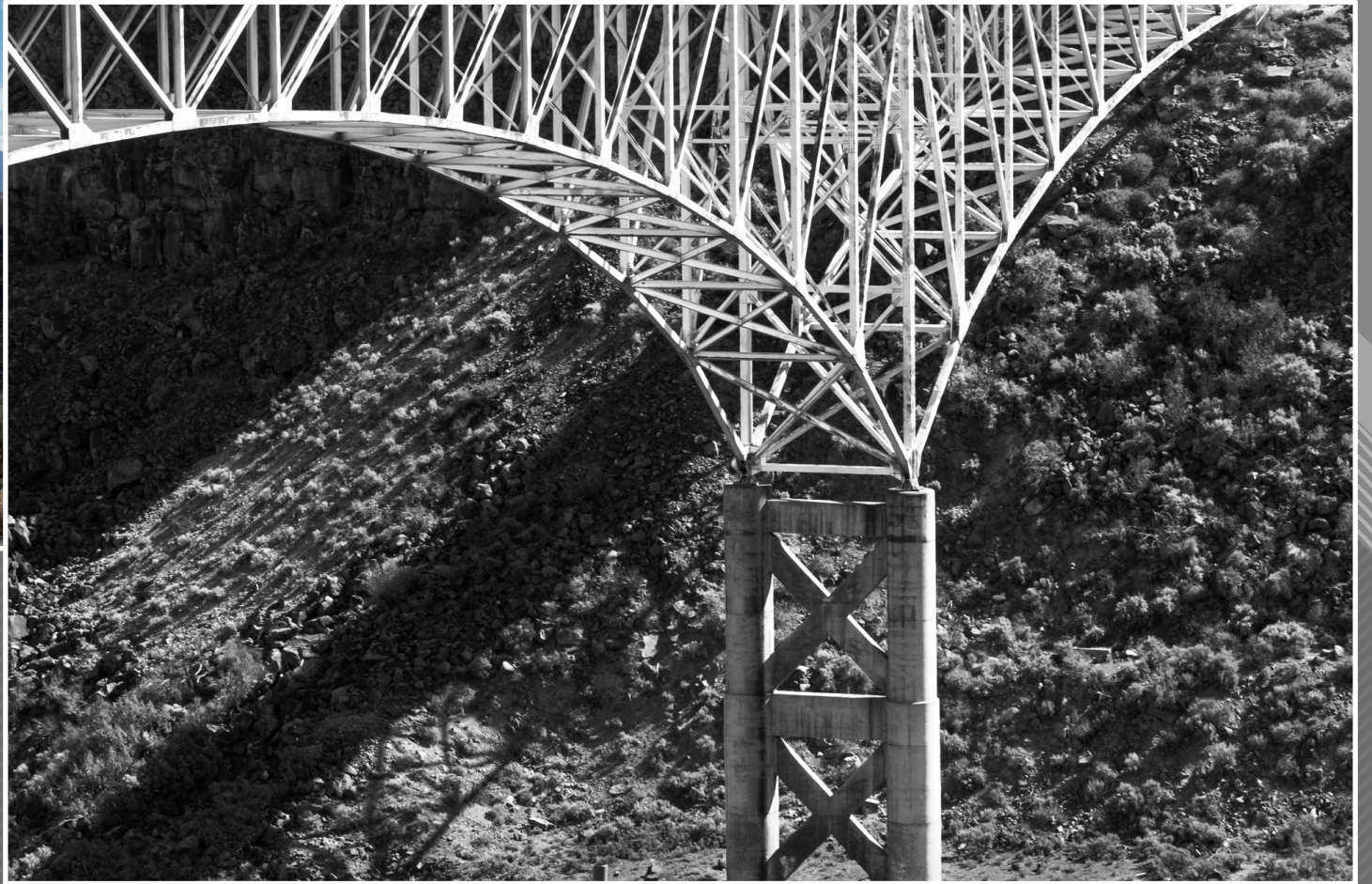# Seeing Beyond the Subject

Session 2

© J. Alan Whiteside

awhiteside2744@tx.rr.com

Assignment 1: Participants' Images

Kay Hale

Nancy Mack

Dennis Fritsche

Jeff Sarembock

Jen Carrick

© D Richard Mann
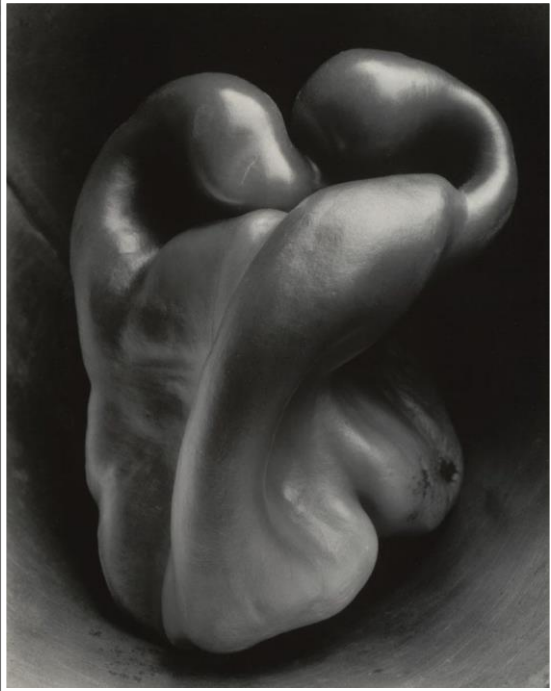
© D Richard Mann

David Mann

David Boomstein

Martha Hedge

Parvin Stiles

Edward Weston

Use Structure and Design Elements to Engage the Viewer

Composition is
the fundamental
scaffolding of
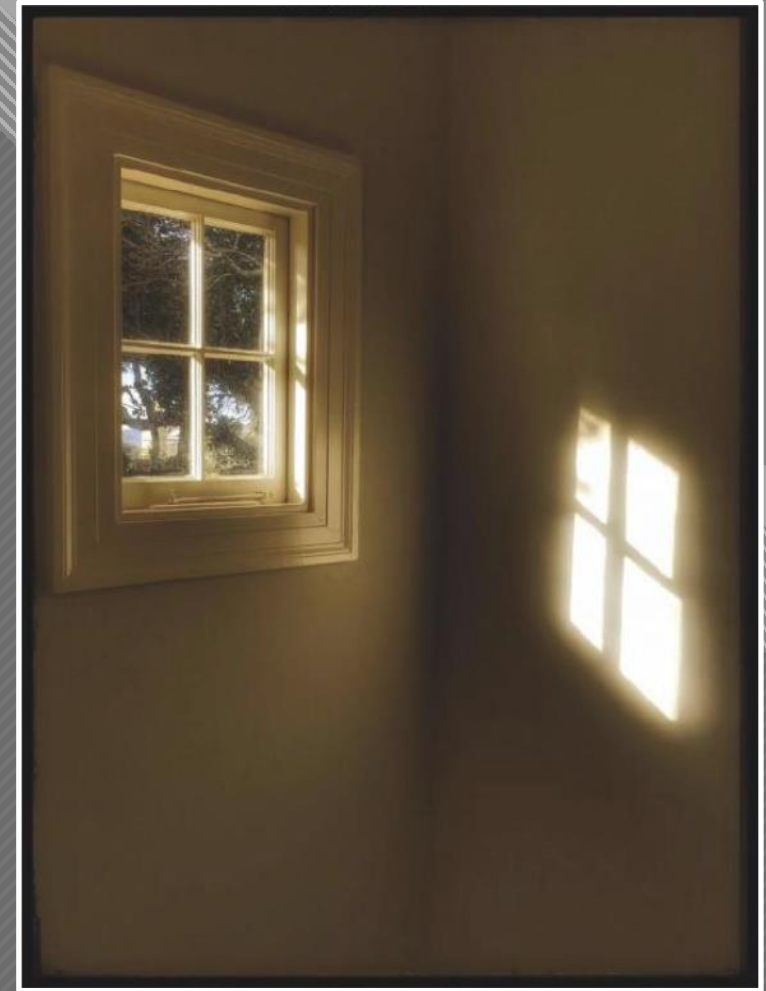image-making.*

* Harold Davis

© J. Alan Whiteside

© J. Alan Whiteside

Unadjusted RAW File

Final Photoshop File

Boring

More Interesting

Graphis in Brown
Freeman Patterson

Window and Shadow
Harold Davis

Compositional Elements Make the Connection

Dunes, Oceano (1936)   Edward Weston

"

Now to consult rules of composition before making a picture is a little like consulting the law of gravitation before going for a walk…When subject matter is forced to fit into preconceived patterns, there can be no freshness of vision. Following rules of composition can only lead to a tedious repetition of pictorial cliches."   - Edward Weston, Camera Craft, Vol. 37, No. 7, pp. 313-20, 1930

Brooks Jensen

© J. Alan Whiteside

© J. Alan Whiteside

Dancer

Final Photoshop Files

The "Grammar" of the Visual Language

- Visual elements (colors, shapes, lines, etc.) are the equivalents of words, phrases, and expressions in verbal language

- Composition is the grammar of the visual language: how elements can be combined to create meaning

- But composition without visioning is just dead language

Structure and Design Elements in Composition

Architecture

Heydar Aliyev Center (2007-2012) by Zaha Hadid. (Photo: Aleksandr Zykov)

Acting

JONATHAN KEENAN

Call me Ishmael.

—Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851)

Writing

Music

C: IV V   I

Structure and Design Elements in Composition

- Line
- Shape
- Texture
- Pattern
- Color
- Space
- Juxtaposition / Relationships
- Symmetry / Balance

- Point of View
- Contrast
- Depth of Focus
- Saturation
- Repetition
- Framing
- Motion
- Shadows

Yan Pekar

Al DaValle

David DuChemin

Huu Tam

Georges Seurat

Sylvia Plachy

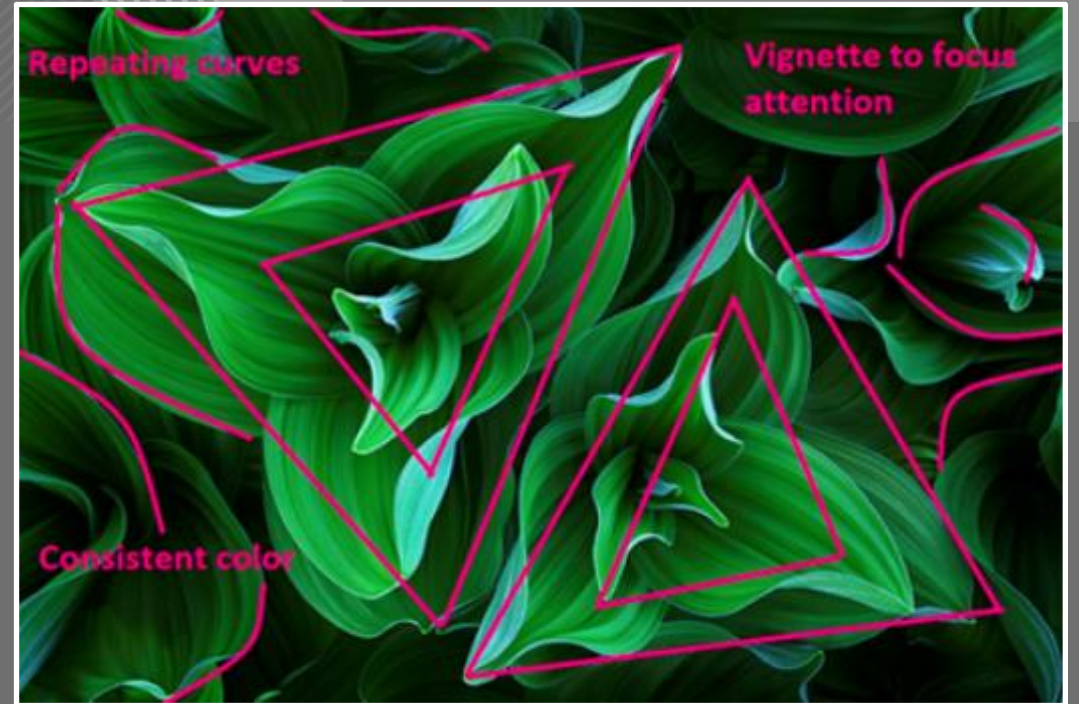© J. Alan Whiteside
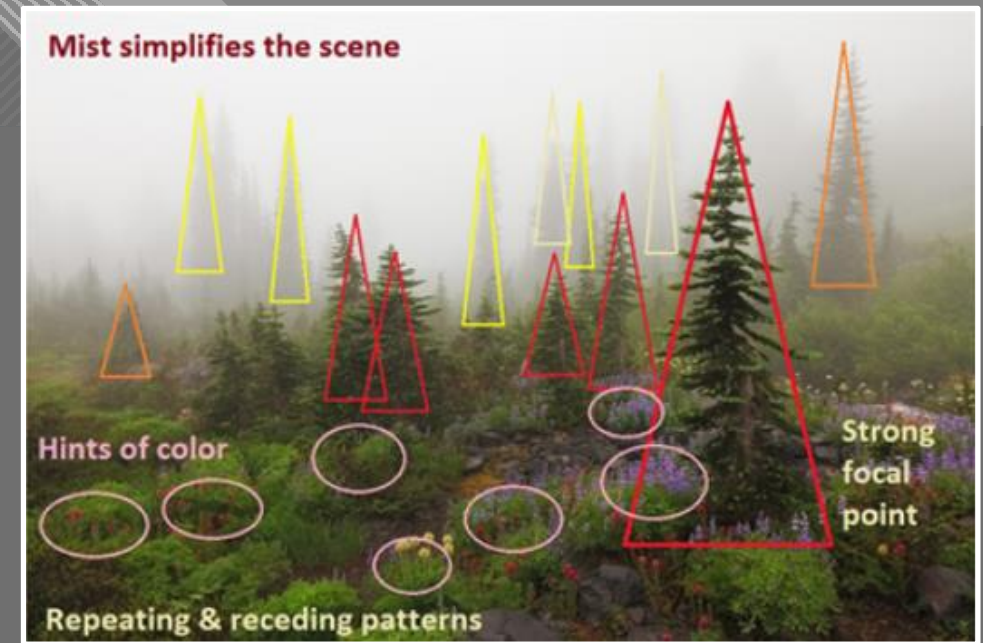
Final Photoshop File

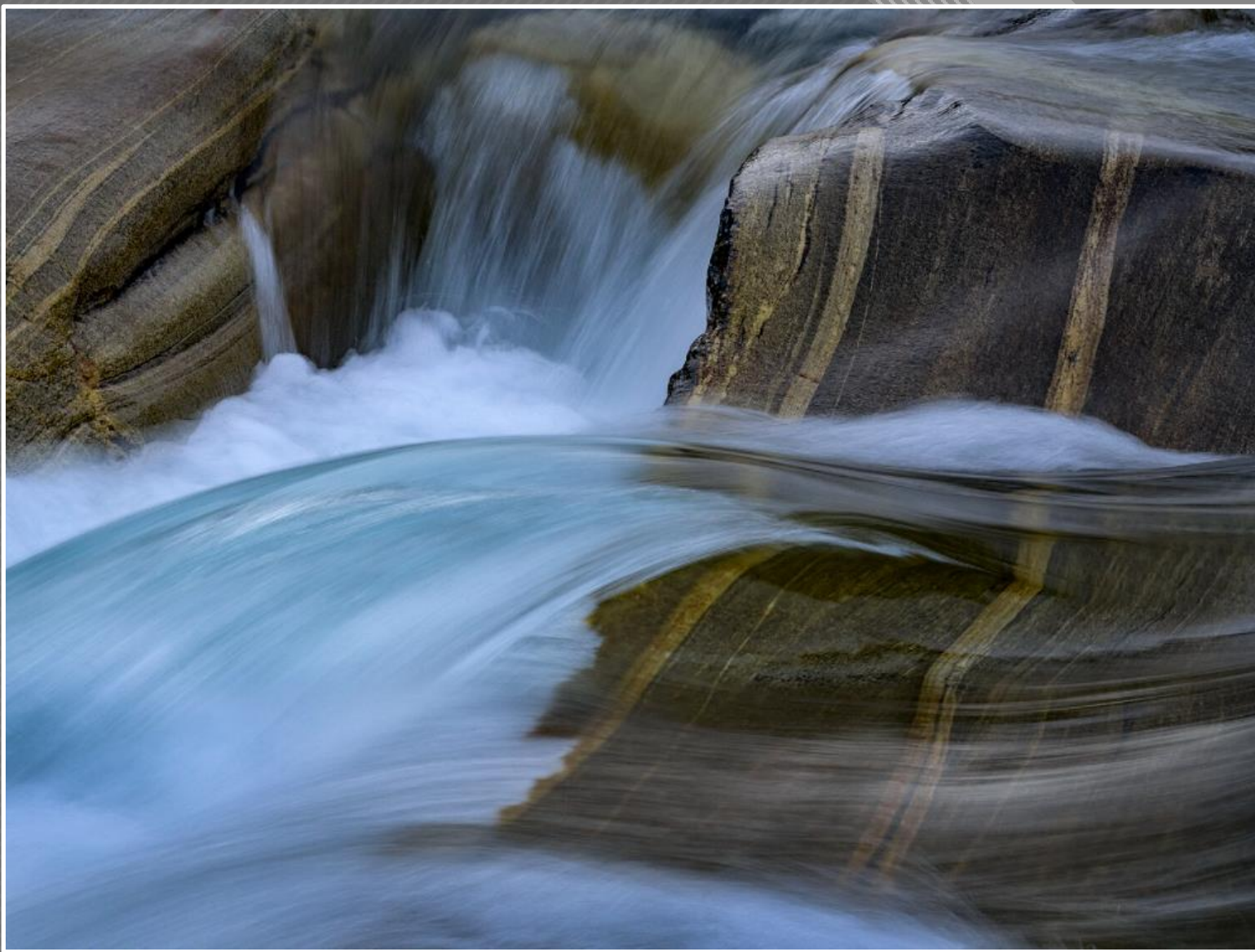Sylvia Plachy

Sylvia Plachy

Sylvia Plachy

Sarah Marino

Mist simplifies the scene

Hints of color

Strong focal point
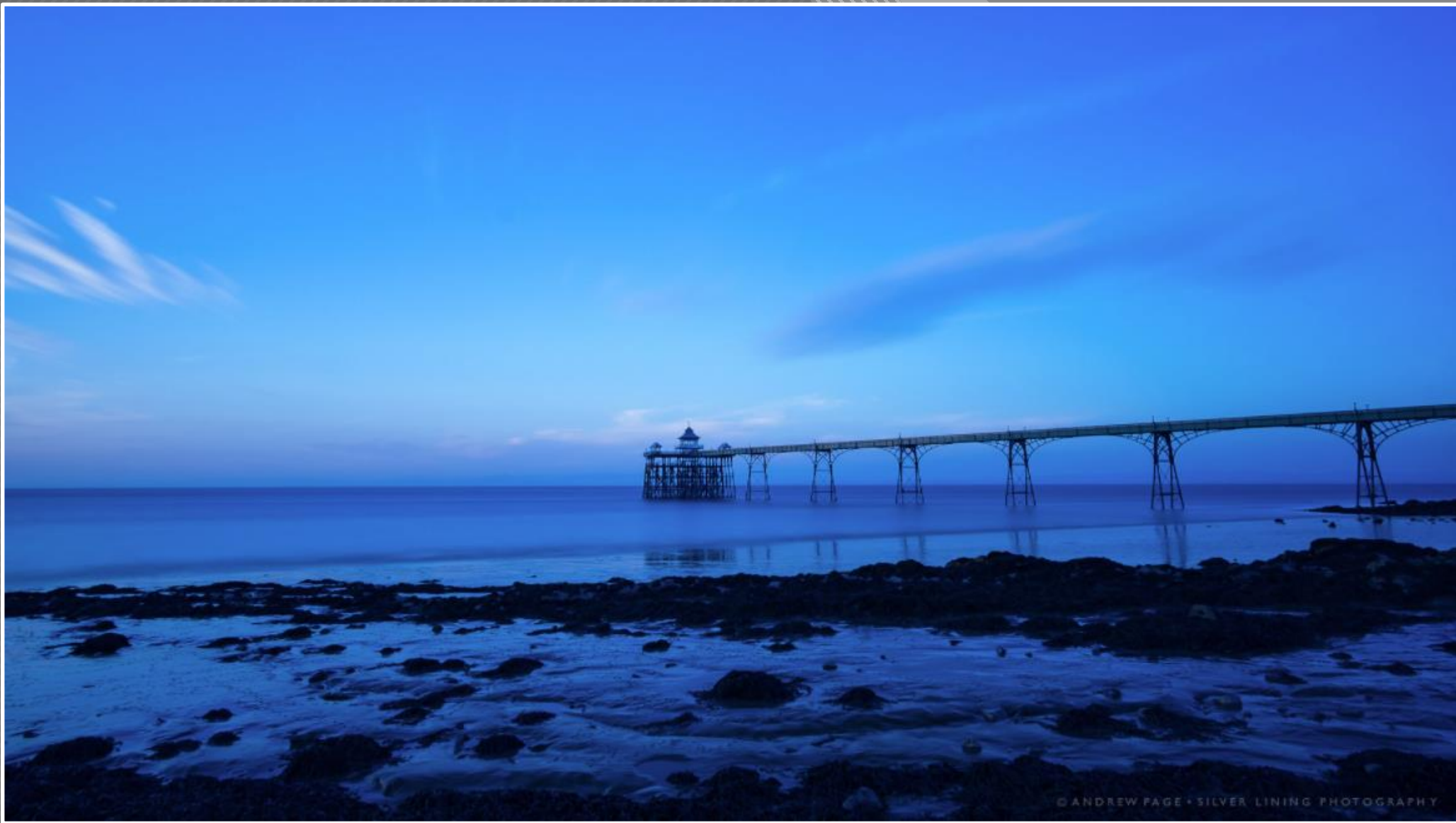
Repeating & receding patterns

Sarah Marino

Ian Plant

Al DaValle

Al DaValle

Hans Strand

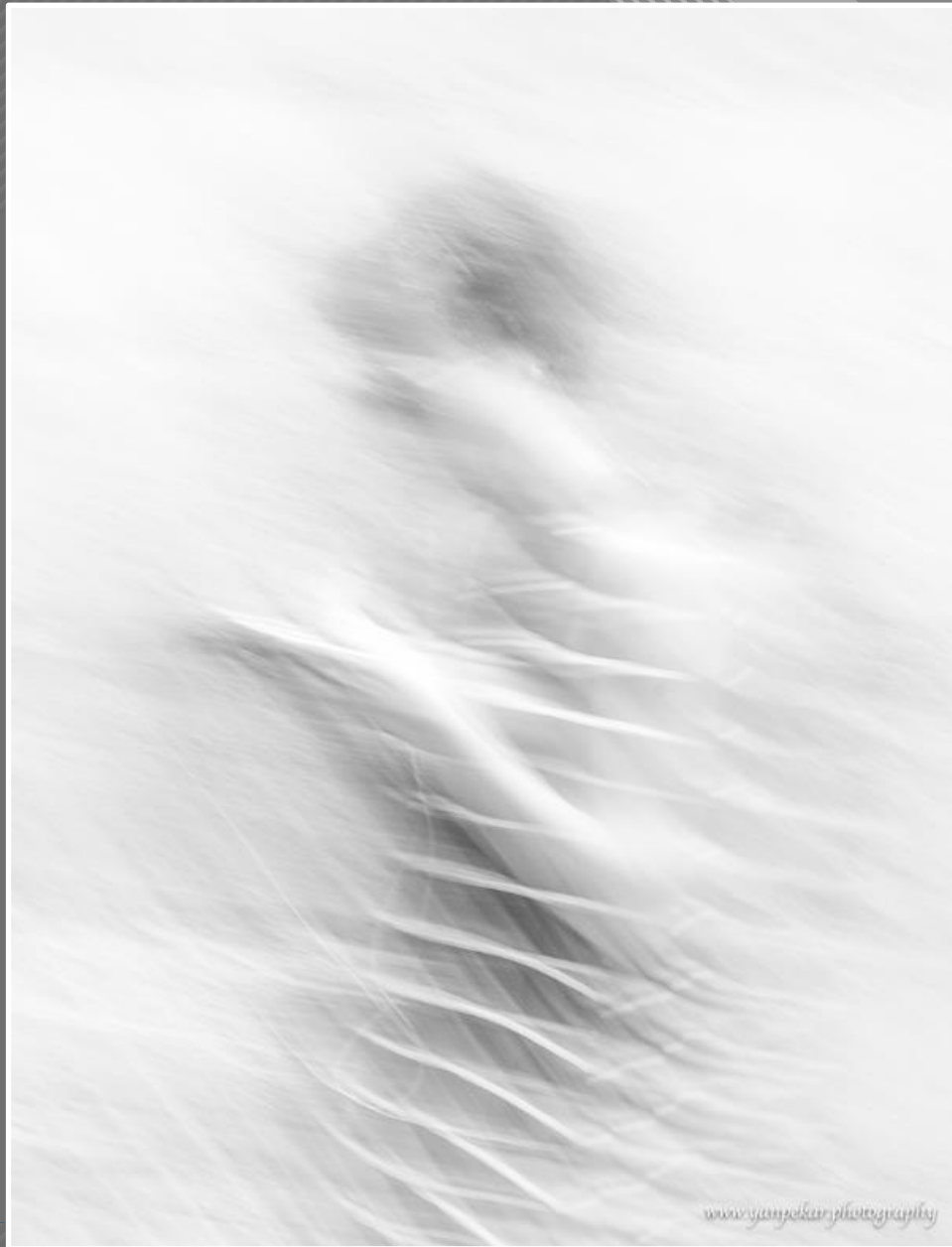Andrew Page

Andrew Page

Andrew Page

Markham Starr

Markham Starr

Nevada Wier

Nevada Wier

Yan Pekar

© J. Alan Whiteside

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop Files

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

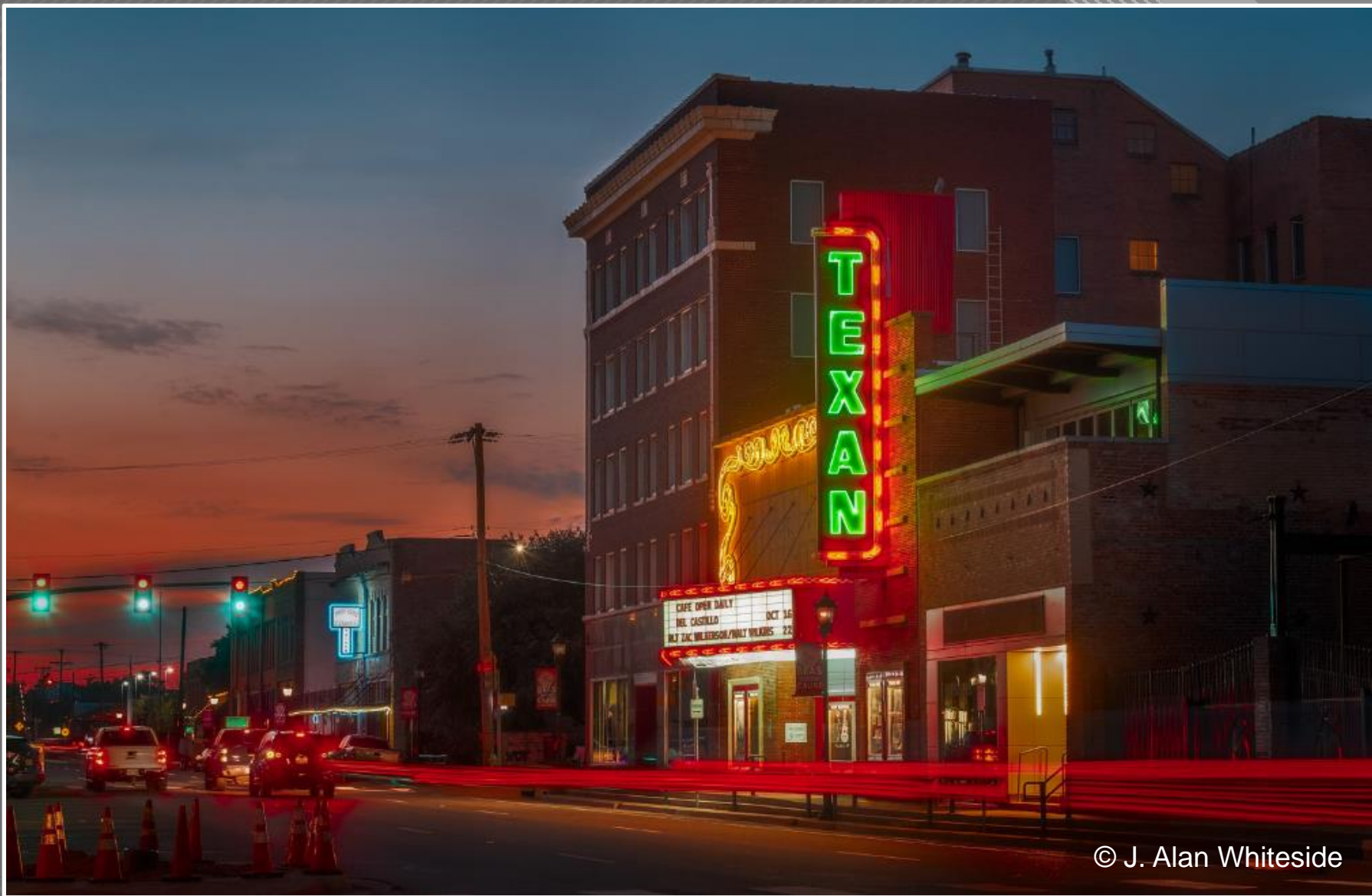Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

Unadjusted RAW File

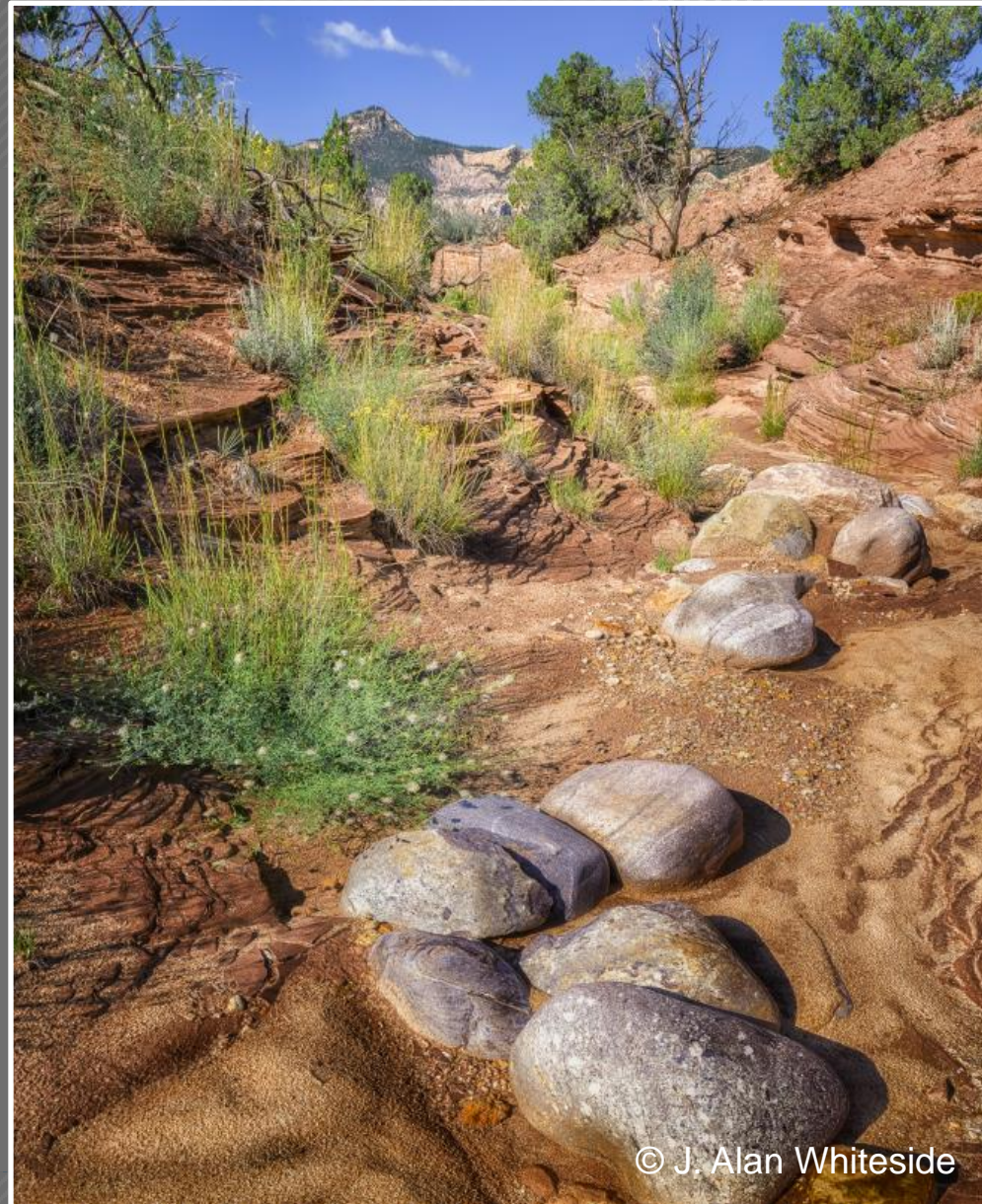© J. Alan Whiteside

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File
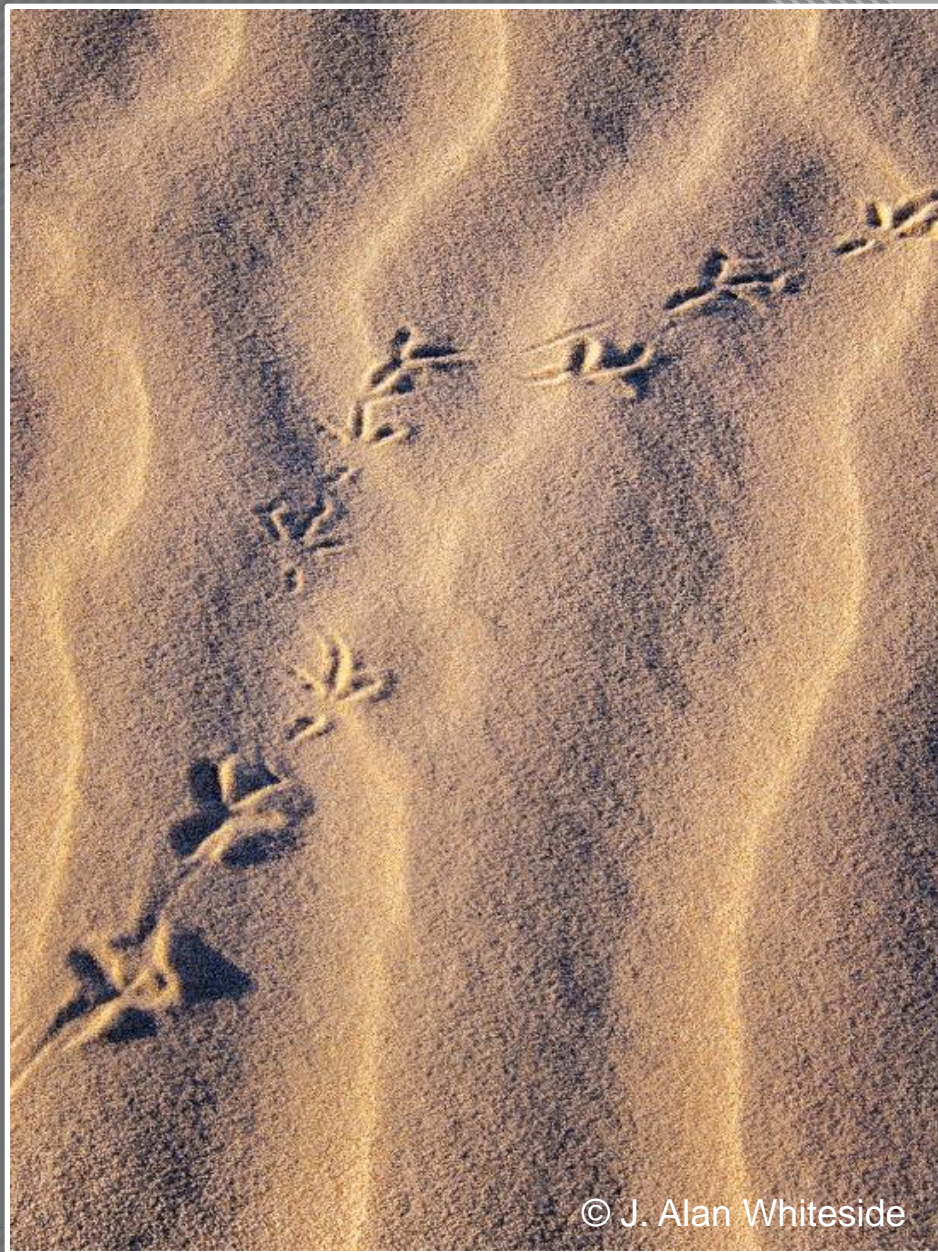
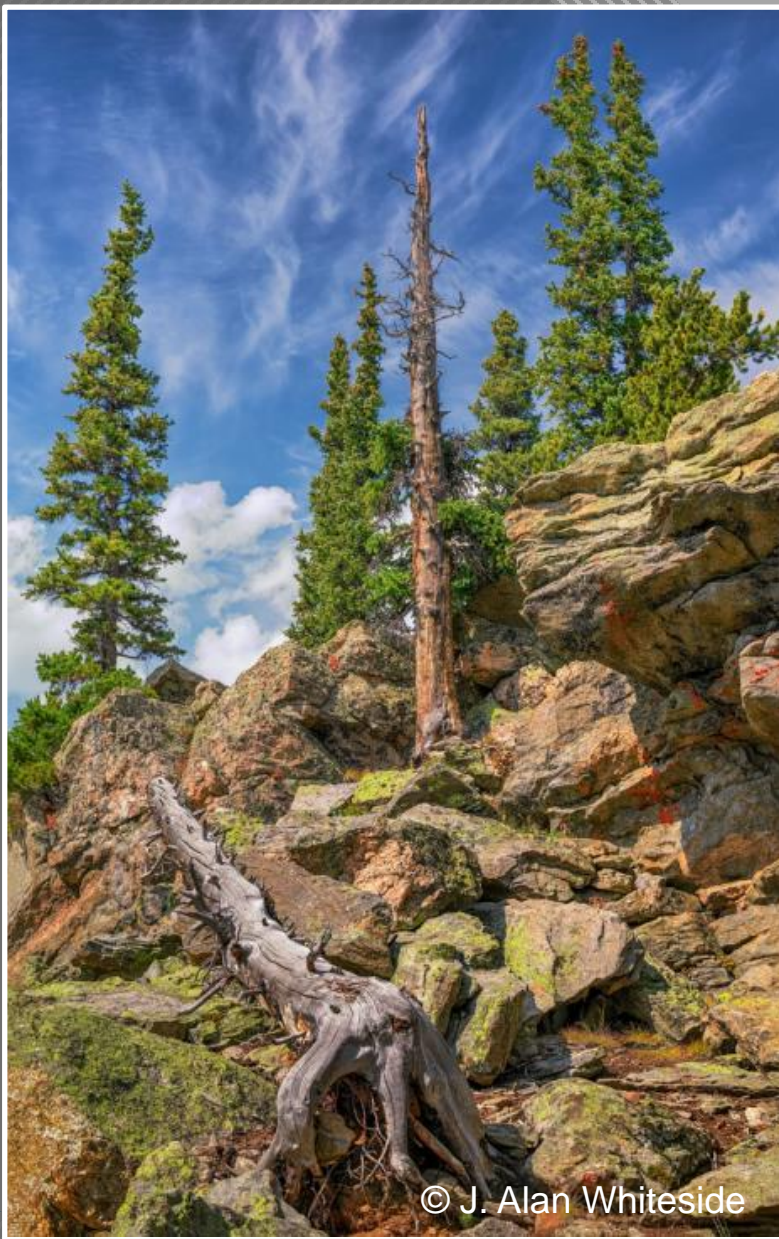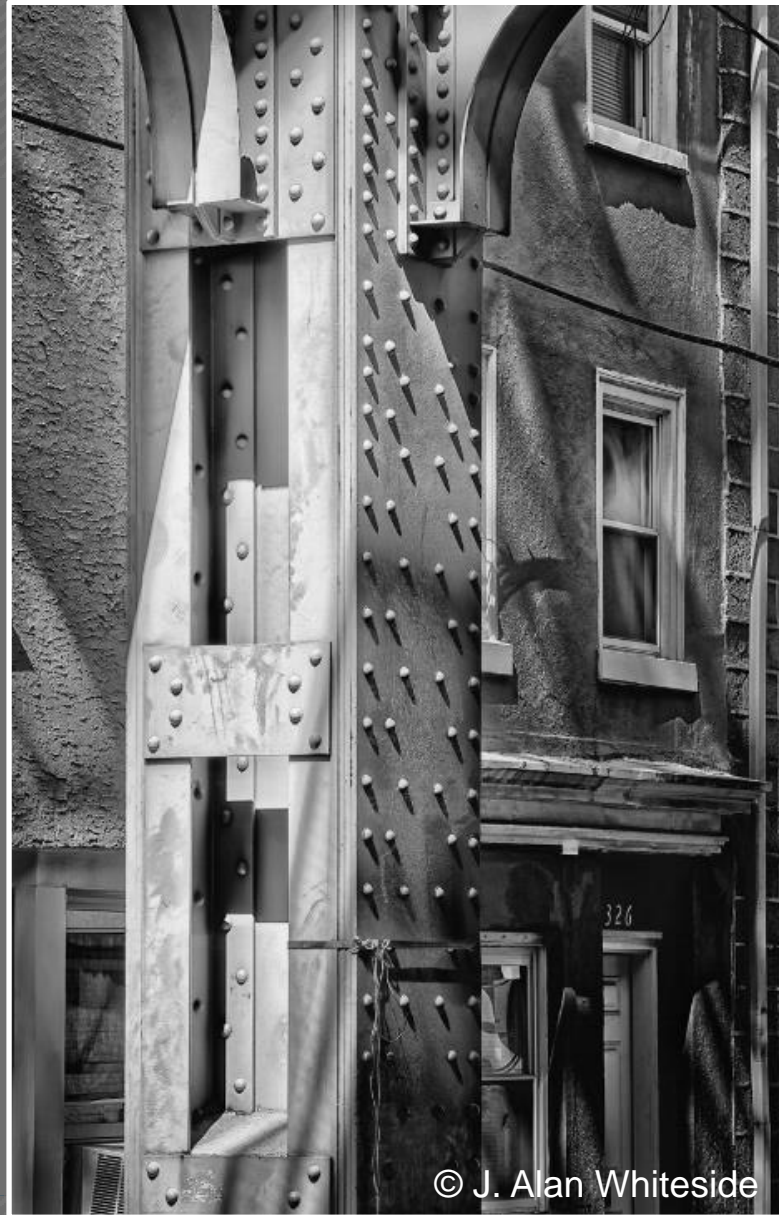© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside
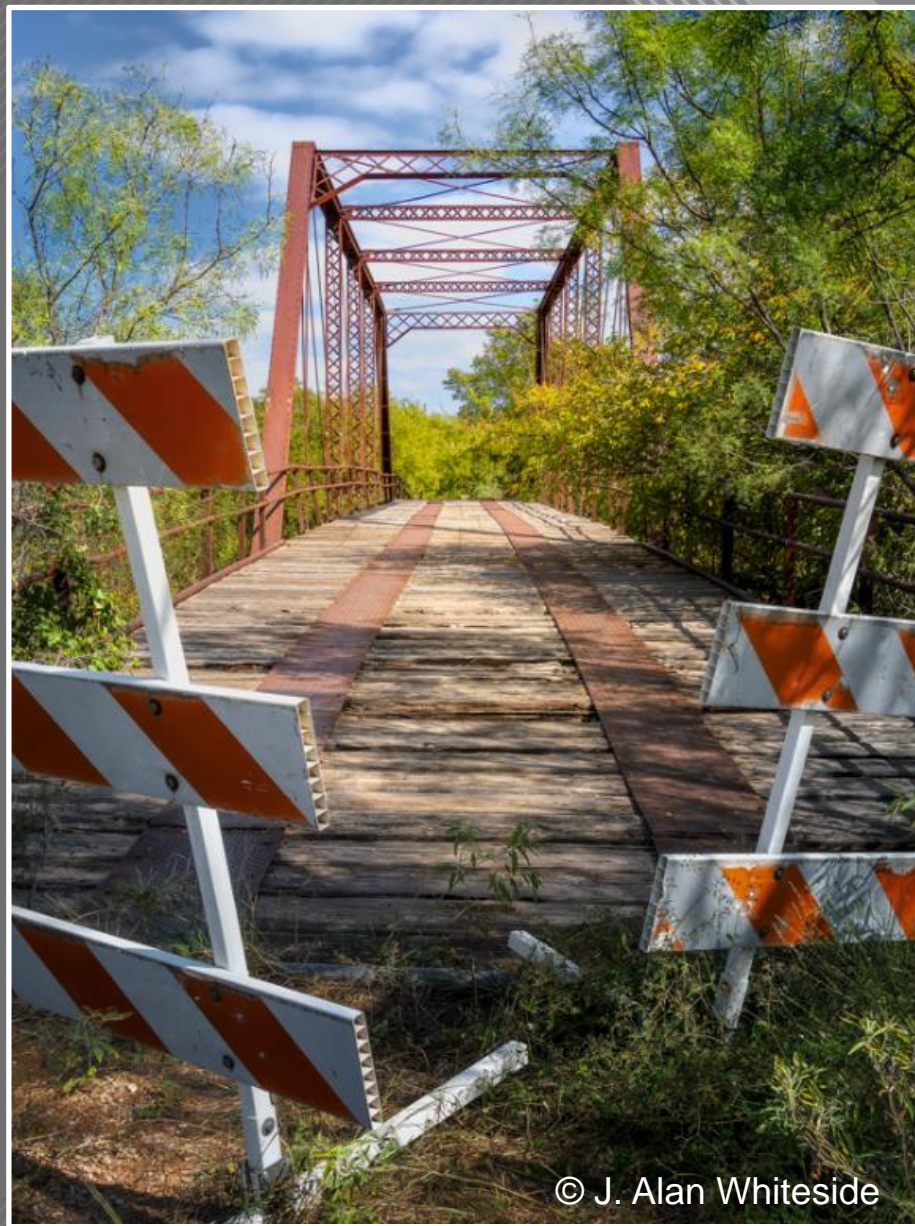
Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

© J. Alan Whiteside

Final Photoshop File

Native American, Assault Rifle, Graffiti, NYC

Jay Maisel

Structure and Design Elements in Composition

- Line
- Shape
- Texture
- Pattern
- Color
- Space
- Juxtaposition / Relationships
- Symmetry / Balance

- Point of View
- Contrast
- Depth of Focus
- Saturation
- Repetition
- Framing
- Motion
- Shadows

Seeing Beyond the Subject

- Engage your vision for the final image

- Use structure and design elements to guide the viewer ← **This Session**

- Re-frame and simplify the image

- Make the image your own, especially with light and shadow

Next Session, April 5th

Assignment for Session 3: Compositional Elements

FIND a subject that interests you

COMPOSE and **CAPTURE** an image that demonstrates your use of at least one compositional (design or structural) element

SUBMIT the image with a brief note about what element(s) you used to engage the viewer to see what you saw, feel what you felt, or understand the message/story you were trying to communicate

Assignment for Session 3: Compositional Elements

WHAT TO DO: Submit 1 JPEG photo with a brief not about what compositional element(s)
you used to engage the viewer

FORMAT: 1920 x 1280 – competition size

HOW: Email to me (awhiteside2744@tx.rr.com)

BY WHEN: At least a few days prior to Session 3, April 5 (the sooner, the better)

Thank You

awhiteside2744@tx.rr.com