PhotoTeach

SUSAN LEITH

See More Creatively

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Review

Before discussing color let's review simple or 'clean' backgrounds. Images with simple backgrounds can be beautiful. Not all photos need to be simple but it's a good place to start.

Find a strong center of interest and get in close enough to fill the frame. Avoid busy backgrounds and don't include too much content in a single photo.
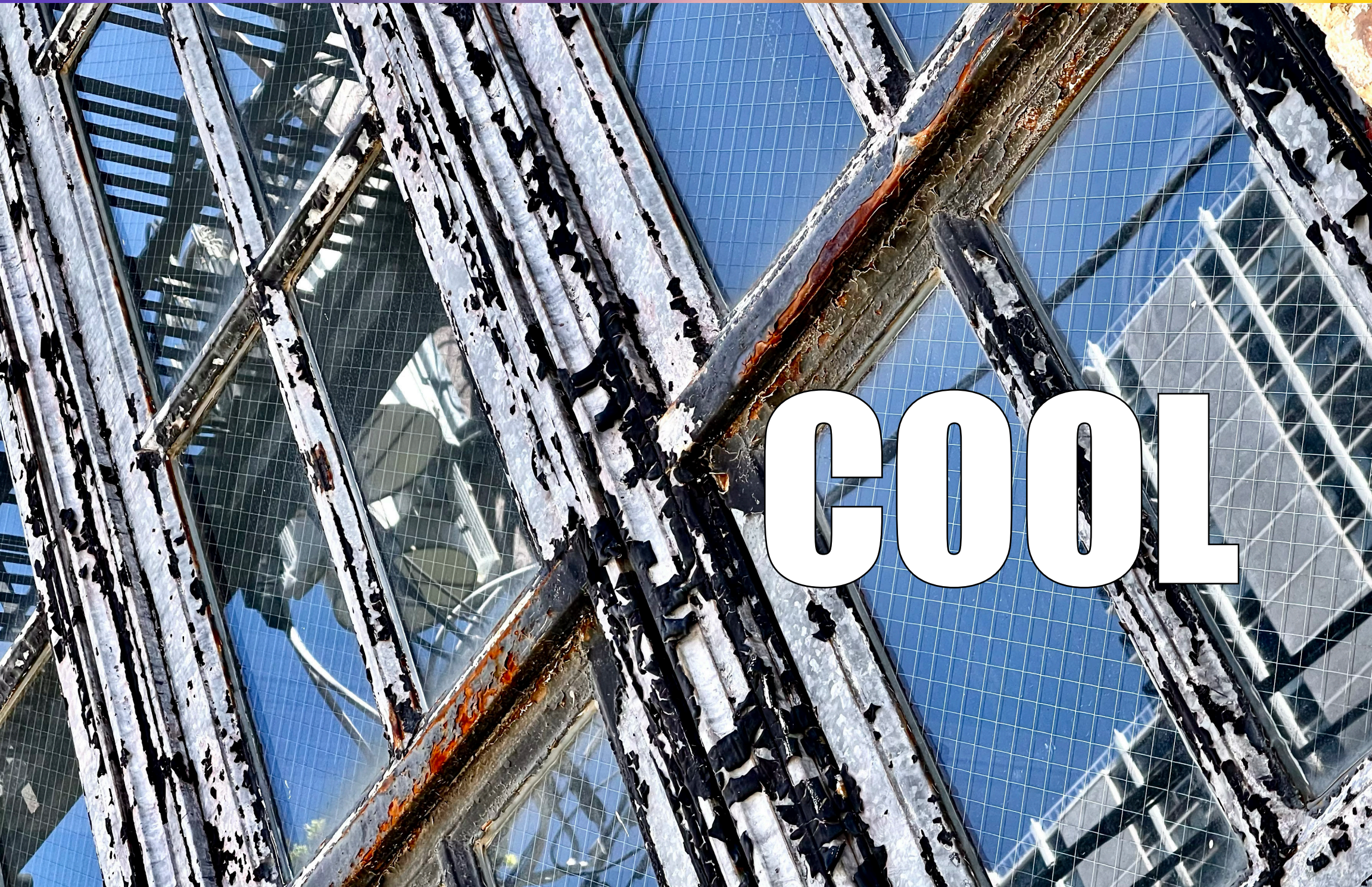
If there is a lot you want to capture make more than one photo.

One way to do this, other than using a blank wall is to lower yourself near the ground and use the sky as your background. Assuming the sky isn't too bright it will give you beautiful, clean blue background making your subject stand out.

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COOL

Cool Colors

Examples of cool colors.

- Blue
- Burgundy
- Emerald
- Fuchsia
- Green
- Magenta

Photos with cool colors such as blues, greens, and purples, evoke a sense of calmness and serenity. These colors are reminiscent of elements like water, sky, and foliage, often bringing about a feeling of tranquility and peace.

A landscape bathed in cool tones can create a soothing and refreshing atmosphere, while a portrait with a cool color palette might convey introspection or melancholy.

Cool colors can be used to create a restful and contemplative mood in photography, making them ideal for conveying quietude and contemplation. They can calm and sooth. Cool colors remind you of water and sky, even ice and snow. Unlike warm colors they look like they recede.

WARM

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Warm Colors

Examples of warm colors:

- Brown
- Gold
- Orange
- Red
- Pink

- Beige
- Taupe
- Terra-Cotta
- Yellow

Photographs dominated by warm colors radiate energy, warmth, and vibrancy. These colors are associated with sunlight, fire, and autumn leaves, often evoking feelings of joy, passion, and excitement.

Warm colors are particularly effective in creating an inviting and stimulating atmosphere, making them suitable for images that aim to energize and engage the viewer.

Warm colors create a friendly atmoshere for portraits. Warm colors are associated with heightened emotions and passion plus joy and playfulness and arm colors help you unwind and relax.

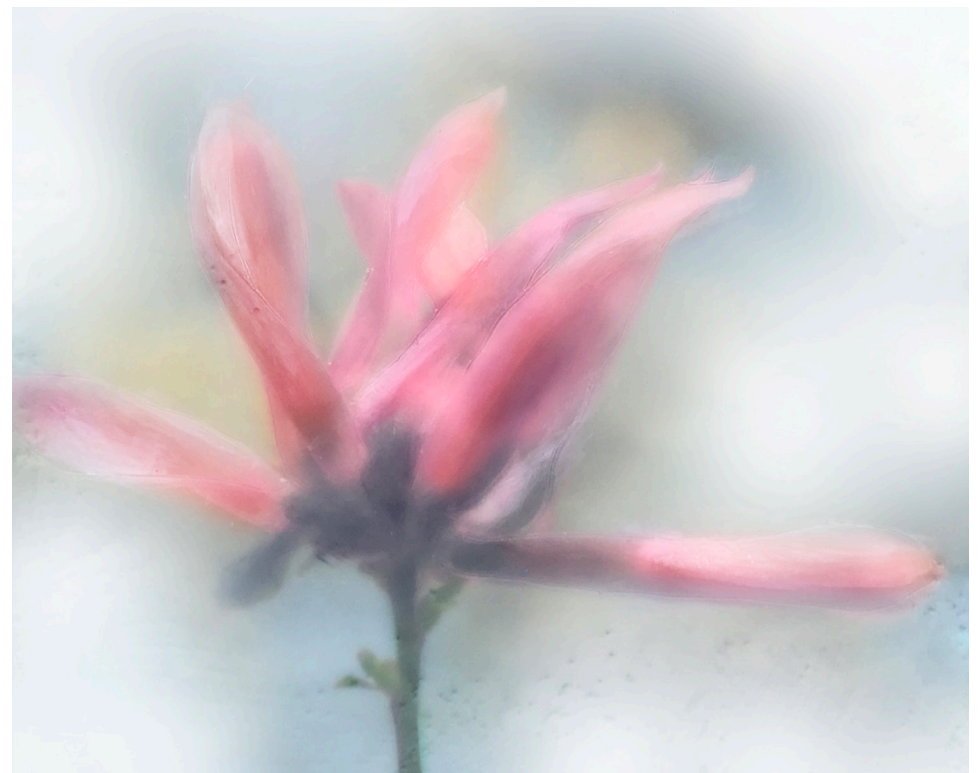# PASTEL

Pastel Colors

Examples of pastel colors

- Pink: Soft, baby pink or blush.
- Blue: Light, sky blue
- Green: Pale, mint green.
- Purple:
- Yellow: Pale, lemon yellow.
- Orange: Peach or apricot.

Pastel colors are soft, muted tones of various colors.

These colors are often used in photography, art, and design to create different moods and effects, based on their inherent qualities and cultural associations.

Pastel colors are commonly used in various forms of art, fashion, interior design, and graphic design to create a subtle and pleasing visual palette. They are also frequently used in contexts where a gentle and soothing atmosphere is desired.

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PRIMARY

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Primary Colors

Examples of Primary colors:

- Red
- Green
- Blue

Primary colors are any set of colors that can be used to mix a wide range of hues.

Primary colors cannot be created by mixing other colors together. They are fundamental colors that serve as the building blocks for all other colors in the visible spectrum.

Red is often associated with strong emotions like love and passion. A photograph with dominant red hues can convey warmth and intensity.

Red can also evoke a sense of energy and excitement. It can make an image feel dynamic and vibrant.

Green is strongly associated with the natural world. Photographs with dominant green tones often evoke tranquility, growth, and a connection to the environment. Green can also represent balance and harmony. It can create a sense of calm and relaxation in an image.

Blue is known for its calming and soothing qualities. Photographs with dominant blue hues often evoke feelings of serenity and peace.

Blue can convey a sense of depth and distance. It is often used to create a feeling of expansiveness, especially in landscapes.

MONOCHROME

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Monochrome

Though Black and White is the most traditional form, monochrome can also be based on only one color tint and can convey a sense of timelessness, simplicity, and elegance. It often focuses on the interplay of light and shadow. texture, and composition without the distraction of full-color information.

The images on this page are both cool colors and monochrome showing you can mix different color combinations for interesting photographs. Note the texture in all images.

Photographers use monochrome techniques to emphasize specific elements in their images or to create a particular mood or atmosphere that may be different from what can be achieved in full color. Snowy or foggy weather often inspires monotone images.

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