

## Image Style Exercise

Go through your image library and choose 10 of your very favourite images. These need to be images that YOU really love, regardless of what anyone else thinks of them. (Try not to be influenced by how well or poorly they've done in competitions or on social media.)

Look closely at each of the images and fill in the attached form for each image. List the compositional elements very specifically — for example, rather than list “shapes”, specify triangles or circles or rectangles; rather than just “light”, indicate the direction, temperature, brightness, and hardness or softness of the light. Note the feeling the image brings up for you, again as specifically as possible. Also jot down any story that goes with it, any theme (such as joy, peace, aging, loneliness, etc), and what post-processing techniques you used, if any.

Look for commonalities among these favourite images. What are the words that came up repeatedly as you did the exercise? This will give you clues about your emerging style. Consciously use all these elements in your work going forward.

Date and keep this table and repeat the exercise every few months or every year. Note how your style evolves. It may change significantly over time, or you may refine it. You may even employ different styles within different bodies of work, but it's likely there will be some commonalities.

As an additional learning experience, do this same exercise with 10 of your favourite pieces of art from other artists. These could be photos, paintings, sculpture, architecture, even dance or film. All of these can help you define what you love in art, and develop your own style.

Cultivate the habit, when you see any image you like, of analyzing why you like it. What are you drawn to? What makes your heart sing? Follow that!

Image	feeling/story	compositional elements	theme	processing style

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