

## Angle of view – Photography Tips by Arabella Dane

Here are some tips to consider getting a more exciting, more creative look to your photographs.

- First, consider rotating your camera, holding it vertically (called portrait mode), rather than horizontally (landscape mode). This gives you the opportunity to include elements in your picture that would not be possible in the horizontal format. A horizontal picture of the beautiful conservatory at Longwood Gardens would necessitate excluding either the glass roof or the pools of water in the foreground of this vertical (portrait mode) image.



- Try to compose your image in portrait format, with the primary subject not in the middle portion of the screen. If you place the main subject high in the screen or low in the screen you will achieve a more unusual result.

If you angle the camera so that it is pointing slightly downwards, yet still includes your subject in the upper part of the composition, you may be able to achieve more of a story within your image. Here, the dandelions seem huge and lead your eye to the tiny church, which gives an exciting contrast in scale and create drama and tension in your photo.



- Using a diagonal angle is fun. A gigantic form may help to frame a view. This image makes the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo seem enormous, and the city seems tiny. We know that it is the city that is huge and vast, and the hospital is a normal sized commercial building. Composition is all about visual tension!



- I like to change up the angles in my images - shooting up, shooting down, or shooting from the side. Sometimes I get lucky and the angle is easy to take advantage of – such as this image of a horse rolling. She was on the side of a hill and I was below her looking up at her funny smiling face.



- Looking up at a subject may make your picture more exciting. Trees, for example, when captured with their canopy against a moody sky seem impressionistic and rhythmical. Here my i-phone was on the ground on one of those sticks and I used the remote trigger to activate the shutter. Of course, I had no idea what I was taking a picture of... so really should not take any credit for the result!



- Getting close to ground level and taking pictures from an ant's eye view point is equally fun as long as your subject is not hungry. Remember that with animal photography ( mammal or monster, it is the eyes that must be highlighted, and if body parts have been left out if the picture, it should be done by intent... so a lizard such as this should either have all its toes and its tail, or have only the parts you think are important.



- Taking a picture from a very high vantage point - photographing at a downward angle - called bird's eye view, is also a very effective technique. Taking an aerial view can turn a landscape into an abstract as scale is distorted and there is no frame of reference. You are left with just line , pattern, highlights and shadows ,and color to give impact and rhythm.



- Taking pictures of flowers on an angle accentuates their form, structure, texture, and depth of the bloom as well as giving you interesting cropping opportunities.



- Focusing on just one element of a composition and eliminating the rest of the subject can increase the drama.

What is it about the plant (or subject) that compelled you to take its picture? Think about your answer and then try to make the viewer feel the same way about the subject you have captured.



- Smart phones give us lots of opportunity to get good angles in our images very easily. We can take pictures at arms-length or put the camera on a stick and activate the trigger remotely, or just hold the camera high or low... or like we do with our big-boy cameras- put the smart phone on a tripod at the desired height – be it high or low or at eye level – and activate the shutter remotely.

So, tell me which of these considerations went into these photos taken recently at Iguassu Falls Brazil.

