



March 2024 Challenge

Lines in the Landscape

Hello

and welcome to my monthly photo challenges.

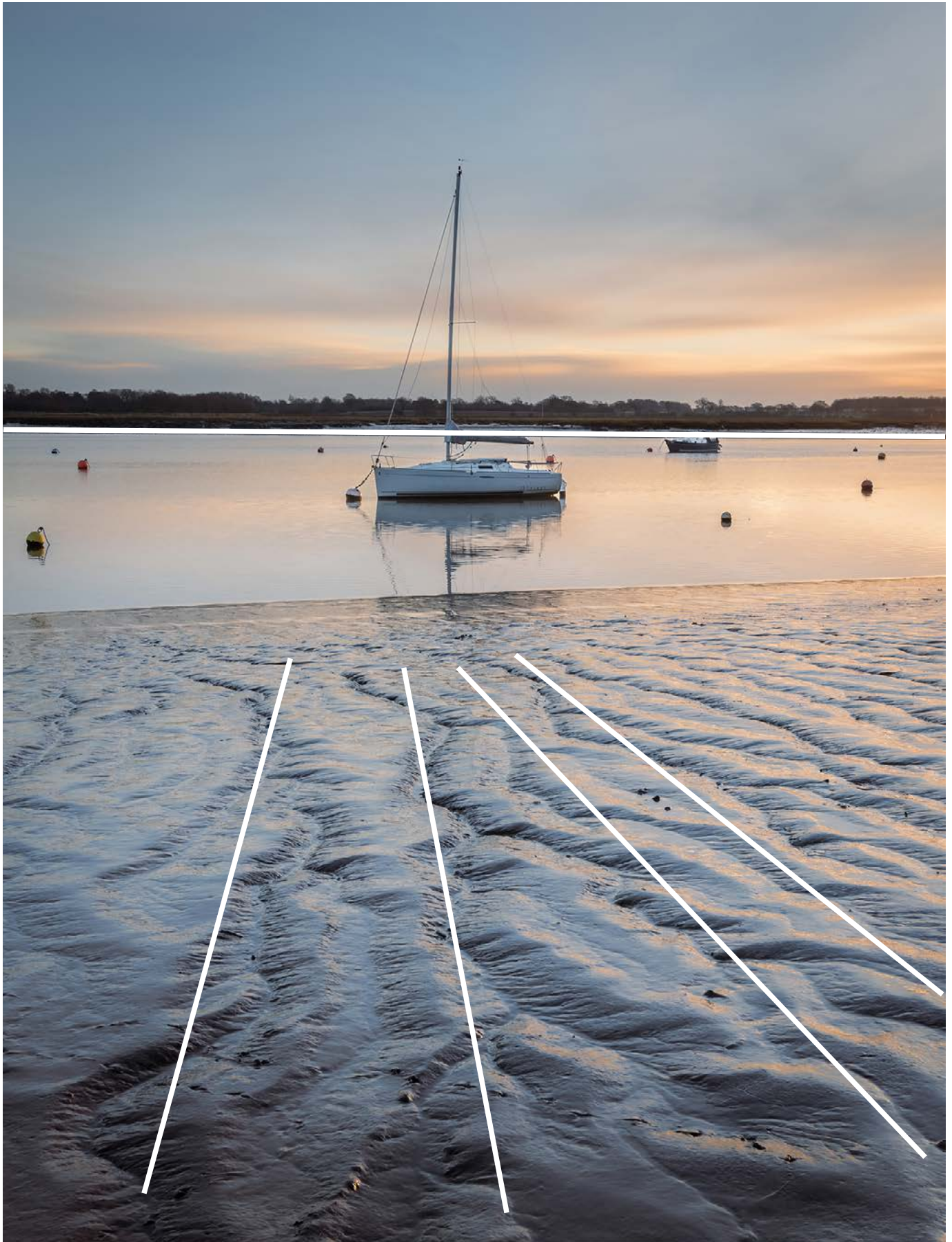
Each month I will be setting a new challenge for club members to work with. The challenges are not designed to be competitive but they are designed to be fun and inspiring and help you grow as a photographer.

Every monthly challenge will be followed by a 1.5 hour Zoom session (which is entirely optional) on the last Wednesday of every month where we will discuss some of the submitted images and talk about what worked and what didn't. I hope this feedback will be useful.

Thank you very much for being part of the Photo Club and I hope you will find it a fun and rewarding challenge.

Gill.

Using lines in composition



Welcome to another monthly photo challenge.

This month's challenge is all about using lines in composition.

Lines in the landscape can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and together they can form the basis of any composition. Horizontal and vertical lines will give an image a static feel while diagonal lines are much more dynamic and will give a sense of movement within a composition.

In these notes I will talk about some different topics related to composition:

Horizontal and vertical lines

Diagonal Lines

Implied or suggested lines

The challenge will be to produce two images one composed of any combination of horizontal, vertical or diagonal lines and one showing an implied line.

Lines in the landscape.

The most obvious line in any landscape image is the horizon. This divides your composition into two distinct zones and has a direct bearing on the look and feel of your image. A horizon positioned in the centre will give a fairly static looking image and is great for reflections and images where you want to create a sense of calm. If you are looking for something more dynamic then consider the top or bottom third depending on what is more important to your composition - the sky or the land.

In this shot on the left I have placed the horizon roughly in the top third of the frame. The bottom two thirds are made up of a series of diagonal lines which fan out across the foreground of the composition. I have tried to compose my shot so that the lines converge roughly where the boat sits, as this is the focal point in my shot.

My principal thought when composing this image was to use the naturally occurring lines

in the landscape to guide the viewer's eye to the main subject of the composition - the boat.

Horizontal and Vertical Lines

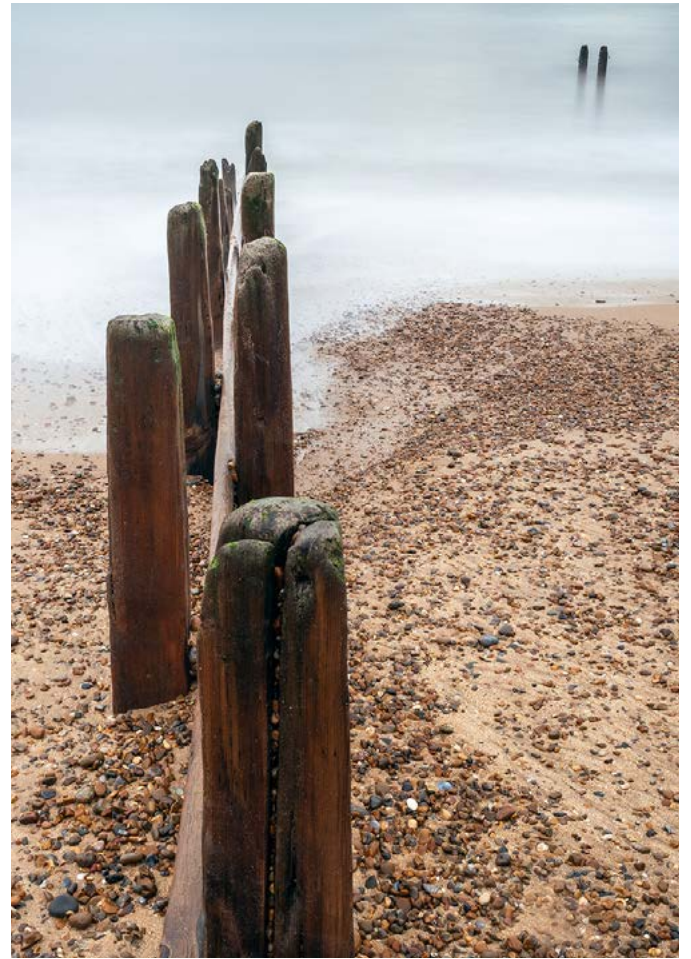
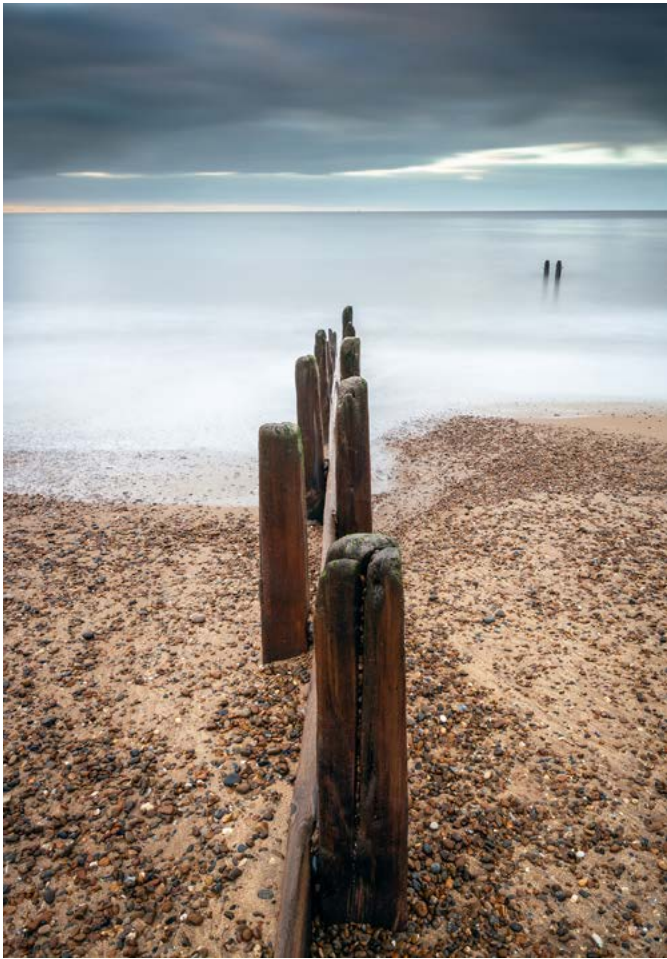
The most obvious lines in the landscape are horizontal and vertical lines. You will find them everywhere, but how you use them within your image is important.

Unless you are shooting an intimate landscape or are photographing in the mountains most landscape images will contain a horizon - a horizontal line.

In this image below I have used a single dominant vertical line with some smaller ones to the right. Where I place this main line in the frame is important for determining the mood of the image.

I elected to have my horizontal and vertical lines crossing in the bottom third of the image placing my intersection point in line with the rule of thirds.





In this image above I have chosen to place my vertical lines in the centre of the image and they are sitting well below the horizon.

Lines in the centre of images tend to split the composition in half and don't always make successful shots.

If I had moved my viewpoint to the right slightly I may have been able to create a more dynamic shot by placing the line in the left of the frame and the two distant posts in the right so creating a diagonal implied line between the two.

The image at the top right shows a cropped version of the shot above to give you an idea. This would have worked better if I had moved my camera slightly to the right.

You will notice that I have removed the horizon from this version of the image which simplifies it a bit more.



This image above was taken in the fog at Landguard Point. It shows a series of vertical lines which recede into the distance. Because of the fog the horizon is missing but the image still consists of more than one type of line - vertical lines (posts) and an implied diagonal (where the posts recede into the distance).

Implied Lines

Implied lines are powerful tools which you can use to direct your viewers attention within the image. They can be created by using a line of sight (with wildlife or people) as in the image below.



This image features several vertical lines on the edges which I have used as a frame. The two people in the centre of the image have a diagonal line of sight between them which connects them together and forms a route for the viewers eye to travel through the frame.



In this image above the lady is looking out of the frame which creates questions - who is she waiting for? Because her line of sight travels past the sign in the cafe window I feel it creates a connection between her and the sign and gives a route for the viewers eye to travel along

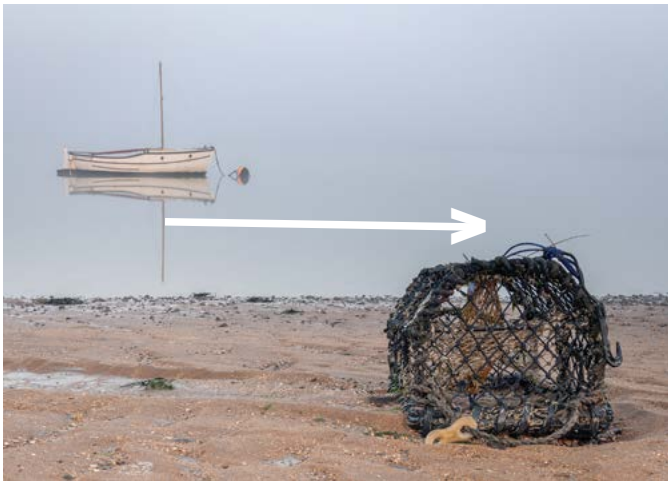
When I took this image I was looking for a way to connect the lady with the sign, beyond just the red colouring.

When using implied lines between objects it is really important that the direction of travel is correct as the two images on the next page demonstrate.



Diagonal Lines

Diagonal lines create dynamic images. They are lines that convey motion. They are often used to create perspective in an image and are particularly good if they enter the frame from the bottom corners.



This shot of the beach huts at Southwold works by using converging diagonal lines within the image. Beginning at the bottom left corner the line of huts are arranged diagonally within the frame. These are complimented by the edge of the prom which enters the image from the bottom right. The converging diagonal lines create a great sense of depth within the image.

When composing this shot I was trying to create a relationship between the lobster pot and the boat.

In the top image the boat is pointing out of the frame so the line of sight runs this way too. As a result it does not connect the two elements.

In the bottom image I moved position and now the boat is pointing towards the lobster pot. The direction of the implied line is still the same but this time the lobster pot is on the right side of the frame and the image works much better.

This next image is another example of implied lines. This time I have used the curved tree in the foreground to create a relationship with the smaller tree in the background. The direction of the curve and the shadow in the marsh both work to create implied lines which link the two trees together.



The following image of the bandstand in Woodbridge works in the same way except this time the converging diagonal lines are created by the shadows. Again they enter the frame at the corners and converge at the

bandstand which is the focal point of the shot.



Lines within your image don't need to consist of physical elements. In the image below the diagonal lines are created by the light and shade which runs in from the left hand side to the image and leads the viewers eye towards the trees.



Diagonal lines can also be found in macro images as the next series of compositions show.

The first shot shows the veins in a sea kale leaf. This image was taken using an aperture of F4 with a 70mm focal length, giving a very shallow plane of focus. The diagonal lines all converge in the top third of the image in the middle. This is where I have placed my focus point.



The next image shows the light shining through the veins of a leaf. Again I have focused on the stem of the leaf (the line in the middle) as this is where the converging diagonals meet.





This image shows a farm field which has been ploughed and planted. Again I have arranged the converging diagonals to travel into the frame from both bottom corners so creating a lovely pattern and sense of depth within the image.

March's Photo Challenge

You will find lines in all aspects of landscape photography.

For this month's challenge I would like you to produce two images:

1. A composition composed of any combination of horizontal, vertical or diagonal lines. The composition must be all about the lines so make them the main focus of your image.
2. A composition that links two elements together using an implied line.

If you have any questions about the challenge or are stuck in any way please don't hesitate to contact me. You can email me at gill@gillmoon.com

The Zoom session for this challenge will take place on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm. The link and details will follow in an email.

