

Digital Photography  
Finals

Washington State Technology Student  
Association (TSA) Conference  
SeaTac, Washington 2023  
Participant #1023023

## Summary of Theme:

As I said in my previous portfolio for the preliminary round, this event was very challenging to me. I have been doing photography for four years now, but this was the first year that I did architectural photography. I was very pleased with the pictures I took for the prelims, but the finals were much harder for me. For example, I have only two or so hours to take the pictures and make the portfolio. In the prelims, I spent hours doing both.

This is also the first time I heard of the seven elements of photographic art. I have read dozens of photography books, but they have never described it in these simple terms, which I found very helpful.

I liked the seven elements because the way that I do photography is not about technical accuracy or fancy equipment -- you can usually fix most technical problems (if the photo is overexposed, underexposed, has too much noise, etc.) with editing software, and fancy equipment is nothing without an understanding of how the camera and lens work.

Photography is about composition. No matter how much you edit a photo or how much you spend on materials, you will not get a good composition. A good composition can be found in a split second -- but it can also take a long time. Even though it is difficult, the thing that I try to tell myself most when I am doing photography, or even just in life, is to be patient. I tell myself this because with patience, you can achieve anything.

This event has helped me learn so much about photography, and I am very thankful for the opportunity to partake in it. Below are the photos I have taken and the descriptions of them and their stories.

## Photo # 1 (*The Rails*)

Original:



Edited:



## **Photo # 1 (*The Rails*)**

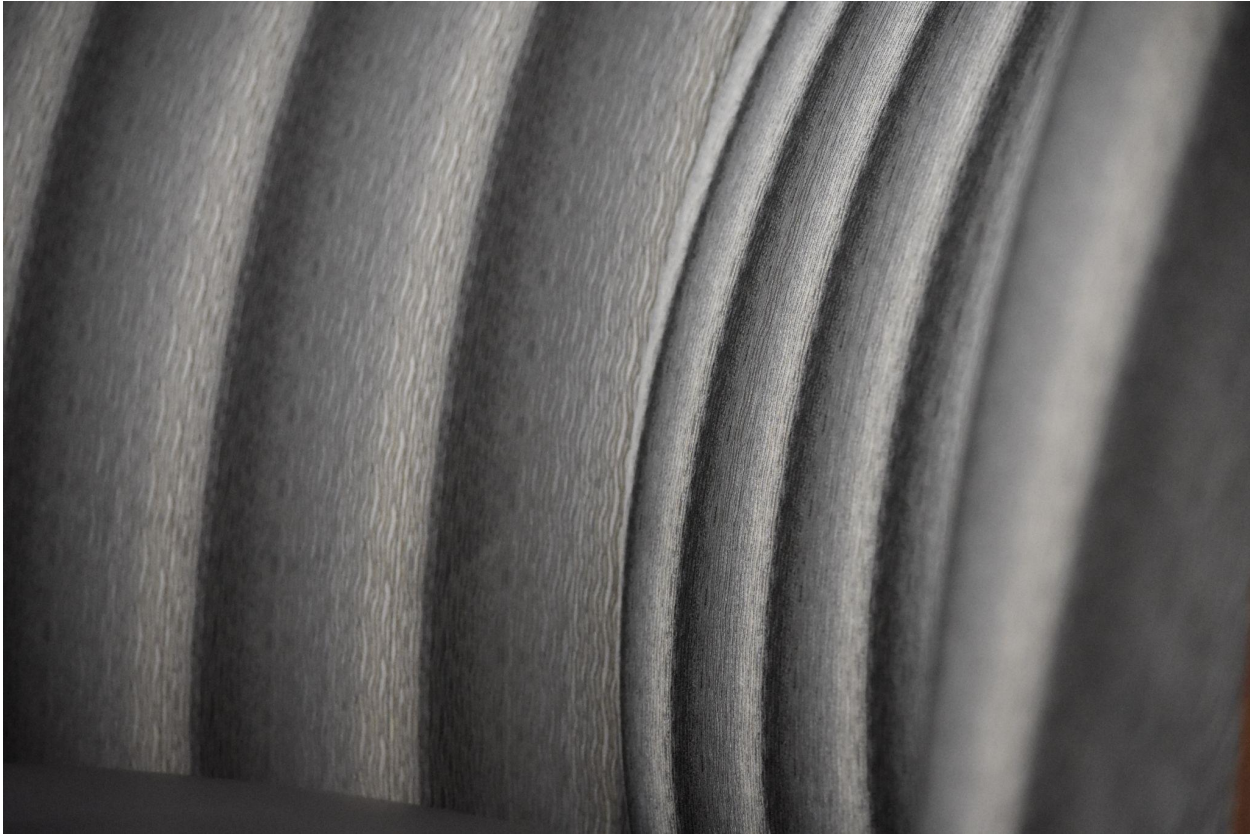
### **Description and Editing Notes**

This is my picture for the element depth, and I named it *The Rails* for a simple reason -- it is a picture of rails on balconies. I took this picture after taking several photos that had nothing to do with depth, and I was starting to get nervous because time was running out. I was walking around the halls of the Doubletree Hotel and was looking around, trying to find an interesting composition. I then looked out the window and saw a dozen or more balconies all in a row. I took a few photos and walked away.

This photo was not my favorite, because it is kind of generic. I tried to change that by changing the saturation to completely black-and-white. I also cropped it to draw more focus to the line going down the row of balconies. (EF 55mm, f/4.5 for 1/640 of a second, ISO 6400, no flash)

**Photo # 2 (Stripy)**

Original and Edited:



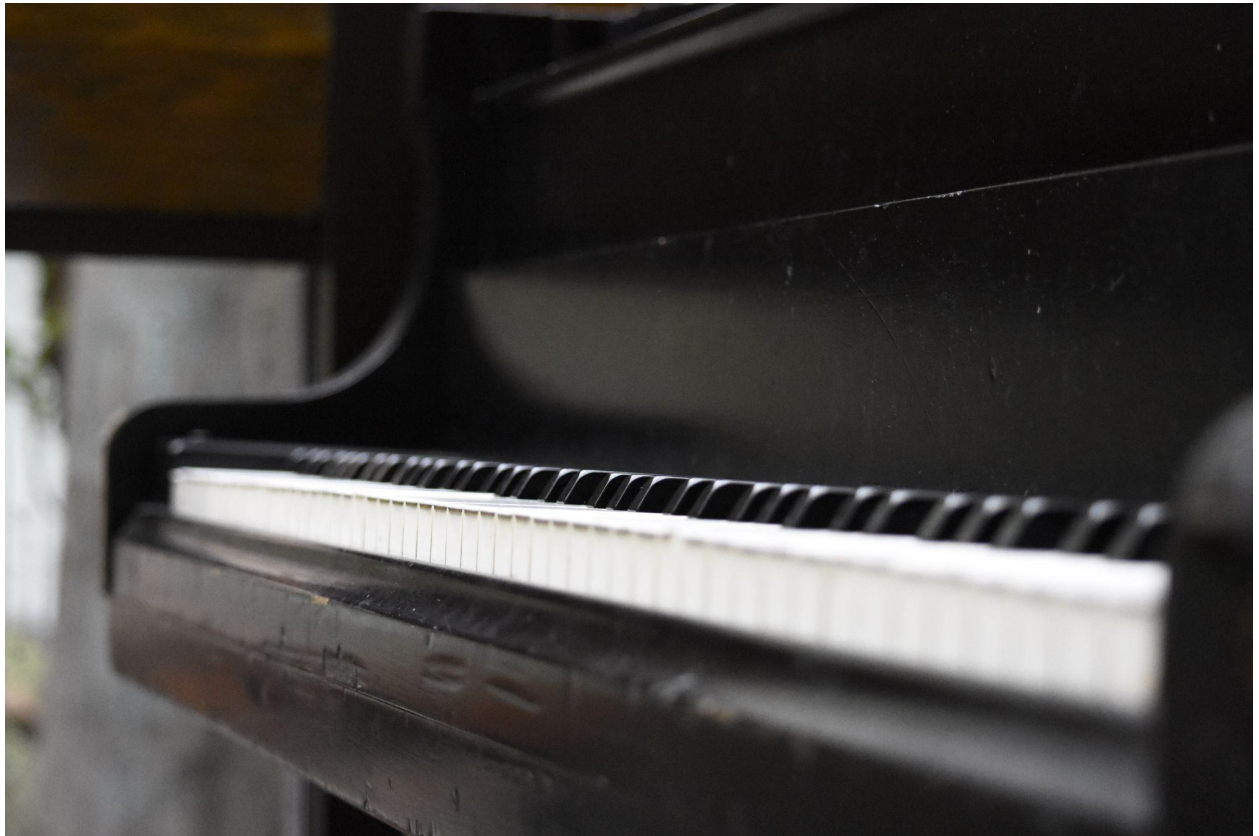
## **Photo # 2 (Stripy)**

This picture was taken on the Maxi floor in the tall tower of the Doubletree Hotel. I was looking for compositions up there because I thought that there might be some interesting views of the airport that would make good compositions. Of course, as all photography goes for me, I did not end up taking pictures of landscapes. Instead, I saw this interesting couch and decided to try taking a picture of it. I was actually very satisfied with it, so I decided to put it in the portfolio.

Like the photo below, I did not do any editing with the photo because I was already happy with the lighting. (EF 116mm, f/4.8 for 1/1250 of a second, ISO 6400, no flash)

### **Photo # 3 (*The Keys*)**

Original and Edited:



## **Photo # 3 (*The Keys*)**

### **Description and Editing Notes**

This photo is by far my favorite. I had heard people playing piano in the lobby of the Doubletree Hotel before, and I thought about taking a picture of someone's hands playing it with a slow shutter speed so that I could see the movement of the hands. By the time I got to it, though, the person who was playing had stopped and walked away. I was a little disappointing, but I thought that maybe a piano that was not being played would show stillness in an environment that, even though the viewer does not know it, was very hectic. When taking it, I knew that I was going to want a large aperture because I wanted to focus on one part of the keyboard and blur out the background.

I think that this photo represents the line element for me. I did not edit this photo at all, because the original exposure was good. (EF 55mm, f/4.5 for 1/640 of a second, ISO 6400, no flash)



## **Resources**

**Camera:** Nikon D3500

**Lens:** Nikon DX AF-S Nikkor 55-300mm 1:4.5-5.6 G

**Computer:** MacBook Pro

**Photo Editing:** MacBook Photo app, just called "Photos"