

VISUAL CHALLENGES TO BOOST YOUR CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

Complete these 10 challenges to become a more observant photographer and to help better shape your artistic vision of the world.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Follow the tasks for each challenge.
Click on the  icon to learn more from Eric Kim!

1 VISUAL DETOX

95 million photos are uploaded to Instagram each day. Give your eyes a break!



For one week:
Avoid using your phone when you are out to avoid being constantly distracted and to not overstimulate your eyes.

Slow down and just look around to cultivate a more curious eye.



2 BEAUTY IN THE MUNDANE

You don't need an exotic location to make beautiful photos.

For one week:
Only photograph everyday or commonly found objects but in an artistic way.

Experiment by using flash, trying different angles, and perspectives.



3 BE LIKE A KID & HAVE FUN

Tap into your inner child and treat photography as playtime.

For the day:
Take your child, young family member, or one of your friends' kid out to share a photography adventure day together.

Give them a camera to shoot with.
Photograph what they find exciting or interesting enough to shoot.

Practice building your childlike curiosity of the world by pointing out things you think they would enjoy to photograph.



4 CREATIVE CONSTRAINTS

Limitations will boost your creativity.

Make a list of 3 common photography habits you do that would be challenging to change.

For one month:
Do the opposite of your 3 common habits.

This challenge will get you out of your comfort zone to identify and maximize photography opportunities you normally would not take.

Examples:

- Shooting only in b/w → Shoot in color
- Shooting only traditional comps → Shoot non-traditional comps
- Shooting only during the day → Shoot during the night
- Shooting only from a distance → Shoot close up



5 ANALYZING THROUGH DRAWING

Sketch photos to deconstruct them to see the strengths and weaknesses.

Pick your favorite photo taken by yourself or another photographer.

Sketch the photo by drawing the lines, shapes and forms.

Use this challenge to reflect what elements initially stood out to you and what you found interesting in the photo.



6 PICTURE PERFECT

If you know what you're looking for, finding it will be easier.

Draw your idea of a perfect picture.

Choose your ideal composition lines, subject spacing, perspective and any other elements important to you.

After finishing your drawing, try to identify the scene and photograph it.



7 ARTISTIC PURPOSE

You are not just a photographer, you are a visual artist with a goal.

Revitalize your artistic passion by reminding yourself why you make art:

Identify your reason is for being a visual artist.

What are your goals that you would like to reach through your art?

Proudly share your answers by writing a blog post, making a YouTube video, or sharing on the Eric Kim Forum.



8 LOOK, DON'T SEE

Instead of simply glancing to see images, look to analyze.

Buy a photobook and spend a full day looking at each picture.

Reflect what makes each picture "work" and what you would have done differently if you had taken the photos.

Feel free to sketch the photos to further study each image.



9 LIVING IN COLOR

Understanding color theory will give a greater impact to your message.

Learn the basics of color theory to apply to your photography.

Choose your favorite color then take photos in a monochromatic, analogous, and complementary color scheme to the color you chose.



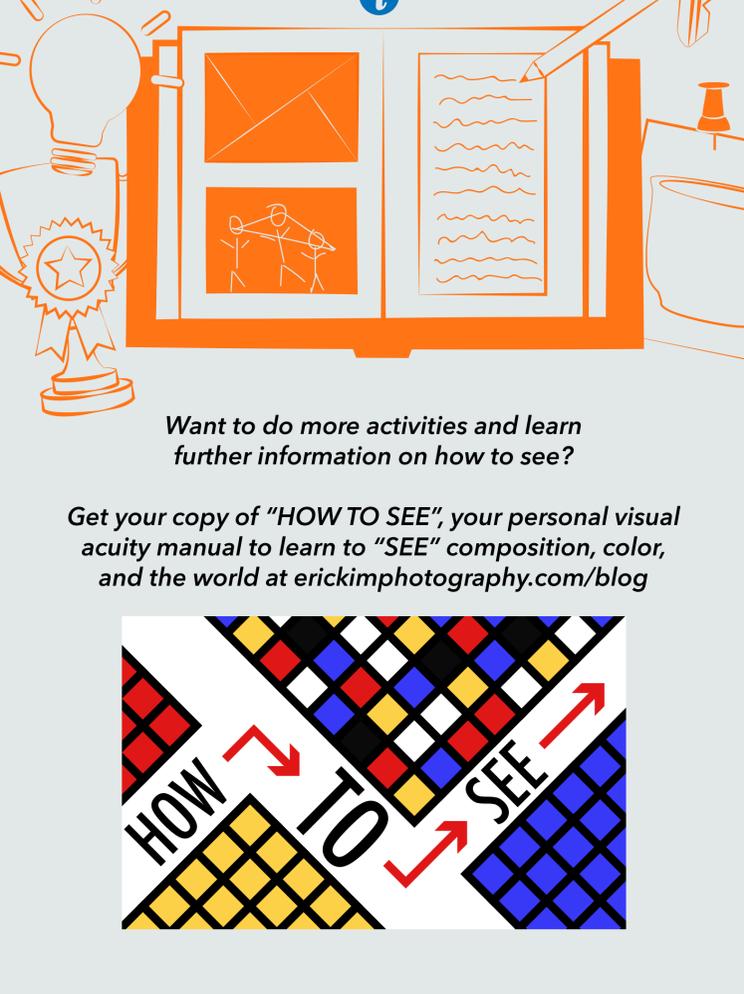
10 MAKE A PROJECT OUT OF IT!

Inspire yourself and others through making a photography project.

Turn your favorite challenge from above into a photobook:

Compile your top photos from each challenge.

Include your drawings, notes and thoughts to further explain your narrative as an artist.



Want to do more activities and learn further information on how to see?

Get your copy of "HOW TO SEE", your personal visual acuity manual to learn to "SEE" composition, color, and the world at erickimphotography.com/blog

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HAPTIC