

LET'S LOOK!

Discovery Guide



RICHARD BUSWELL

Richard Buswell has been photographing the ghost towns of Montana for the past four decades. In *Close to Home*, Buswell frames objects of this bygone era in a way that leaves much to the imagination. These close-up images leave us pondering what the subject of the photos might be, what purpose they might have served, and about the pioneers who left these objects behind.

Manipulating the frame or edges of the composition can be used to create drama, tension, and movement. Zooming in on a subject while taking a photo is one way to manipulate a composition; cropping an image after it's been shot to eliminate background information is another way. This can be done in the darkroom or in a digital photo editing program, like Photoshop.

WHAT IS A GELATIN SILVER PRINT?

A **gelatin silver print** describes the process used for printing black-and-white photographs. It's the primary black-and-white process used since the late 1880s, when it was first invented. A base (usually acetate film, fiber-based paper, or resin-coated paper) is coated with an emulsion of light-sensitive silver salts and is allowed to dry. The silver compounds form an image after a negative is exposed onto the coated paper and developed in a chemical bath. Buswell created his gelatin silver prints on a large-format camera.

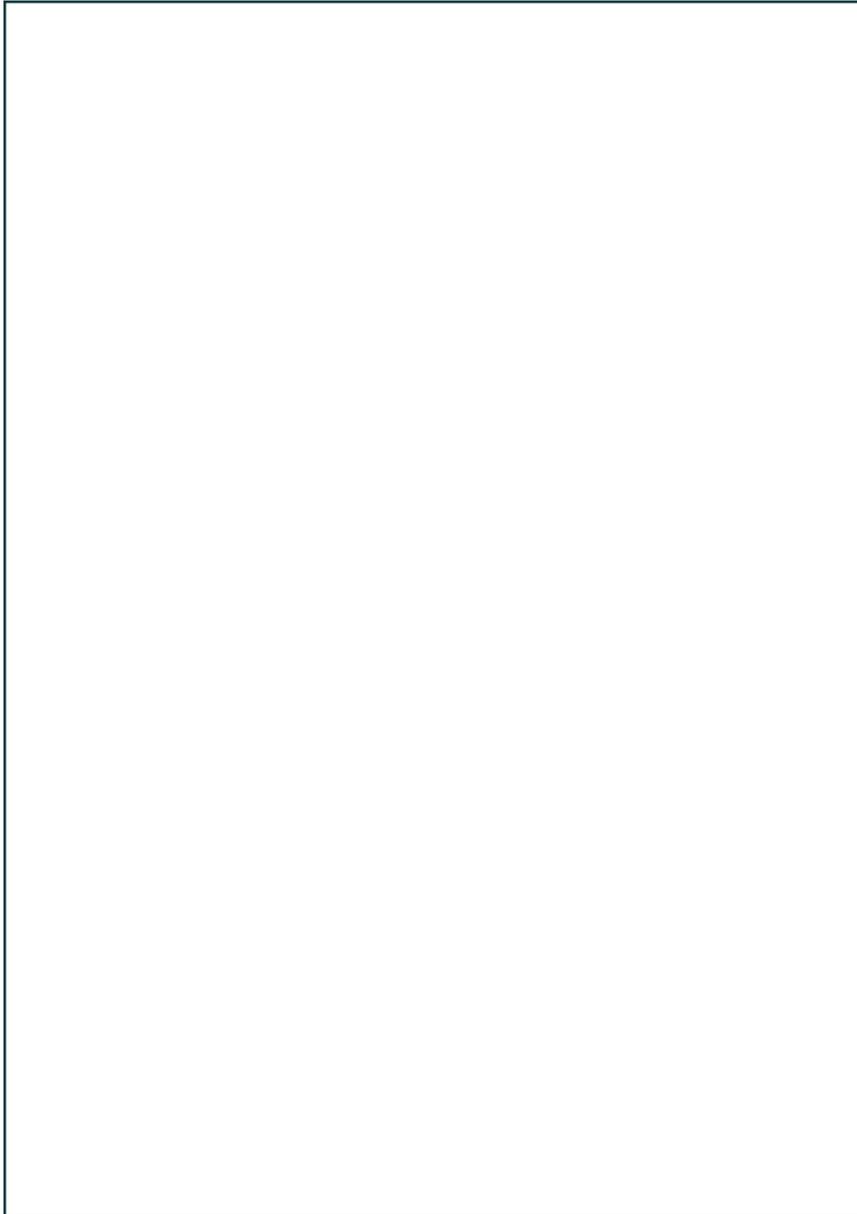
Learn more about the silver gelatin process from Kodak Eastman's wonderful YouTube channel.

<http://tinyurl.com/ppzmmdp>

(QR code on back)

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

What words would you use to describe the photographs you see in the gallery? The lines? The shapes? The spaces? What could these objects be? *Share, write, or draw your ideas here:*

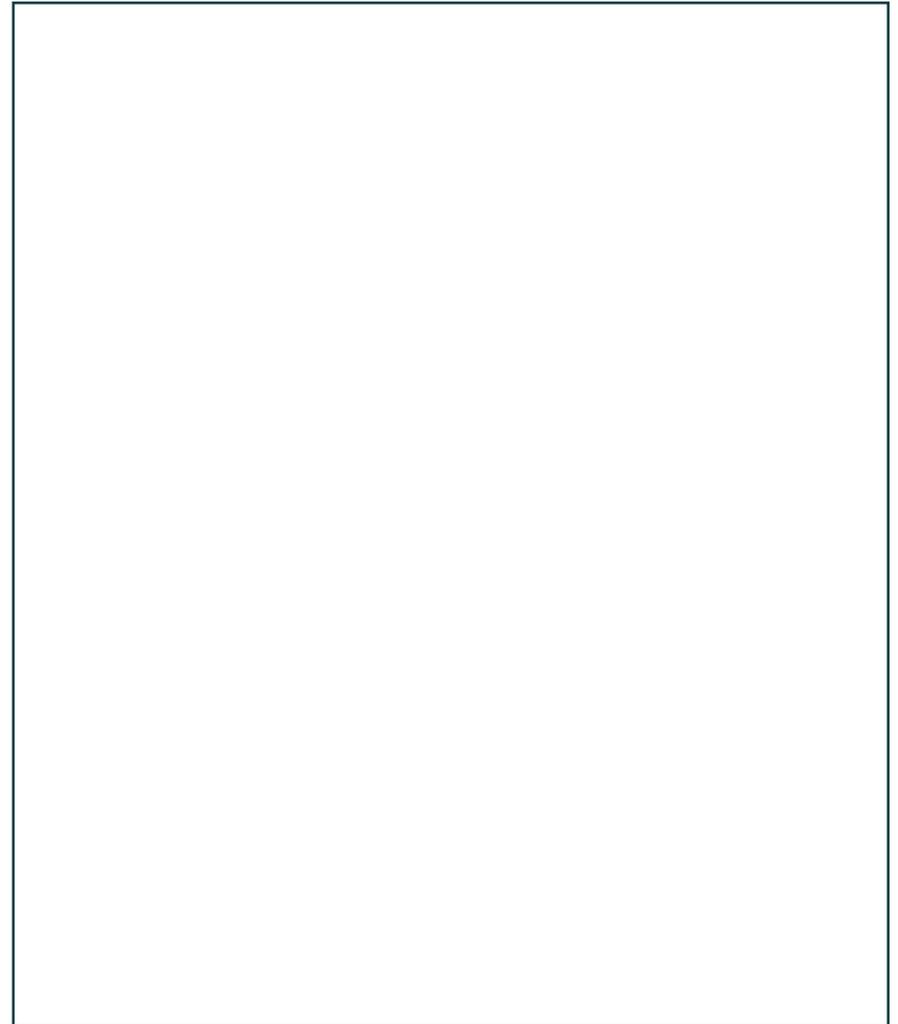


ACTIVITY: USING A VIEWFINDER

To create your own abstract composition, use the small viewfinder in this guide to 'zoom in' on someone or something around you. Notice where and how the lines and shapes fit within the frame.



Draw your abstract compositions in the boxes below:



Before settling on a final composition, Buswell creates quick “sketches” with a digital camera. Current technology makes experimenting with composition easy and fun!

CREATE A BUSWELL-INSPIRED PORTRAIT.

Buswell creates portraits of long-deserted places by photographing common objects the pioneers left behind. What you include or exclude in a portrait says a lot about its subject. What objects do you surround yourself with on a daily basis? Are they precious or common or both?

Create a self-portrait by photographing the things you surround yourself with. How will you frame the objects?

Take a few snapshots; play with the composition of the photo.

Zoom in to create an abstracted image.

Take photos of the same object using many different angles.

Play with the lighting to create a range of values and moods.

Will you compose in color or create in black and white?

Include a variety of textures in your photo.

Share your photos with others to see what they learn about you. Upload your images to Instagram or Twitter and tag @osumuseumofart or use the hashtag #OSUMA

How do the lights and darks in these photos create a MOOD? How would the mood of the photographs change if the values were lighter or darker?

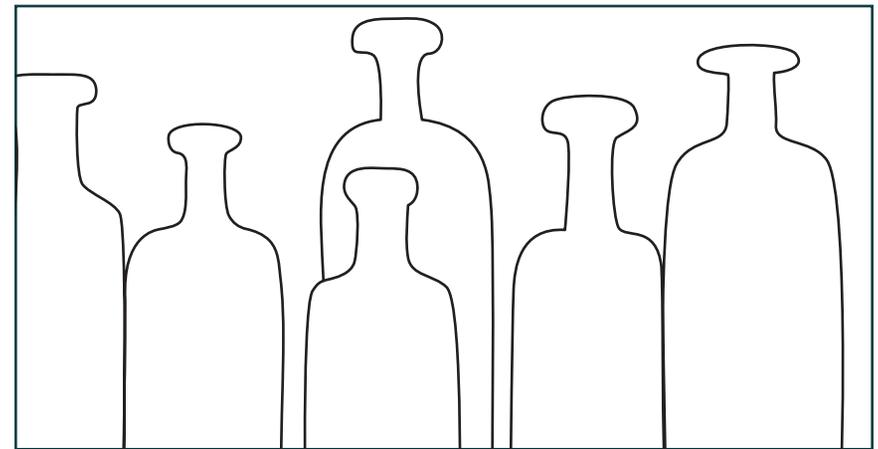
Value is a range of lights and darks in a work of art. Black is the darkest value and white is the lightest value. There is a wide array of grays between the two. Value is important in art for many reasons. It provides contrast and balance, it can create a focal point or sense of importance, and it helps create the illusion of three-dimensional forms on a flat surface. By adding shading to a flat shape, such as a circle, the illusion of a sphere can be created.

Notice the range of lights and darks in Buswell’s black and white photographs. How many different values do you see?

CREATE A VALUE SCALE:



Use your pencil to shade in the boxes above to create a simple value scale. Compare your completed value scale with the values you see in Buswell’s images. How many values can you count?



Can you find the photo that matches this image in the gallery? How does this line drawing differ from the original photograph? Using your pencil, recreate the value ranges in Buswell’s photo in the line drawing above. How does adding value to the line drawing change it?

ACTIVITY: BEYOND THE FRAME....

Look closely at these photos. What do you notice?
Which of these photos are you most drawn to? What about the image appeals to you? Use the clues in the photographs to imagine what might be beyond the framed image you see. What might this object look like in its entirety? Where does this object live? What function might it serve? What does this image tell about the people who left it behind?

Use your imagination to extend the scene beyond the edges of the frame by hand drawing the background. It's up to you to complete a realistic image or transform it into something fantastical.

