

RULE BREAKING

In *Photography and the Art of Seeing*, Freeman Patterson recommends writing down a list of all the “rules” we assume to be true of photography...and then breaking them. Here are ten rules that recur again and again:

- Rule 1: Focus on the center of interest.
- Rule 2: Fill in the frame with the subject.
- Rule 3: Do not shoot between 10 AM and 3 PM because the light is too harsh.
- Rule 4: Do not shoot against the light.
- Rule 5: Hold the camera steady.
- Rule 6: Follow the “Rule of Thirds”.
- Rule 7: Obey the light meter.
- Rule 8: Photograph children (and pets) at their own eye level.
- Rule 9: Avoid lens flare when shooting against the sun.
- Rule 10: Keep the camera level with the horizon.

BREAKING THE RULES:

- Rule 1: Keep the center of interest out of focus; play with the balance of forms.
- Rule 2: Allow space around the subject; look for interaction with the environment.
- Rule 3: Shoot on any day, at any time.
- Rule 4: Photograph only against the light for a month.
- Rule 5: Shoot while jumping up and down or spinning around.
- Rule 6: Vary your composition. Respond emotionally.
- Rule 7: Disobey. Mess up the zone system. Overexpose and underexpose by three, even four f/stops.
- Rule 8: Move up, down, on the side, all over.
- Rule 9: Use lens flare to enhance a composition.
- Rule 10: Create your own horizons.