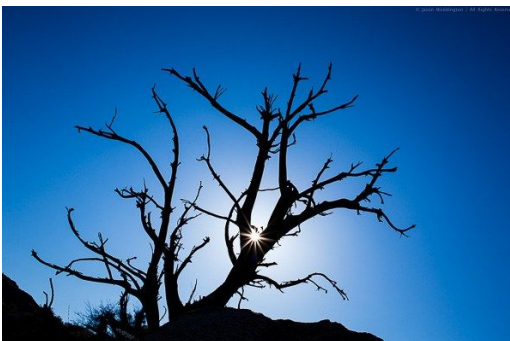


Take your Time and Work the Scene

Adapted from a post by: Jason Weddington



Here's the first shot of the tree. I shot this photo as soon as I saw the tree. It's a fascinating tree, but not a very interesting photo. There's just too much happening here.

So I moved behind and tried a silhouette against the sky. Sometimes your first few shots will not be the best, take your time to work the scene. Use the elements in the scene to create an interesting photo.

There are 4 elements in this image:

1. The sun
2. The tree
3. The deep blue sky
4. The rocks

I liked the tree, and I wanted to shoot it as a silhouette against the blue sky. I also thought that I could use the sun to create a starburst and add a sense of drama. But after my first silhouette attempt, I realized the sun was just too big and bright to use as a separate visual element. It was upstaging my tree. Not cool. I also didn't like all the rocks and fuzzy vegetation at the bottom of the frame. Too many distracting elements competing for the viewer's attention.

So I moved closer, tilted the camera 45 degrees counterclockwise to eliminate some of the foreground, and put the sun behind the tree. Then came the decisive moment. I realized that if I allowed just a bit of sun to shine through the 'V' formed by two branches, I could bring back a little of that starburst, while preventing it from overpowering the image.

All in all, I shot 12 photos in two minutes to arrive at the photo that I felt was the strongest, the image at the top of this post. The key is work the scene and make small changes until you arrive at the shot you want.

Many of the amazing photos you see have several less interesting shots leading up to them. Next time something catches your eye as interesting, but your first few shots don't capture that feeling, slow down and work the scene.