

# PRINCIPLES OF COMPOSITION

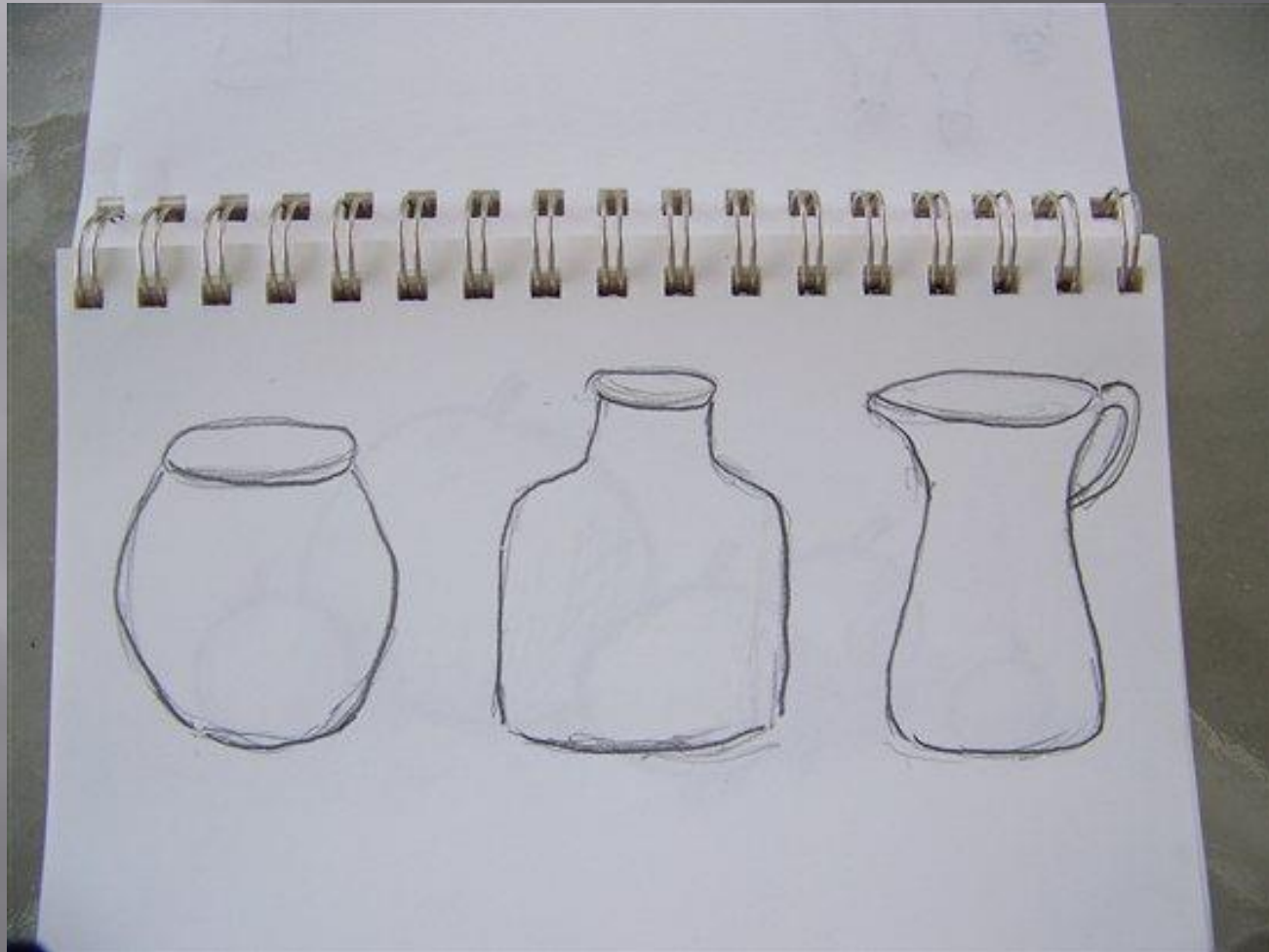
Still Life Workshop

# Avoid Symmetry

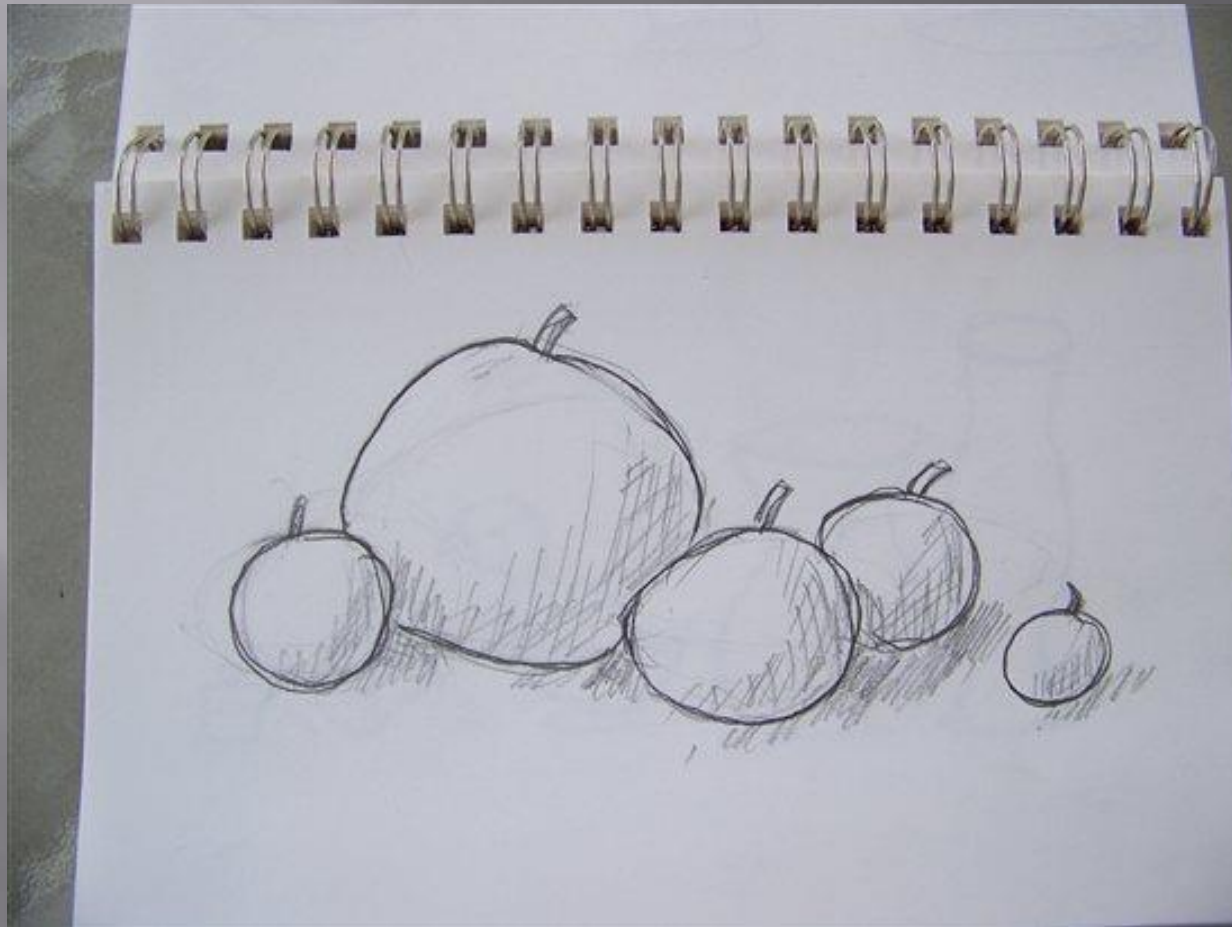


Variety of shapes, sizes and spacing's  
No discernable pattern

# Avoid Similar Shapes, Sizes and Placement



# Avoid Tallest in the Middle with Smaller to the Sides



# Avoid Creating Triangular Shapes



# Avoid Diagonal Arrangements



# Too Much Space on the Left



- ▣ Large amounts of empty space due to too many objects on the right

# Too Much Empty Space



- ❑ Large amounts of empty space make composition look flat



# Too Symmetrical



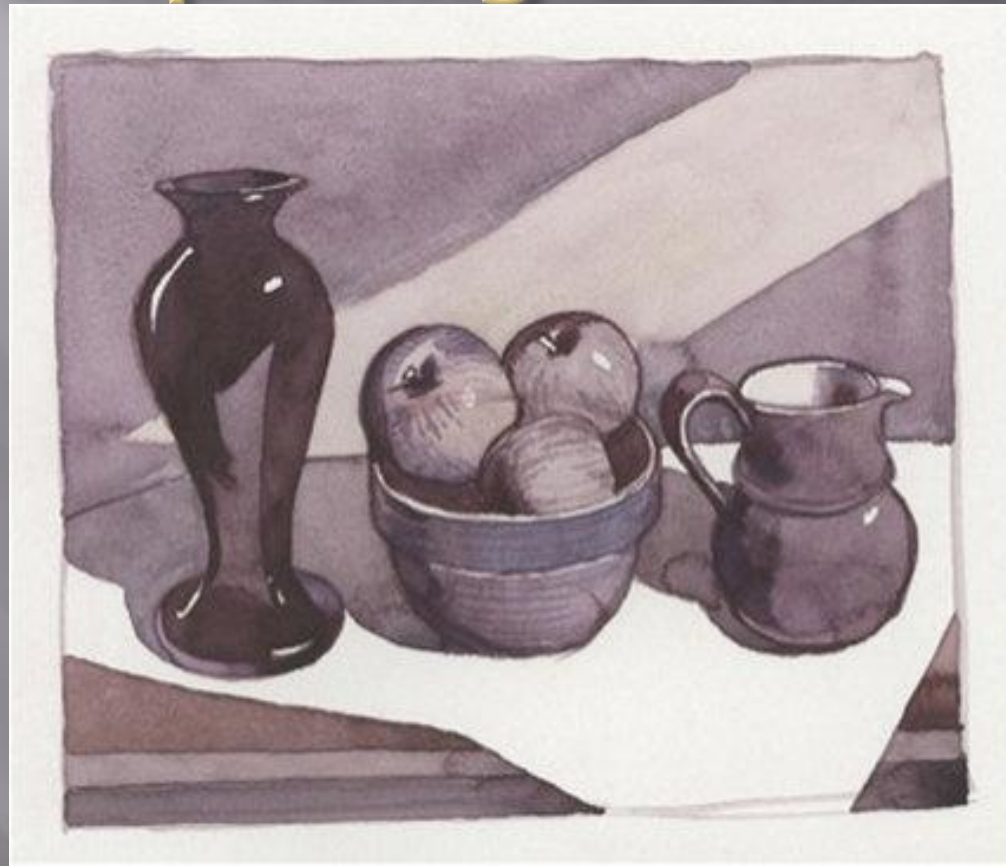
- ▣ Overly symmetrical arrangements look unnatural

# Composing a Still Life



3 objects for still life

# Composing a Still Life



- ❑ Tall object on left
- ❑ Background balances heaviness of vase

# Composing a Still Life



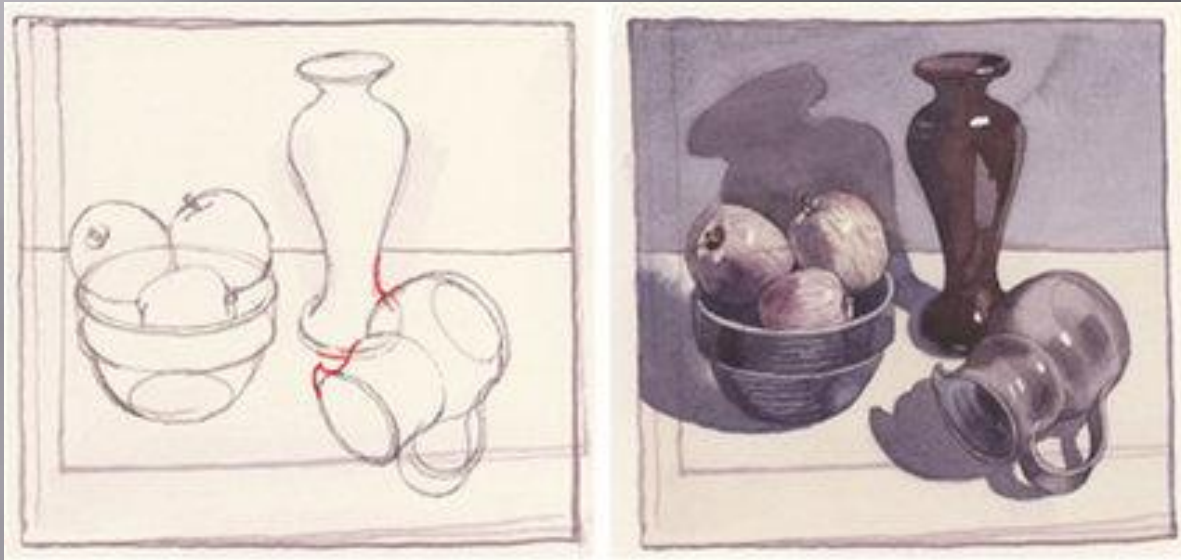
- ❑ Pitcher has been moved forward
- ❑ Group is more integrated
- ❑ Background is plain
- ❑ Spout of pitcher is above rim of bowl
- ❑ Curves of bowl and pitcher should not overlap
- ❑ Note part shadows play

# Composing a Still Life



- ▣ This has a lot of symmetry
- ▣ The shadow of the vase serves to break up the symmetry

# Composing a Still Life



- ❑ The symmetry is disrupted
- ❑ The curve of the spout does not intersect the vase
- ❑ This creates an interesting negative space between objects

# Example

(Alla Ivanova)



# Example

(Алла Шевченко)





# Example

(Алла Шевченко)



























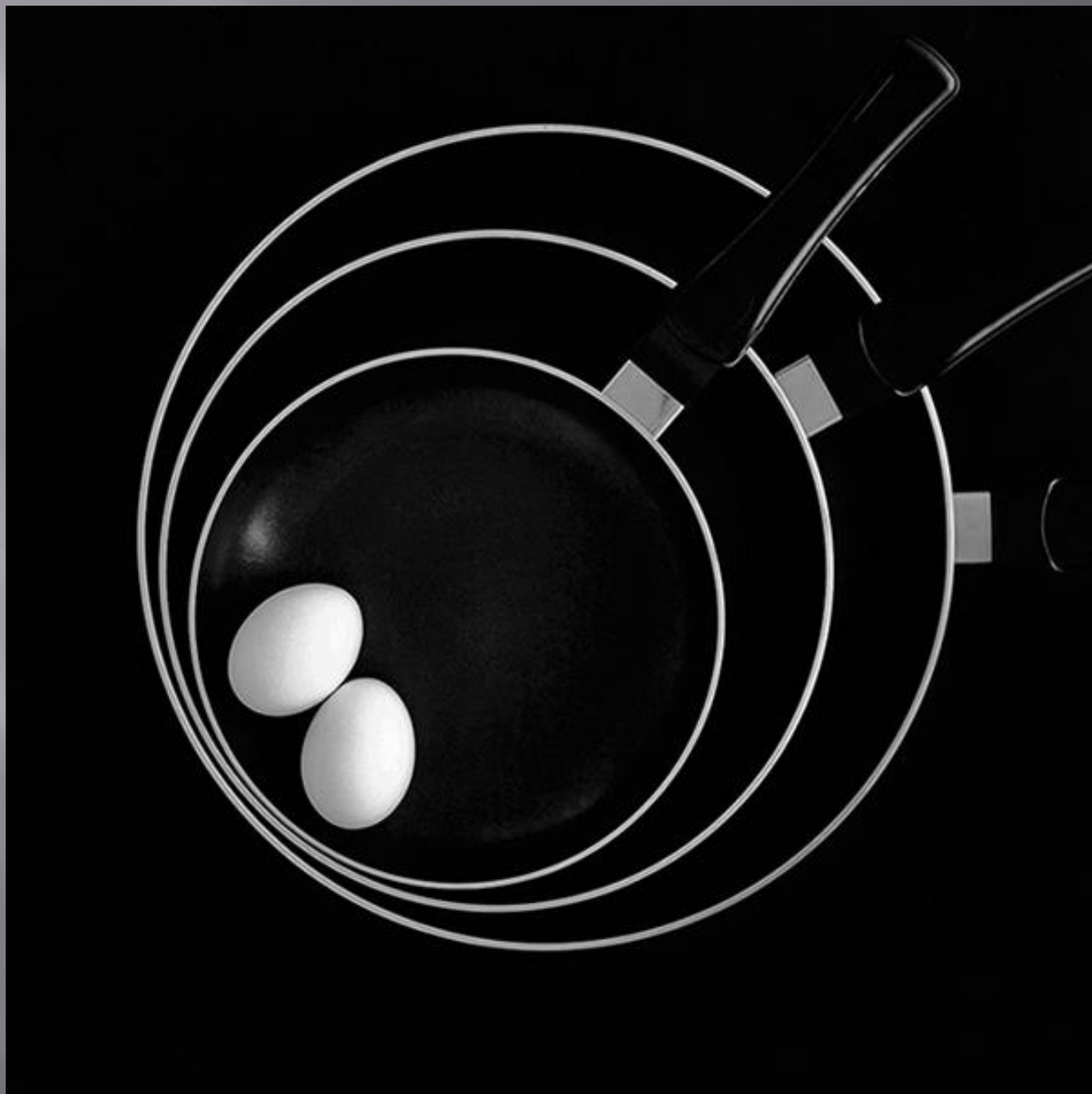






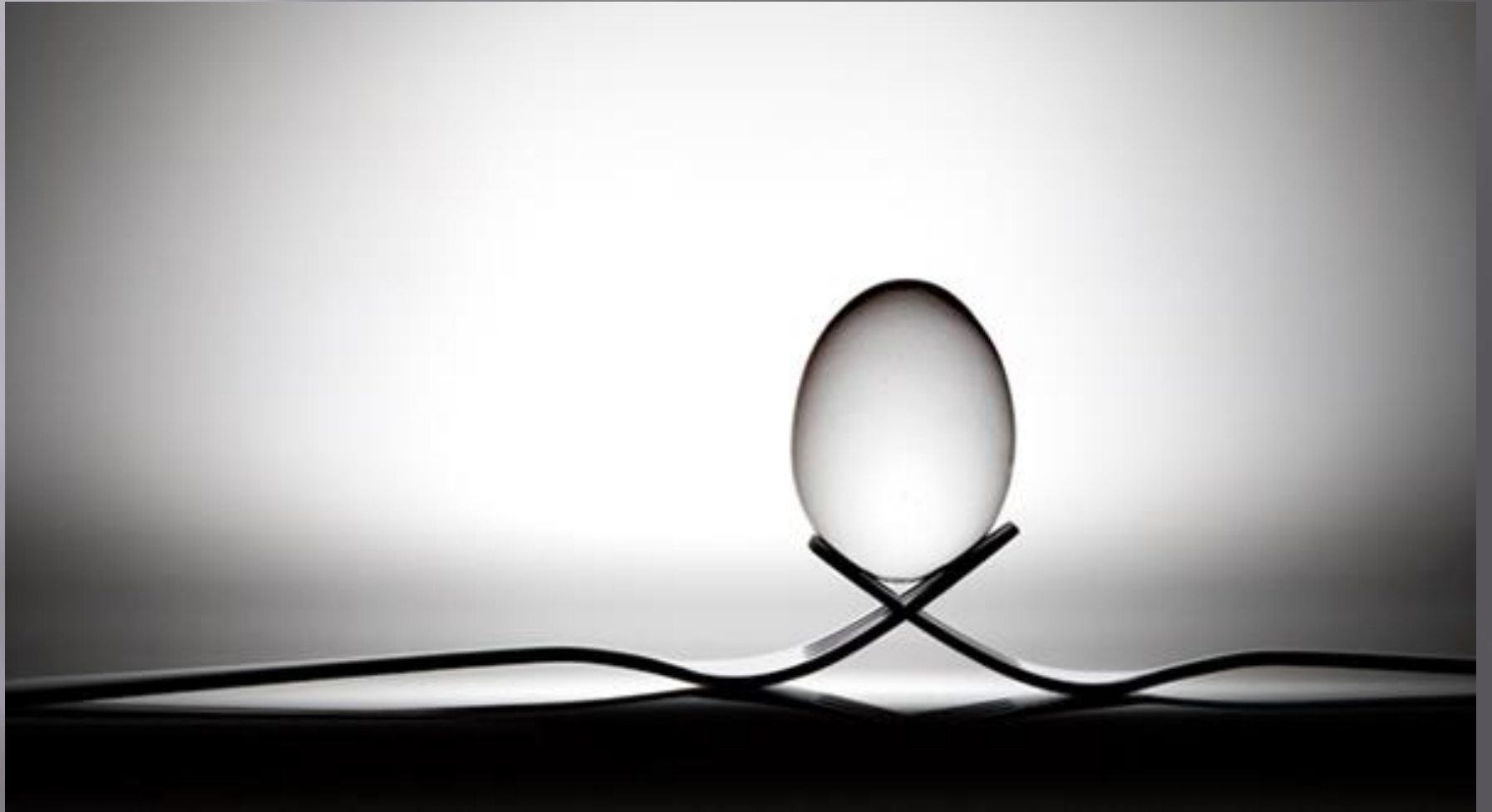




















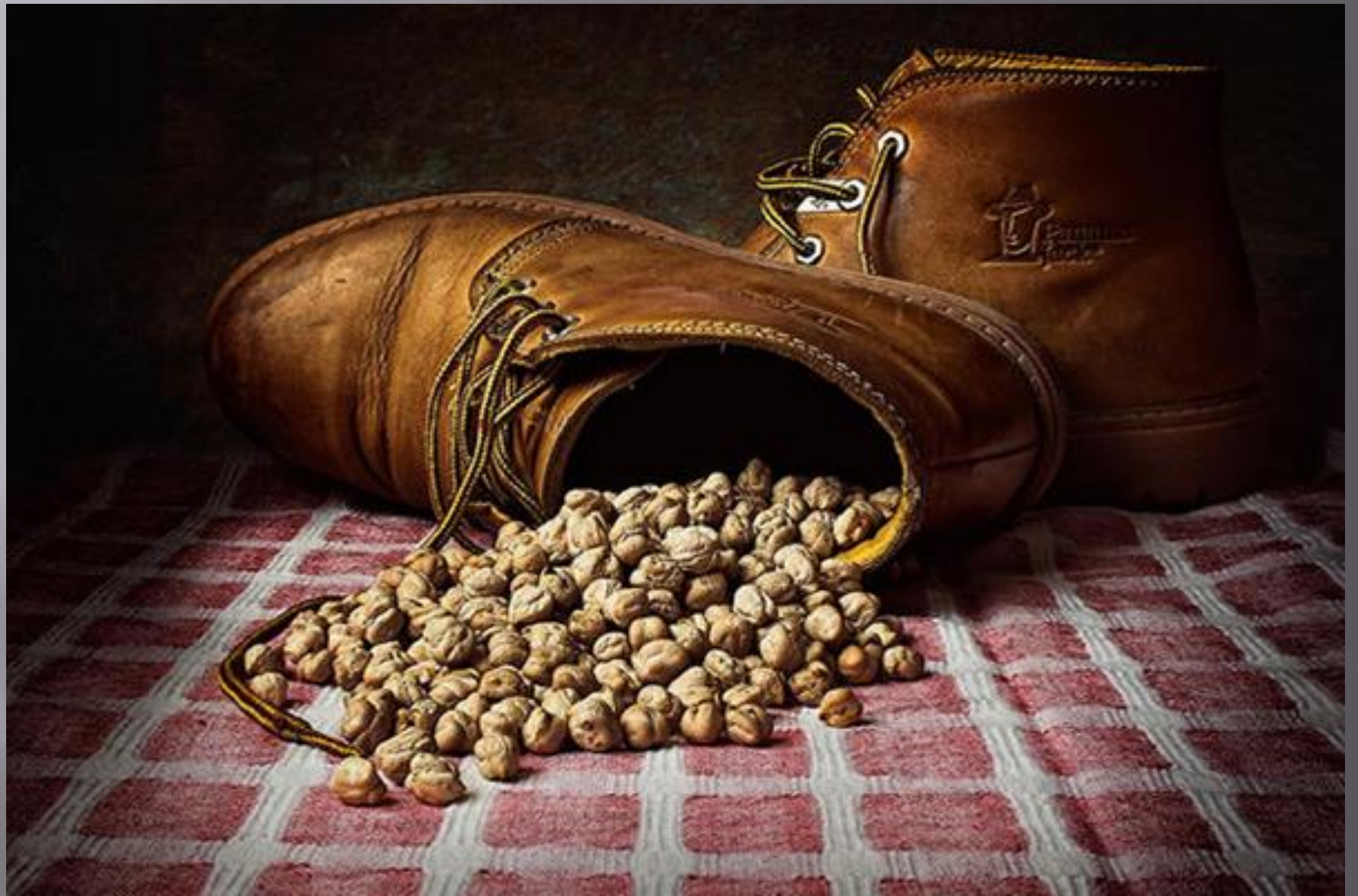










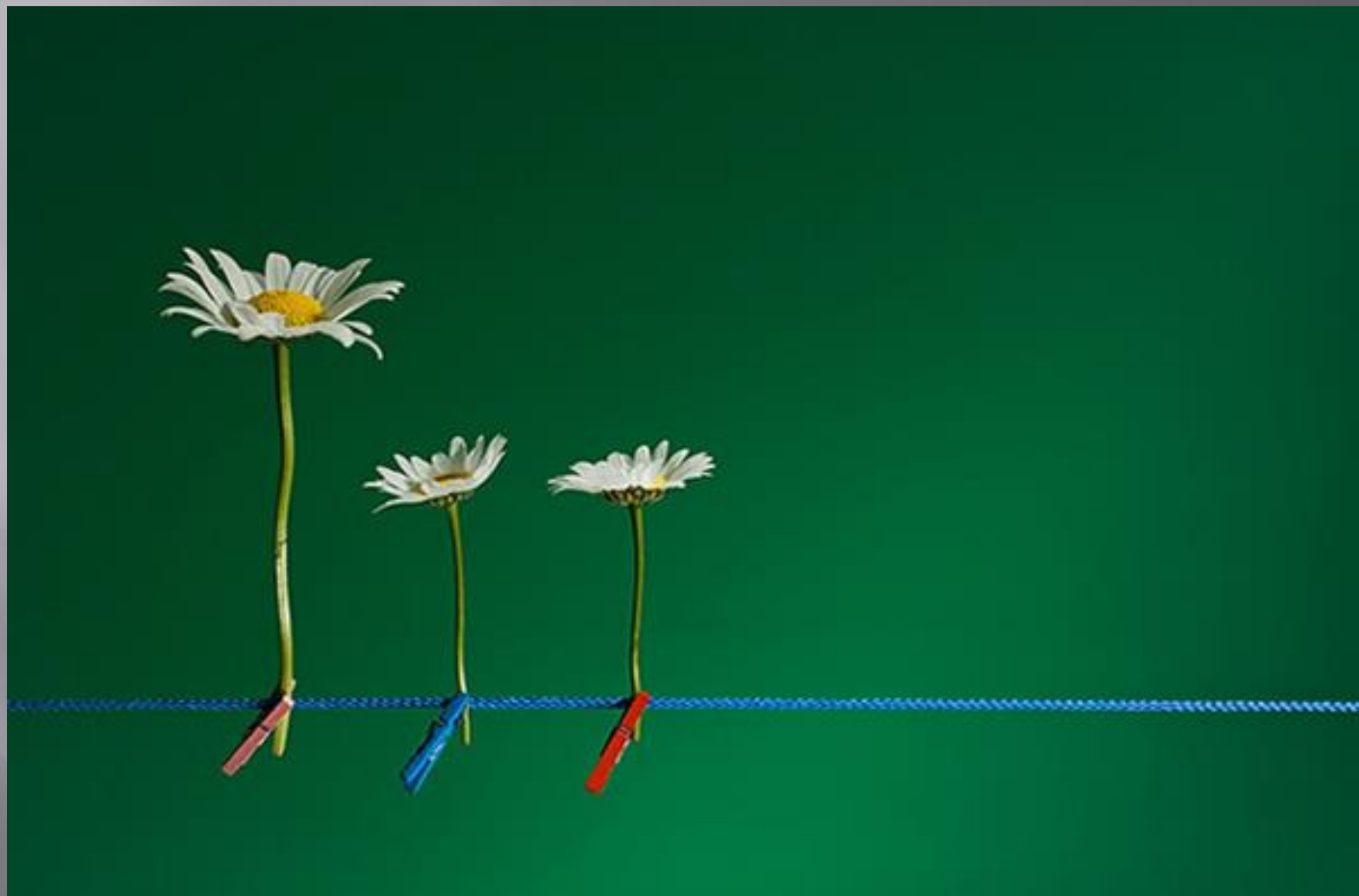












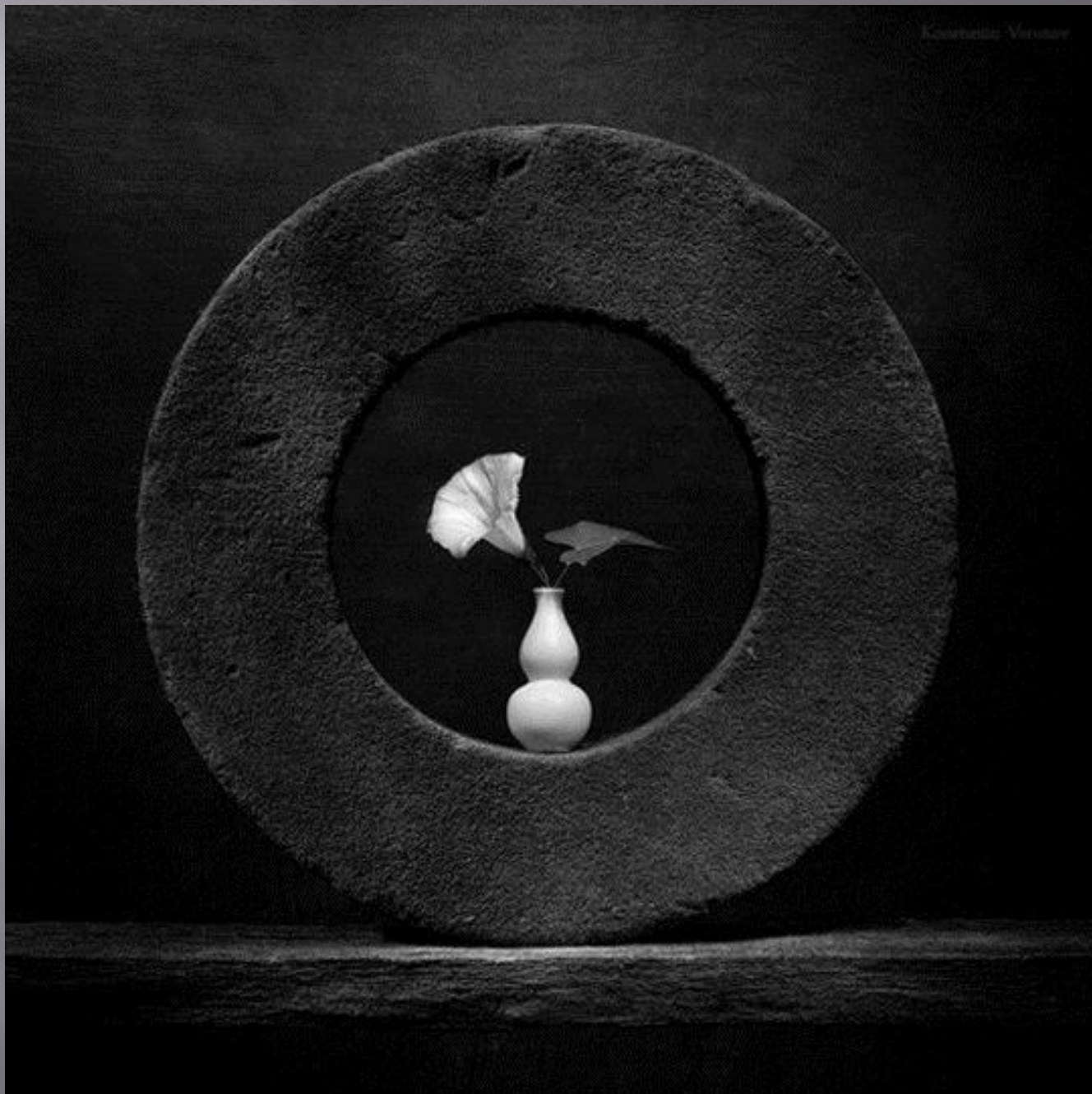


















# Tips on Photographing Flowers Under Water



# Photographing Flowers in Water

## ▣ Equipment:

- flowers [that do not release pollen under water]
- cutting shears
- weight
- water
- pins [in case petals separate too much with the force of the water]
- neutral background

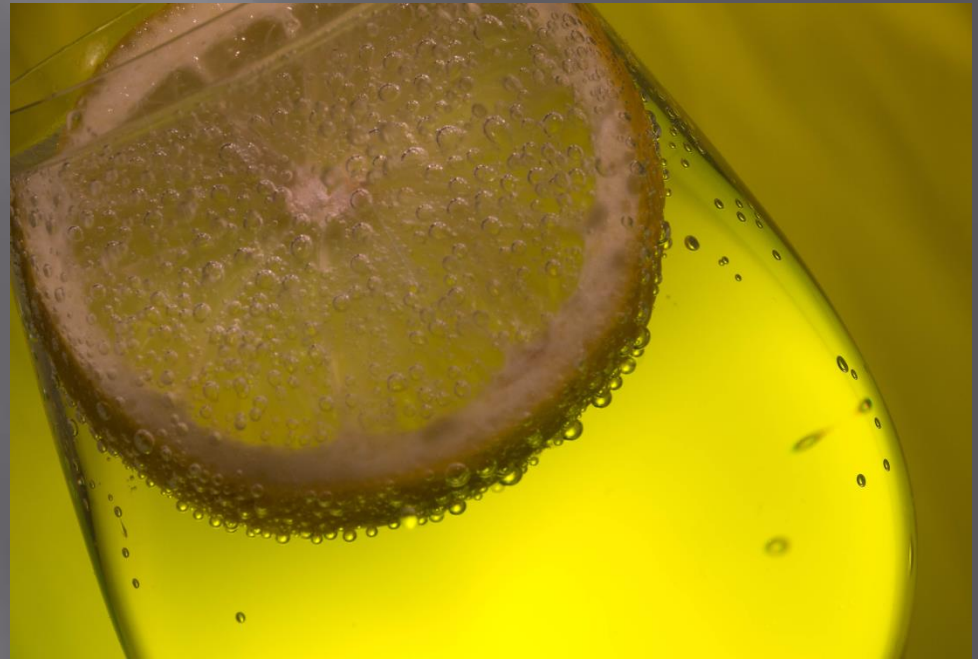
## ▣ Need a square/rectangular glass vase that:

- has no scratches, smears, or calcium residue
- is tall enough so that can submerge flowers without seeing top of water line or vase
- is wide enough that flowers will not rest on edges [usually]

# Photographing Flowers in Water

- ▣ Rearranging flowers for best composition and so don't rest on edge can be messy
- ▣ Ensure the environment will not be damaged by any overflow
- ▣ Have camera and tripod set up before you begin
- ▣ Be prepared to work quickly in some situations [before pollen is released or petals droop] and to be patient in others [bubbles may accumulate over time]

# Photographing Submerged Fruit with Bubbles



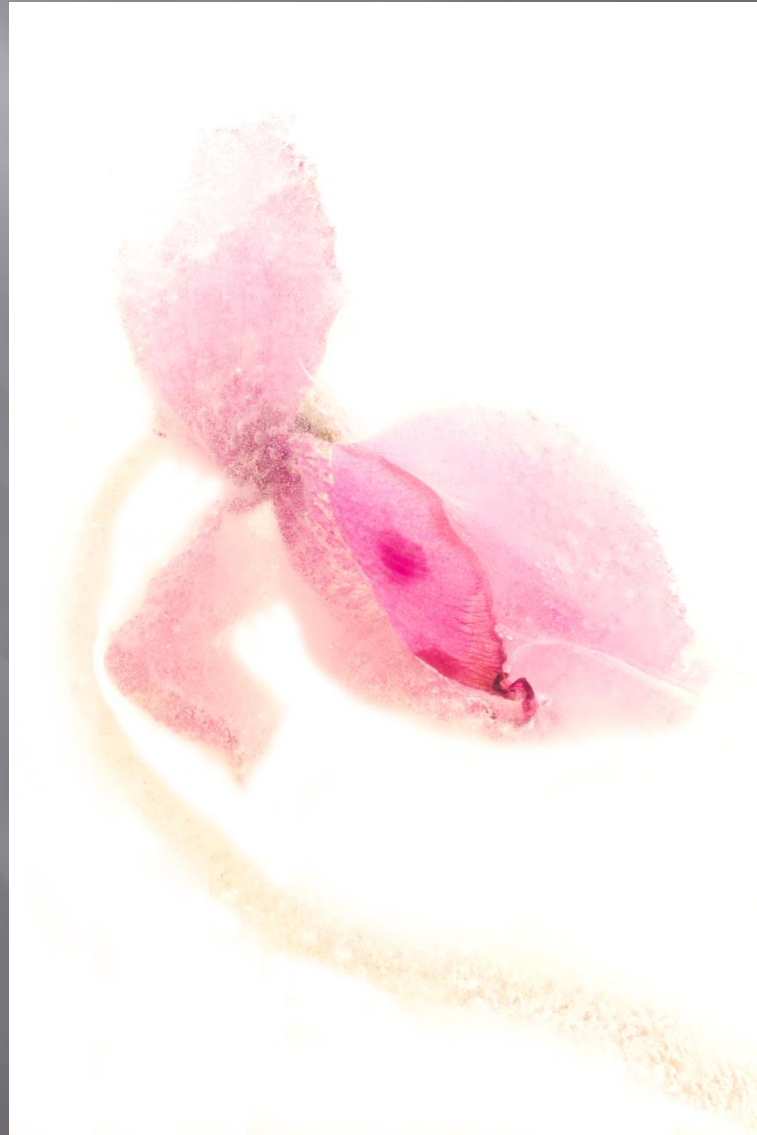
# Tips on Photographing Submerged Fruit with Bubbles

- ▣ Equipment:
  - sliced fruit [oranges, lemons, limes etc]
  - glass [not crystal]
  - carbonated water
  - salt shaker
  - wooden skewer to hold fruit in place
  - if desired, food coloring or colored lights
  - Solid background.
- ▣ Need a glass that:
  - has no scratches, smears, or calcium residue

# Photographing Submerged Fruit with Bubbles

- ▣ Skewer fruit so that most of it will be submerged in the glass when the skewer is laid across the top of the glass
- ▣ Have camera and tripod set up before begin. Consider angling camera for a more dynamic image
- ▣ Decide what will be sharp: fruit and/or bubbles and set focal point and shutter speed accordingly. Use manual focus.
- ▣ Add carbonated water. When bubbles diminish, add salt or blow air in with straw.

# Photographing Frozen Flowers





# Photographing Frozen Flowers

- ▣ See [www.ryuijie.com](http://www.ryuijie.com) for more sample images.
- ▣ Equipment:
  - plastic or metal container [not cookie tins, which will leak] that has straight [not slanted] sides at least 2 inches high,
  - Cold distilled water,
  - flowers,
  - bookends,
  - freezer [or porch],
  - towel
- ▣ -melting ice can be messy. Ensure the environment will not be damaged by water.

# Photographing Frozen Flowers

- ▣ To have flower rest in middle of ice:
  - Set freezer to coldest setting . Add  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of cold water, tap to remove bubbles, and freeze until very solid
  - Add flower and more water, tap, and freeze again until very solid; Add third layer of water, tap, and freeze until very solid
  - Or set freezer to warmest setting. Add several thin layers of cold water, add flowers, add several more thin layers of water
- ▣ Alternatively, can accomplish freezing in one step by placing flower upside down in a tall container and then holding it in place with a string until frozen

# Photographing Frozen Flowers

- ❑ Set up camera and tripod. To avoid fogging lens, don't get too close to ice.
- ❑ Set up soft light so that it will be behind ice.
- ❑ Remove ice from pan
- ❑ If too cloudy, pour a small amount of boiling water over surface.
- ❑ Prop ice up on towel on table with bookends. Cracks and clouding often occur if the freezer doesn't circulate air. Embrace this as part of the unique effect you achieve. Alternatively shoot high key to eliminate these.