

Impactful Black and White Photography

April 16, 2026

Dennis Fritsche

Resources

- **PPC Wesbite - Training Material 2024 - Impactful Monochrome** - Various
Demonstrates how to create strong black-and-white photographs through effective tonal control, conversion techniques, and thoughtful composition.
 - August 8, 2024 (Online) - Dennis Fritsche and Larry Petterborg
Overview - [VIDEO](#) Demos - [VIDEO](#)
Impactful Monochrome - Overview (Dennis) - [PDF](#)
Impactful Monochrome - Process with Lightroom and Print with Lightroom (Dennis) - [PDF](#)
Process with Lightroom and Print from Photoshop (Larry) - [PDF](#)
 - August 20, 2024 (Online) - Alan Whiteside and Steve Sutton - [VIDEO](#)
Alan Whiteside - [PDF](#) | Steve Sutton - [PDF](#)
 - September 12, 2024 (Online) - Jim Walsh - [PDF](#) [VIDEO](#)
 - October 10, 2024 (Online) - Critiques - [VIDEO](#)
Larry Critique of Ogre - [PDF](#)
Frank Critique of Train Tracks - [PDF Competition Results](#) PSA

Resources

- *Mastering black and white digital photography* by Michael Freeman
- *PhotographyLife.com* article “
How to Take Better Black and White Landscape Photos
- *Landscapes in Lightroom: The Essential Step-by-Step Guide* by Michael Frye
- *Look at books – Ansel Adams, John Sexton, Edward Weston, etc.*
- [PSA Competition Results](#)
- [LensWork \(print edition\)](#)
- [Black & White Magazine | For Collectors of Fine Photography](#)

What Should You Consider When Choosing an Image?

- PPC Rules: *The judge considers impact, composition, and the technical aspects of the image*
- Dennis Rule: *Impact, Impact, Impact*

What Makes an Image Impactful?

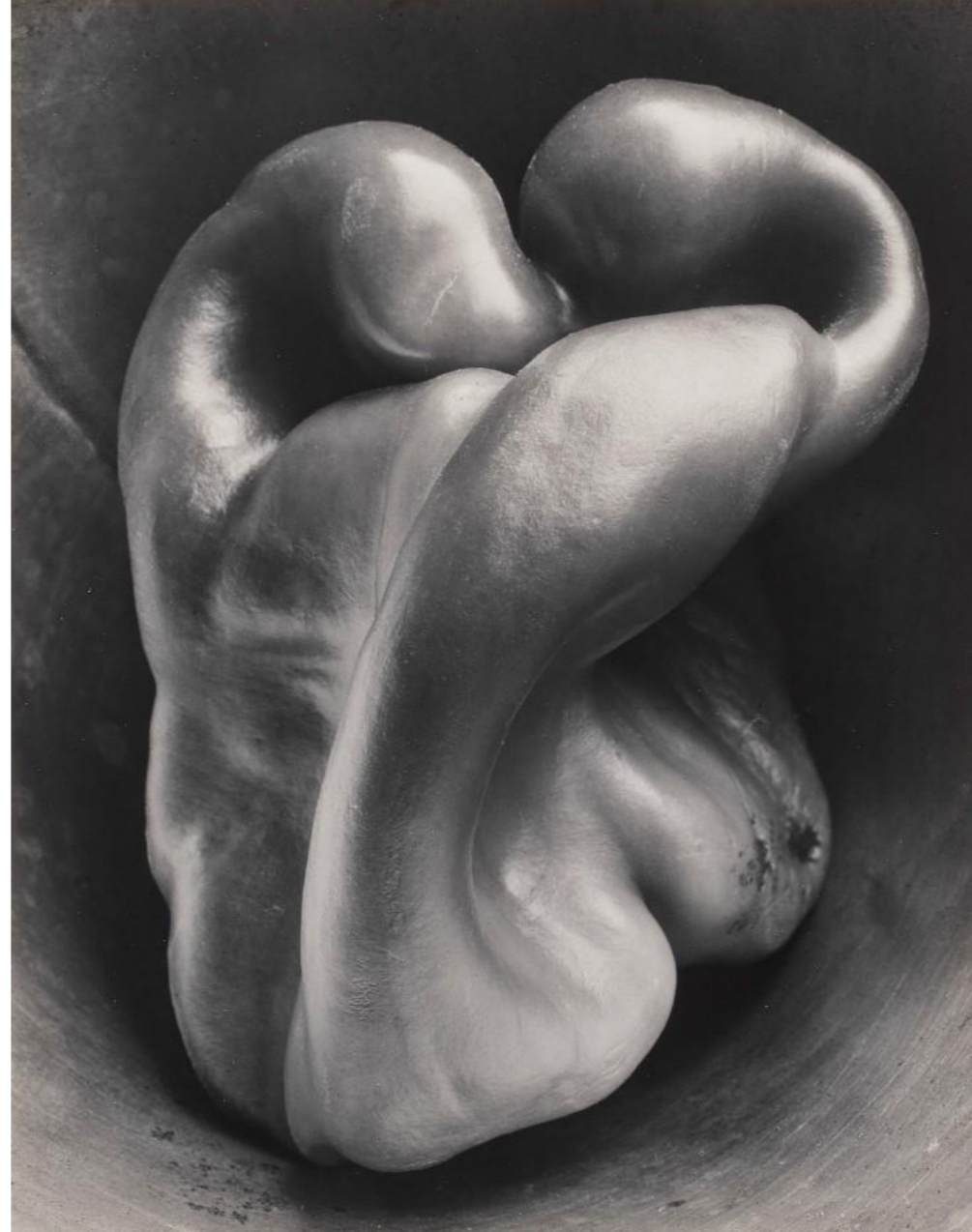
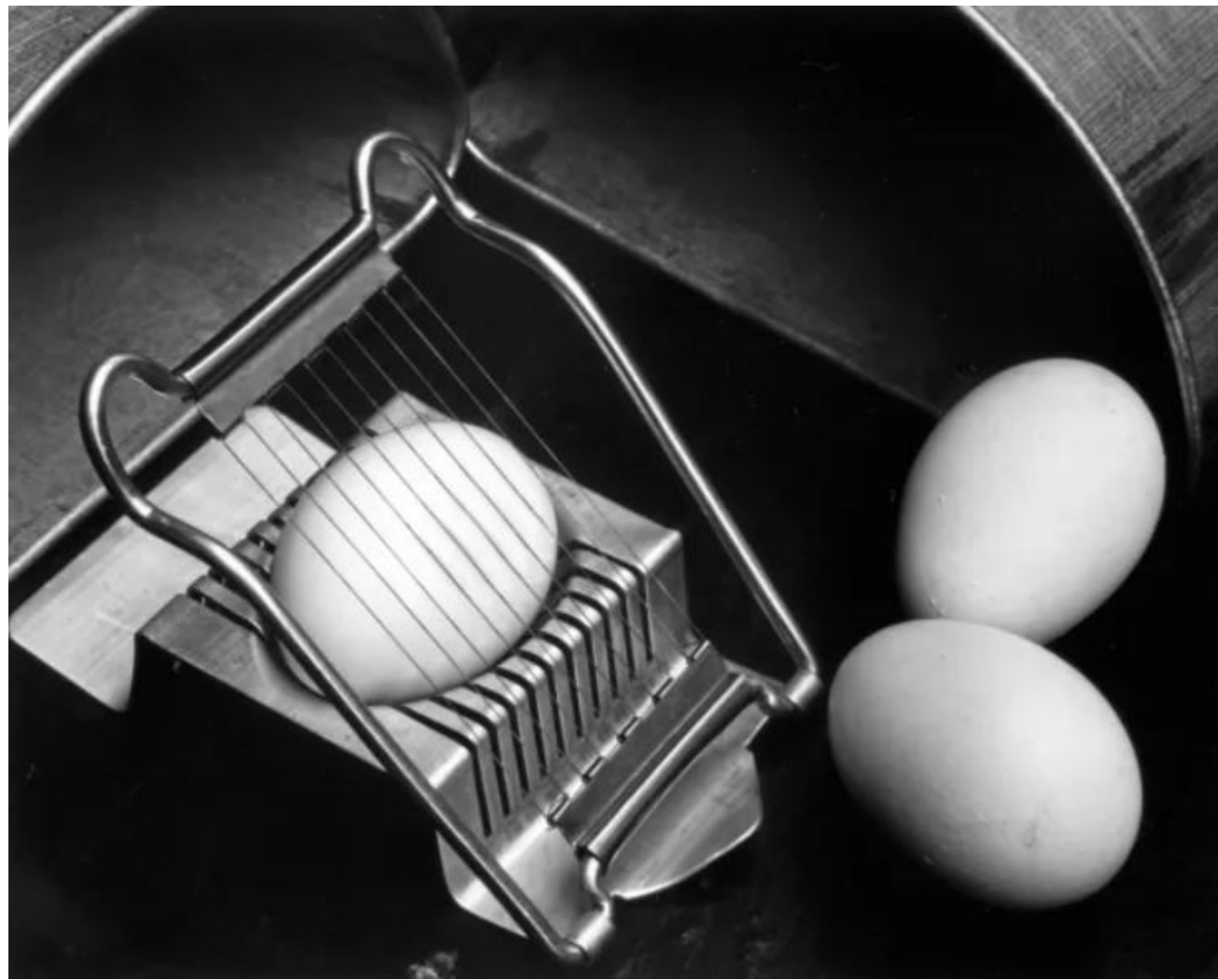
- From Larry's [WHAT CONTEST JUDGES LOOK FOR](#)
 - INTENT that conveys
 - Emotion/Connection
 - Mood
 - Contrast
 - Color
 - Subject
 - Action
 - Humor
 - Exotic
 - Scale

There is no “correct” black and white style

Ansel Adams



Edward Weston

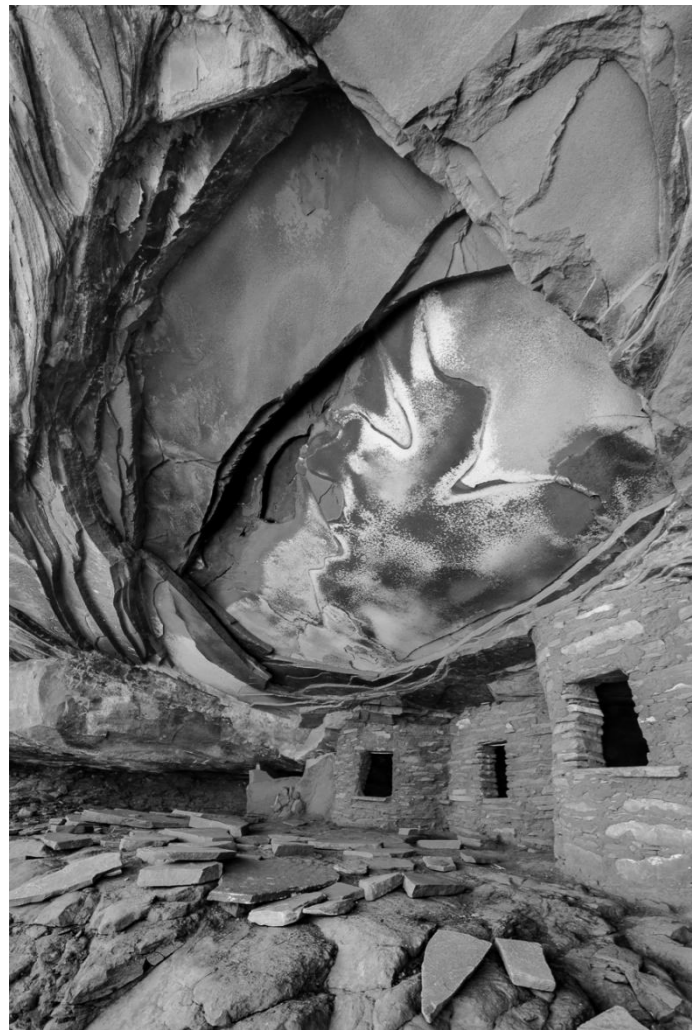


John Sexton



Michael Kenna
Interactive Exemplar Sessions
with Alan Whiteside
20240325 - Michael Kenna - New
Japan [VIDEO](#) [PDF](#)





Dennis' Poor Tribute to John Sexton



PSA Competition Results



Division Type

Interclub ▾

Season

2024-2025 ▾

Division

PID Monochrome ▾

Result Type

Award Images ▾

Round

End of Year ▾

Group

(all) ▾

[View Results](#)

Black and White Magazine

- Dennis' mages that have been in the magazine.
- Note: Some like the hood ornaments were in portfolios.
- Link to [PDF VIDEO](#)

Good Candidates for B&W

- Images

- Where color does not add to the image and may even distract
- Where tone, shape, texture, and geometry are significant elements
- Where the subject can be better isolated

A Good B&W Photograph

- Well, it all depends on the subject, the lighting, the tonal range available, and mostly the intent.
- Before you start conversion, consider what you want the image to convey and then decide
 - What are the tools to emphasize your subject
 - The key you want – high, low, full range
 - How much contrast
 - How much detail
- Learn to dodge and burn to really exploit tones.

Digital Dodge+ and Burn+

- With our digital tools, we have much for flexibility.
- With Lightroom/ACR we have a wide variety of masking tools for making selections. (Photoshop is even more expansive.)
- We can change more than exposure. We can change all the basic panel adjustments plus curves, noise reduction, sharpening, color, and much more.
- And we can do it over hours or days.
- **Learn these tools and how to use them to add impact.**
- Local Adjustments and Masking in Lightroom Classic - Dennis Fritsche from 2023
Part 1 [PDF](#), [VIDEO](#)
Part 2 [VIDEO](#), [LINK](#) to a good demonstration of using local adjustments.

How to Get Better

- Study black and white photographs.
- Shot in monochrome on your camera.
- Practice with various styles.
- Look for subjects
 - Simplicity
 - Texture
 - Shape
 - Contrast