

The Art of Photography

A Way of Seeing

Project 15 - Cropping.

The aim of this project is to produce 3 photographs (taken from archive if wished) and using the L frames you have made print the originals in A4 and then sketch on the cropping you have selected. Re-print the images and explain why you have cropped them in the style you have selected.

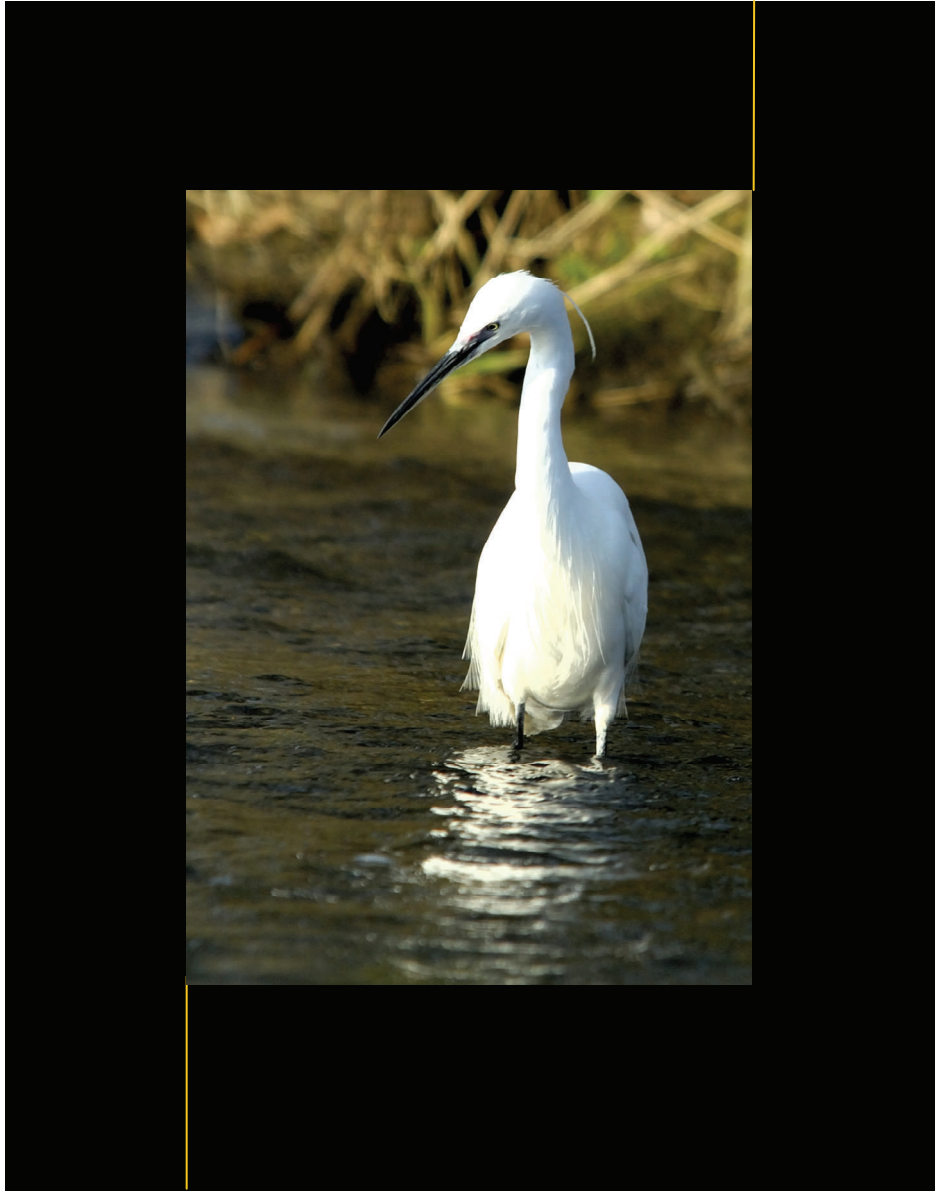




I love this photograph of Louise Ellis, who I work with. She is very photogenic with lovely hair, a beautiful smile and captivating eyes, emphasised by the catch lights in them that adds to her sparkle.

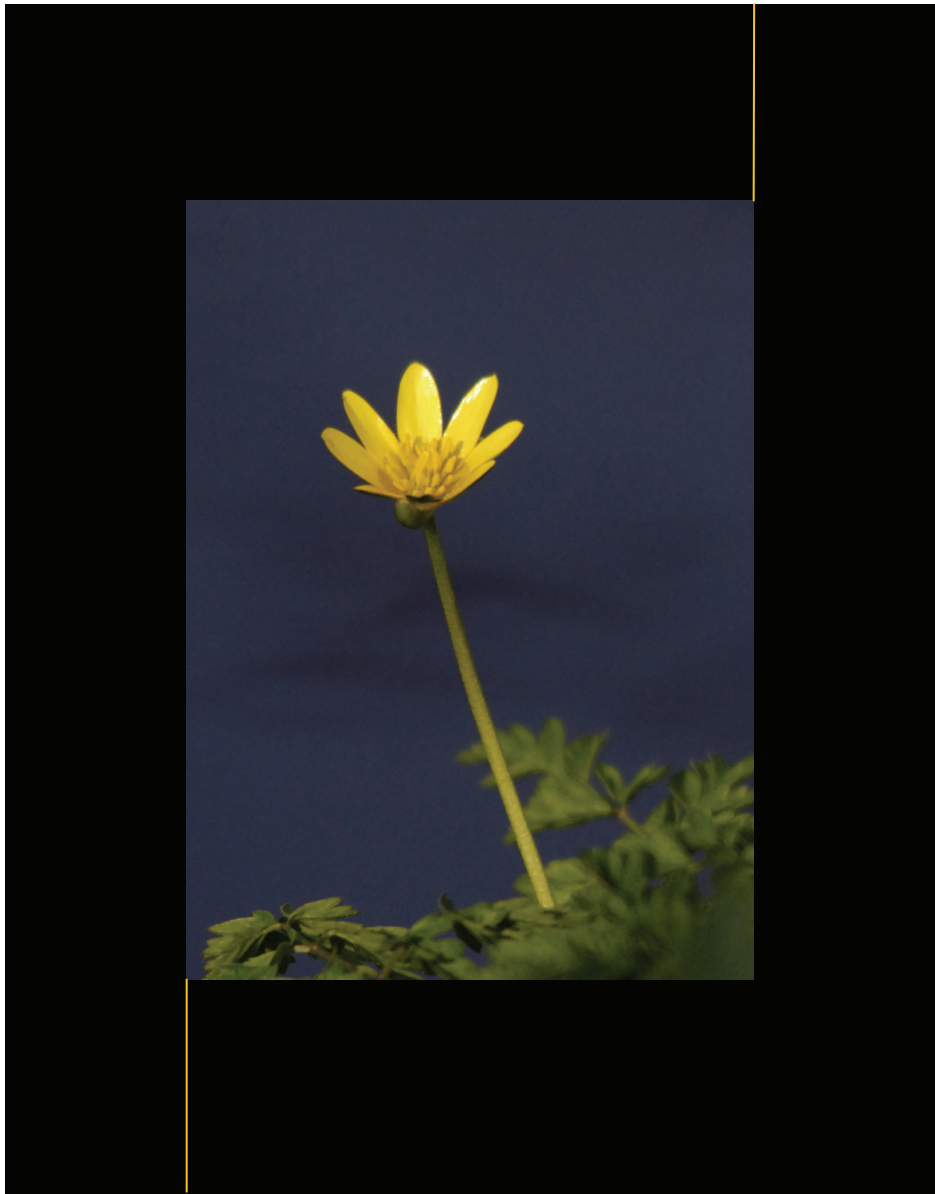
I cropped the original image to draw attention to these features, otherwise her clothing took the symmetry of the image, away. She was wearing, (see original) a round neck top with one button, below this point the top opens up and creates a triangle shape, to my eye ruining the composition. The button also has an annoying catch light drawing the eye down from her face.

The shape of Louise' hair gives a circular appearance indicating symmetry, therefore, using the cropping guide, it was noticeable that a gap of equal proportion either side of her face and at the top, helped the final crop. Being picky the necklace hangs in an awkward position and slightly ruins the symmetry I was trying to achieve. I could remove this digitally, but for the cropping exercise I was happy to keep it in and show consideration in this appraisal.



This image of an Egret was a picture I have been trying to capture for approximately 20 years since I first set eyes on one in Lanzarote. Small versions of our native Heron they are relatively new to our country and are more commonly found in Devon near the south coast. More recently they have moved inland to where I live and this one was captured in the River Wey at Bentley, Hampshire.

To crop this picture (please see original) I felt it needed to have a lot of the background taken away to focus attention on the main subject. In the original landscape frame, the bird is lost amongst an array of background dried reeds and tree branches. A hint of rubbish towards the bottom right and also foreground twigs to the right of the frame that only goes to point to the rubbish that sits below the surface of the water. The curved branch to the right of the bird takes the eye away towards the top right of the picture underlined by the greenery. Using the cropping guides I opted for a portrait frame and got rid of these unwanted distractions. It allows the bird to sit on the lines of the golden section and makes the eye flow around the image for the reader in a more pleasing manner.



With this final shot I chose to crop, the Buttercup stands out well against its back-drop but the greenery detracts from the subject. Again far too much detail to the right of the frame that ruins the balance of composition.

To correct this with the cropping guides I selected a portrait view and again with the idea of the golden section in mind as a guide, I have reframed the composition.

To me this now works in a much more pleasing flow for the eye and takes away the distractions of the foliage that can be seen in the original image. It may not be the most technically pleasing image but I like the contrasts of light to dark and colour.