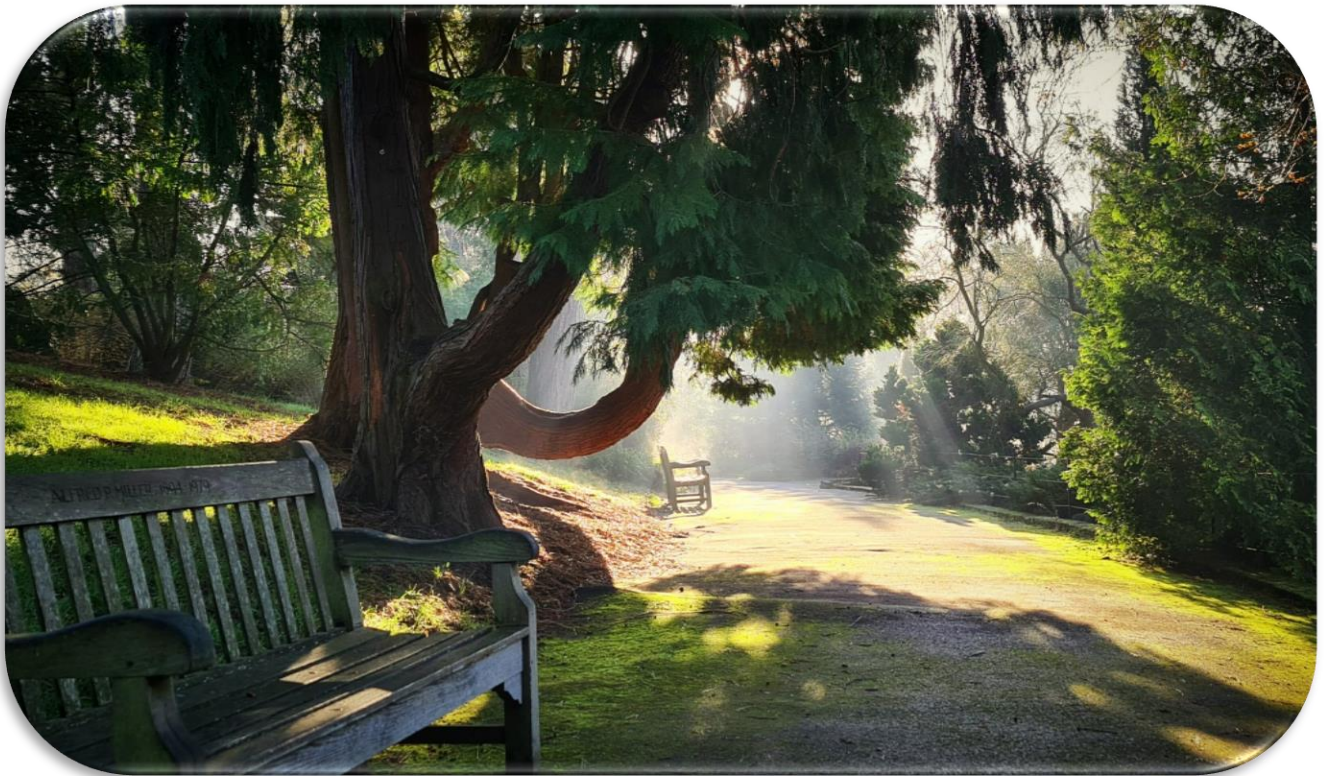


# Photography at Birmingham Botanical Gardens



# Introduction

Many of the students using the Botanical Gardens for photography work find it difficult to take pictures that are suitable or of sufficient quality, due to the enormous amount and variety of material which can be used as subject matter. In addition, they can find it difficult to focus on particular skills.

This booklet is intended to help students focus on what they could photograph and how best to capture the images.

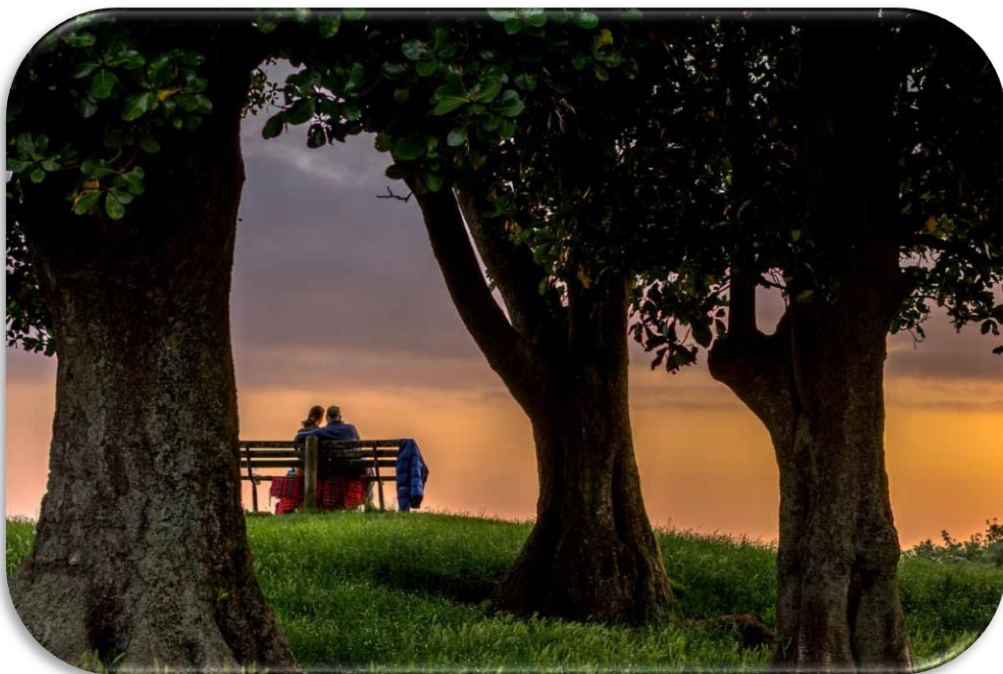
If any of your students (or colleagues) take any particularly beautiful or spectacular photographs while at the Gardens, we would love to see them. Please send them to us at [education@birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](mailto:education@birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk) or share via our social media (if permitted).



Take a minimum of 25 crisp and clear images, some close up and some from a distance, using the following features to help you ...

### Asymmetry

Asymmetrical pictures are where the balance of the image is off-centre, but still looks equally weighted. This can be achieved using light, colour, a single object, landscapes or even people.



### Depth of Field

This means a photograph should be taken where the subject is sharp in the foreground and the background.





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### Filling the Frame

This is where you can zoom in or physically move closer to the subject. This takes out the background and you focus on the main subject matter to take more abstract images. You can also focus on facial expressions, features or the details of a person or animal.



### Framing

You can frame a subject or scene by photographing through natural or man-made objects, such as; a doorway, a tunnel or the branches of a tree. This guides the viewer to a set focal point.





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## Radial

With radial composition, the eye moves around the image in a spiralling motion. The eye can be led in different ways across the image, like using paths or steps for example.



## Rule of Thirds

When applying this rule, objects can be placed off-centre. The image can then be divided with a grid into nine equal sections. This technique can be particularly useful when photographing landscapes.



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### Simplicity

This is where the focus is sharply on the subject matter in your picture, and makes sure the background is out of focus, solid or neutral.



### Symmetry

To take a symmetrical image, you can look for objects or scenes which equally balance on each side, as if there is an invisible line drawn down or across the middle of the picture to create a reflection.





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## Viewpoints

Different viewpoints can make your image more interesting. Consider and try different angles, instead of just at usual eye level. For example, you could try; sitting at ground level, from high up (safely), from behind, at a side angle, from a distance or close up.



Which features does this photograph use?

