

Design Thinking

Workshop Four

4

Design thinking approach

Unity and Composition: Knolling or overhead photography and the joy of order

Unity is a vital element of creating an effective and eye-catching visual composition. You create unity through making elements on a page work together or seem that they belong together. You can achieve this most effectively through visual sameness and proximity of items, order of placement and any categorisation such as size or colour grouping that you seek to impose. Unity of composition is what you are seeking to achieve with this exercise.

Instructions

1. Empty out your handbag, backpack, tool-kit, briefcase or some other bag that is important to your day-to-day activity – whatever you use a lot and just throw your stuff into.
2. Now place everything in a specific order onto a clean background. Neatness and order is the key, be careful with the placement of these items, considering size and overall composition – you must use up the whole space.
3. Because all the objects are coming from the same bag it will have a thematic unity and because you are placing it in a particular order, you are creating a specific composition of elements.





- 4. Once arranged in a composition you are happy with, position yourself to take a photograph from directly above, making sure you capture all the elements with no distortion.
- 5. Take a look at the final composition in your image. What do you see?

- 6. Write your reflective thoughts. What did you enjoy about this exercise? What does the final composition of items say about you? How would you describe the final composition of items as a unified whole? Is there a theme you can describe in one word?

This workshop is a foundational class for our Design courses. Learn more.



Bring your class to campus to do this or other workshops with one of our academics.

