

## **Document Your Life Artfully: Lessons in Composition from Sam Abell**

Handout

Sam Abell:

- Former National Geographic photographer
- Documentary Photography / Photo Diarist
- His style: quiet photographs

Composition:

- Usually not about the camera gear
- Find good light (implicit)
- Compose and wait
- Compose back to front—setting first, subject second
- Micro-compose—nothing touches

Clips from: “The Life of a Photograph—Sam Abell: Optic 2017

- 2:44—12:25
  - Compose and Wait
  - Back layer/setting first
- 32:35—42:45
  - Compose in Layers—Back to front
  - Pay attention to the horizon line
- 46:23—50:00
  - Micro-compose—nothing touches

### **Homework:**

Carry a camera with you throughout one ordinary day in your life (camera phone works, too). Practice:

- Compose and wait
- Compose back to front—back layer first, subject second
- Micro-compose—nothing touches