

# Near, Middle, Far Landscape Image Composition

- From professional photographer and teacher Thom Hogan:

“The most successful wide angle shots work because they draw us into what is essentially a two dimensional space (the print) with depth cues that suggest the third and missing dimension. Close examination will show you that they have a near subject, a middle subject, and a far subject, and that these are usually composed in a manner that forces your eye from near to far (through middle). The most common mistake made by amateurs is to only have a far subject in their wide shots, which makes for a two dimensional rendering that is flat and uninvolving.”

# Compare These Images



# Perspective from an Art Teacher

- Video from Aaron's Design Class
  - 4-1 Basic Landscape- Foreground, Middle Ground, Background
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ujx78C6Uh0>
- Intended for beginning art class, so it's a bit hokey, but the information is quite good and applicable to photography

# Middleground is the Whole Point of the Piece?

- Perhaps that is a valuable way to present things to beginning art students, but I don't think that is always true of photographs.
- Certainly, the subject is often the foreground or background

- Band of Light on El Capitan, Yosemite National Park by Michael Frye



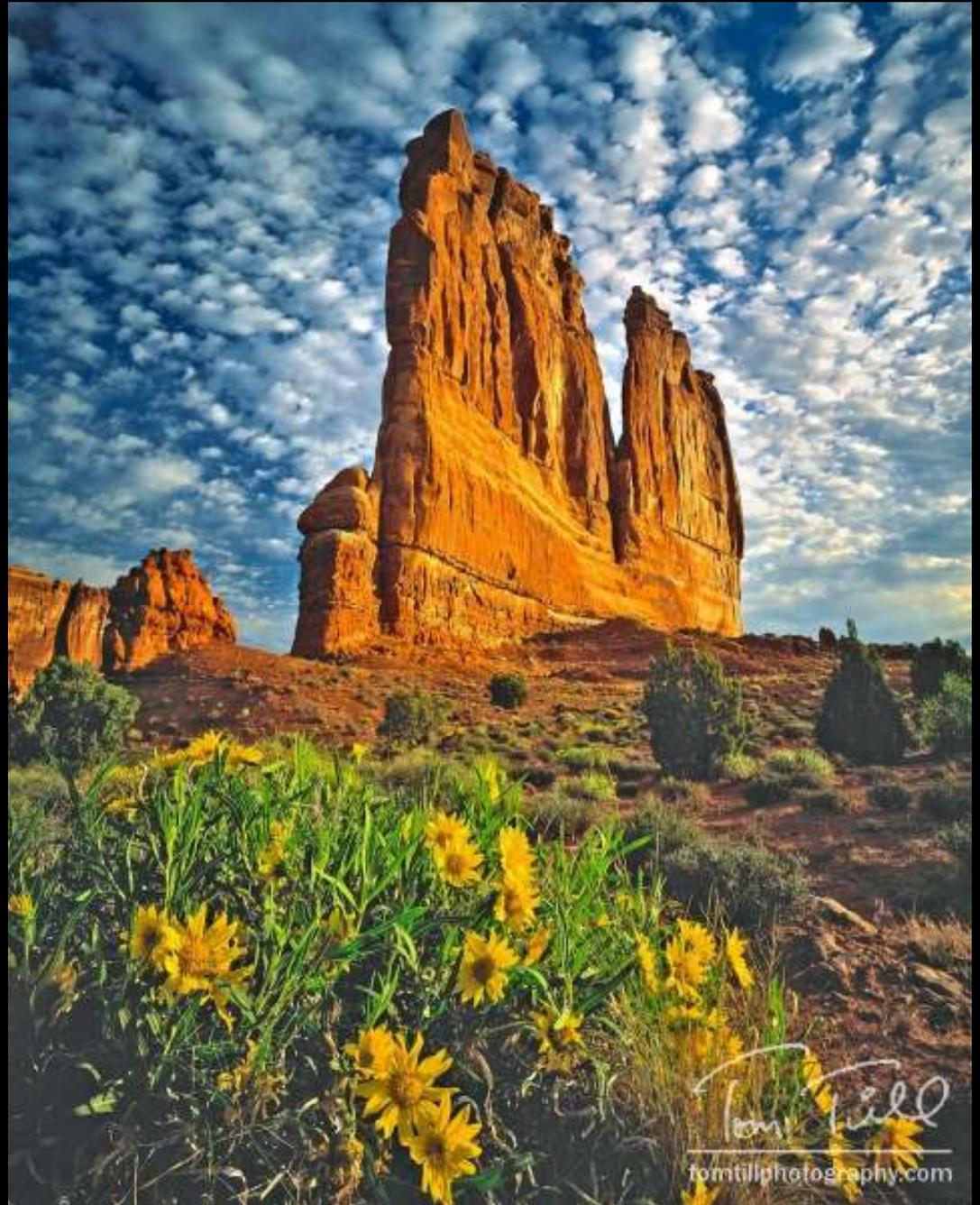
© Michael Frye

- El Capitan and the Merced River, Autumn by Michael Frye



© Michael Frye

■ Courthouse  
Towers by  
Tom Till



# Mesa Arch Sunrise by Tom Till



But not all landscapes need a foreground, middle ground and background



Oak Trees and Swan Slab, Yosemite National Park, California