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## EXPERT TIPS

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# BY THE BOOK

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### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Perspective gives a two-dimensional image a sense of three dimensions. Here are a few ways to maximize it.

■ **Zooming in and out** doesn't yield a greater sense of dimensionality—in fact, just the opposite. The more you zoom in, the more you compress any sense of depth. Zooming out to a shorter focal length takes in more of the scene, but can distort perspective.

■ **Instead, reposition.** Try moving the camera. Look for an angle that makes your foreground subject appear greater in size than what's behind it.

■ **Use highlights and shadows** to add dimensionality. Also, two similarly lit objects, one behind the other, instantly convey perspective.

ADAPTED FROM *STOPPEES' GUIDE TO PHOTOGRAPHY & LIGHT* BY BRIAN & JANET STOPPEE (FOCAL PRESS, 2008; \$35)


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### CREATIVE EXPOSURE

You usually depend on your camera's built-in lightmeter for correct exposure. But sometimes the "right" exposure isn't the best choice. Here are examples of when and how to get around it.

■ **Backlighting:** When the dominant light comes from behind the subject, using your camera to take a reflected-light reading of the entire scene will give you a bad exposure. Instead, take either a reflected or an incident reading (using a handheld incident meter) of the subject alone for the correct exposure.

■ **Silhouettes:** To capture just your subject's shape, with no details, meter only the brightly lit background to determine exposure, and let your subject fall entirely into shadow.

■ **Halos:** In extremely contrasty scenes, exposing for shadow areas will overexpose the highlights. For a realistic picture, you'd want to avoid this. But it can create an interesting halo around the subject, especially when you use strong backlighting or a softening filter. 

ADAPTED FROM *STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY ESSENTIAL SKILLS, FOURTH EDITION* BY JOHN CHILD (FOCAL PRESS, 2008; \$30)

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