Crop Overlays

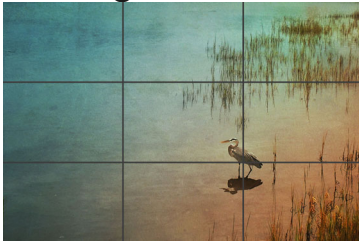## *Rule of Thirds Vs. Golden Ratio*

The Rule of Thirds

The rule of thirds is one of the fundamental composition principles in photography. It's all about positioning the most important elements off-center to create a balanced and harmonious composition. While it sounds simple, it's often overlooked or misunderstood. In this article you'll learn how to apply the rule of thirds to create well-balanced iPhone

photos that are naturally pleasing to the eye.

What Is The Rule Of Thirds?

To compose your photos according to the rule of thirds, you must imagine your photo divided into nine equal parts using two vertical lines and two horizontal lines.

In fact, on the iPhone you can easily display these gridlines within the camera app. To switch the gridlines on go to Settings > Photos & Camera > Grid.

The rule of thirds states that the most important elements in the scene should be placed along the gridlines or at the intersections where the lines meet.

In the photo above, you can see that Stella has placed the bird at the junction point where the right vertical gridline and bottom gridline meet.

Positioning the important elements off-center like this, rather than directly in the center of the frame, tends to create a more harmonious and balanced composition that looks and feels right to the human eye.

Of course, this "rule" is really just a guideline, and when broken intentionally, central subject placement can have a powerful visual impact. But in general, the rule of thirds is a great starting point for any composition.
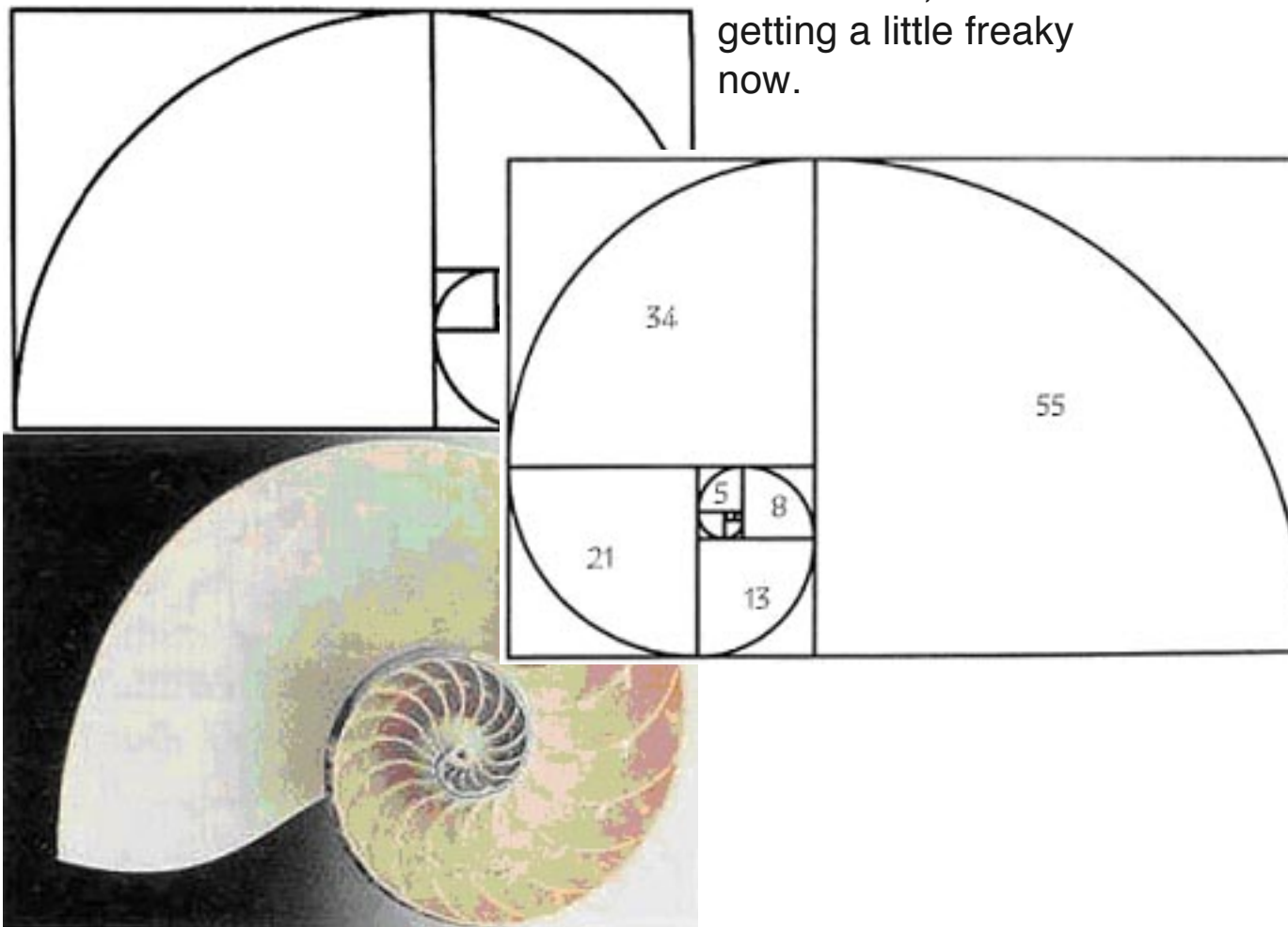
The Golden Spiral

Simply put, the golden ratio is a ratio of approximately 1.618 to 1. This proportion creates a sense of harmony and balance.
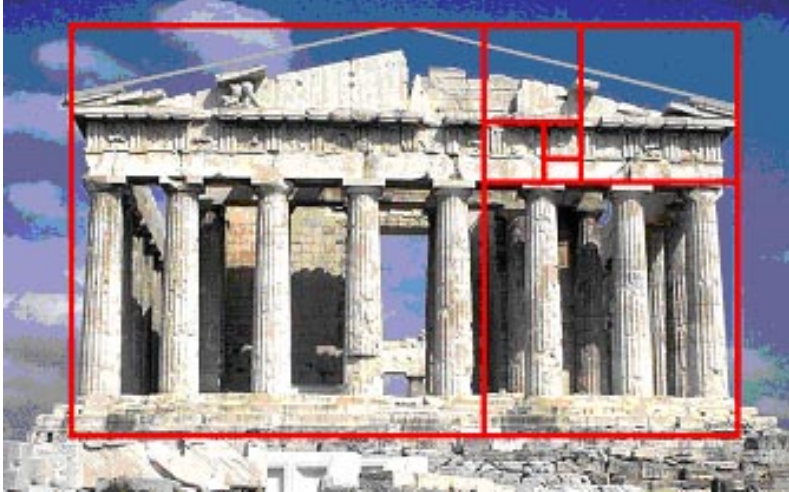
The ratio between each successive pair gets closer and closer to Phi as you progress through the series.

Once you start splitting a golden rectangle by the ratio, you can keep sub-splitting it down forever. The spiral this produces exactly matches the growth of the Nautilus shell in nature. Yes, it's all getting a little freaky now.

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Let's just say it's a mathematical equation of aesthetically pleasing composition.