Film Composition
Composition is the orderly arrangement of formal elements in an image.
Rule Of Thirds

The basic rule of composition in film production. Divide the frame visually into thirds horizontally and vertically, so the image is divided into nine equal parts, which creates control points.

Place your main objects along or within these lines, or their intersection. Almost all filmmakers and experienced videographers use this rule for filming to make the image more interesting and dynamic.

Understanding this is the first step in understanding composition.
Symmetrical Balance
A composition where elements are positioned in such a way as to create a mirror image on either side of a central axis.

Asymmetrical Balance
A composition where dissimilar elements are arranged on either side of a central axis (e.g. over the shoulder).

Unbalance
This composition can lead to tension. The individual elements dominate the whole and the composition becomes less than the sum of its parts.
Elements Of Composition

- Point of interest
- Subject placement
- Simplicity
- Viewpoint & Angles
- Balance
- Shape & Lines
- Pattern
- Volume
- Lighting
- Texture
- Tone
- Contrast
- Framing
- Foreground
- Background
- Perspective
- Colour
- Focus
Strong Compositional Shapes

We see shapes visually and as they are emphasized by lines, they can have very complex effects in composition.

Shapes can be geometrical and/or abstract. Abstract shapes can often have phycological associations with the viewer on various levels of depth.

Shapes that are abstracted either by blur, shadow, distance or scale begin to have a more dramatic effect as they might hit the viewer on a more subconscious level. In other words they might not be the first thing the viewer sees or recognizes on first glance. This can often create interest and a stronger visual impact.
Examples In Film

Here you will find categorized composition, framing, proxemics, shot types and camera angles.

All examples of how these look in film for your reference.
How does composition work in a scene?