

# Exercise walk-through

## Tonal Composition and Notan ■ 2.5

eXercise

## You must be able to

- reduce a scene to 2-3 flat values
- test value plans with **thumbnail sketches** 小稿
- group values instead of scattering them
- build a clear value hierarchy

## Method — Notan

Notan is the design of light and dark shapes. A drawing works or fails at thumbnail size, before any detail exists.

## Method — Group, don't scatter

Connected value shapes feel designed; scattered spots feel like noise.

## Method — Value hierarchy

One dominant value, one secondary, one accent — with the darkest dark against the lightest light at the focal point.

## Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

Notan is the design of

- A** colour harmonies
- B** light and dark shapes
- C** paper sizes
- D** frame mouldings

## Solution 2.1

Method: Notan

**A** colour harmonies

**B** light and dark shapes 

**C** paper sizes

**D** frame mouldings

### Worked steps

**B.** notan = the light-dark pattern.

## Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Why test a composition as a 2-3 value thumbnail first?

## Solution 2.2

### Worked steps

if the pattern reads clearly at thumbnail size the composition is strong **B1**; it saves rendering a design that fails **B1**.

## Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

What is the difference between grouped and scattered values?

## Solution 2.3

### Worked steps

grouped/connected value shapes read as designed; scattered spots read as noise  
**B1**.