



**THE LIPKA JOURNAL**  
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

MARCH 2022

# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

## MARCH 2022

In our lives we acquire, are given or assume responsibility for a space of our own. We might have papers that proclaim our legal ownership, but we don't really own the space; we are caretakers for a short period of time. We have the freedom to do something with that space. We can create upon it, we can modify it to be pleasing to the eye, we can divide it up and use it to enrich ourselves or provide something for others.

Within the little space of pages we can see how people have approached the care of their spaces. We have Castles in Germany, Japanese Gardens in the middle of large cities and the wide open spaces of Eastern Washington. All different spaces and places we have called our own. All divided up to suit our needs, functions and aesthetic.

Windmills, Eastern Washington



# Of a Time Past



## Of a Time Past

In a Past Time, subjugating the land was considered the prerogative of man. He built castles, terraced lands, planted crops and declared the land his own to use forever. Forever did eventually end and while the structures remain the world passed them by. I don't know if these grand structures are still owned by descendants or if these grand castles have been sold (along with the titles of the original builders) to salvage what was left of the family fortune.

Whatever their present function, from a distance, the castles are a reminder of a time past.













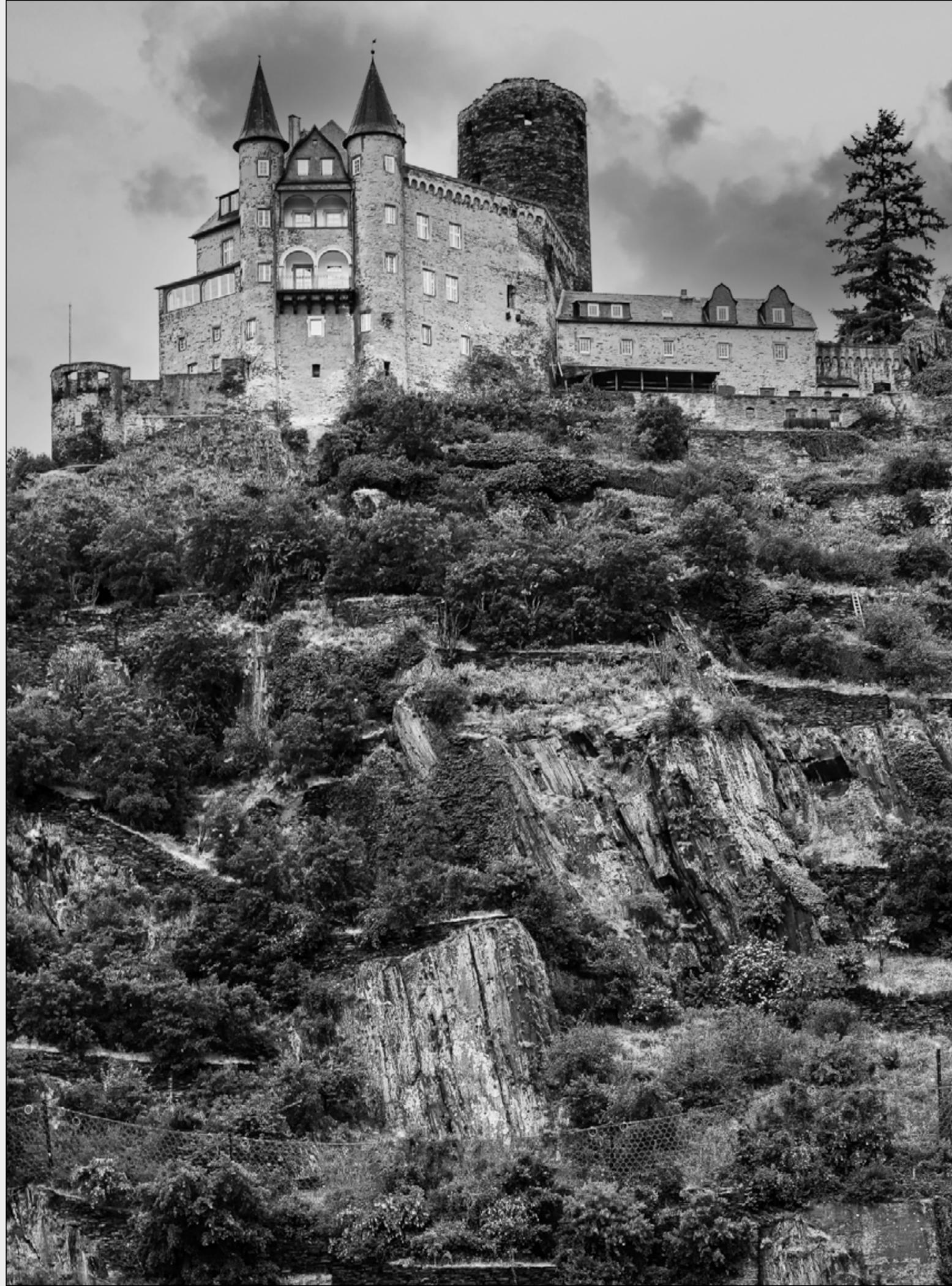




















Only the edges of memories remained.

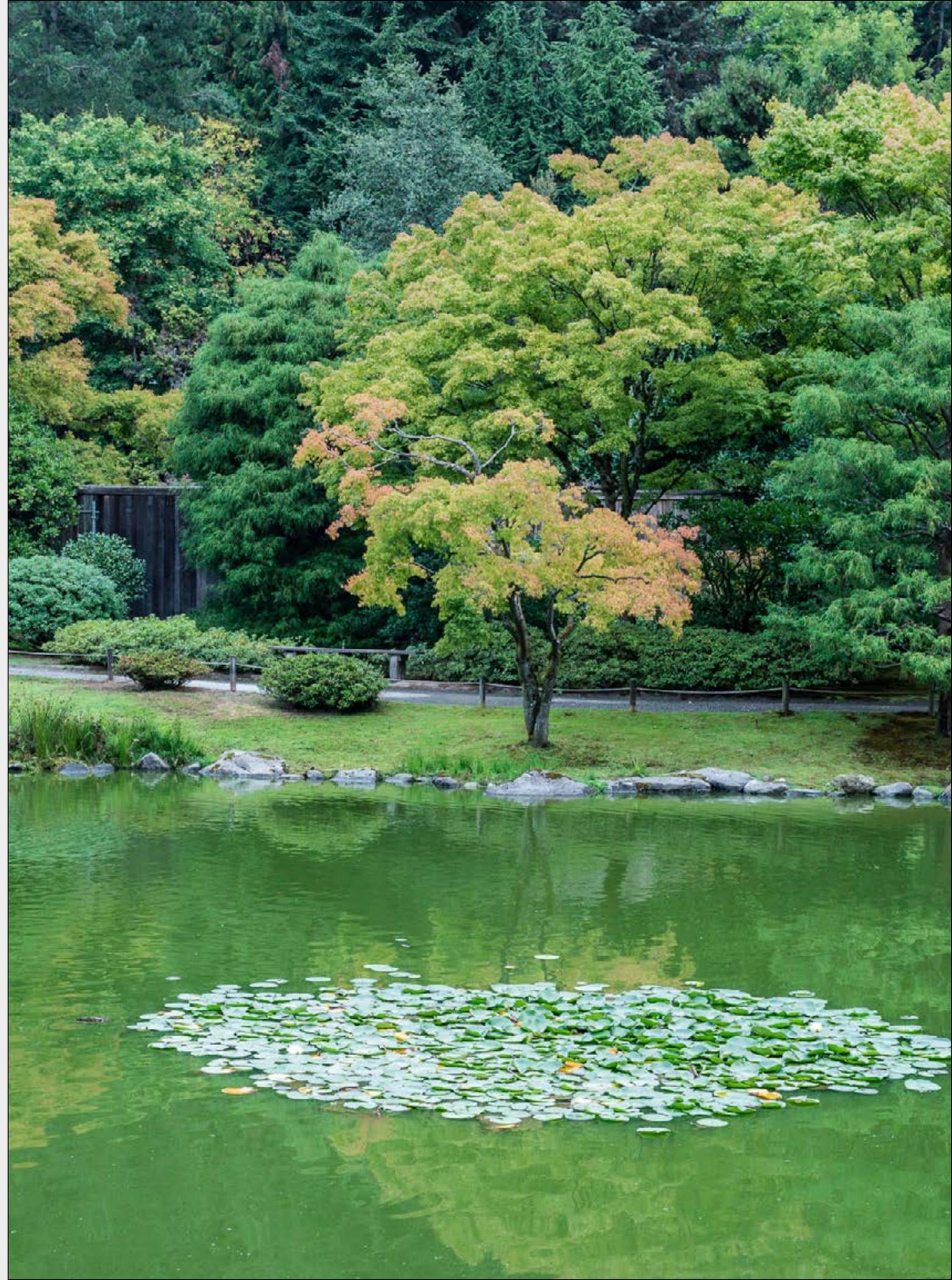
Reflections

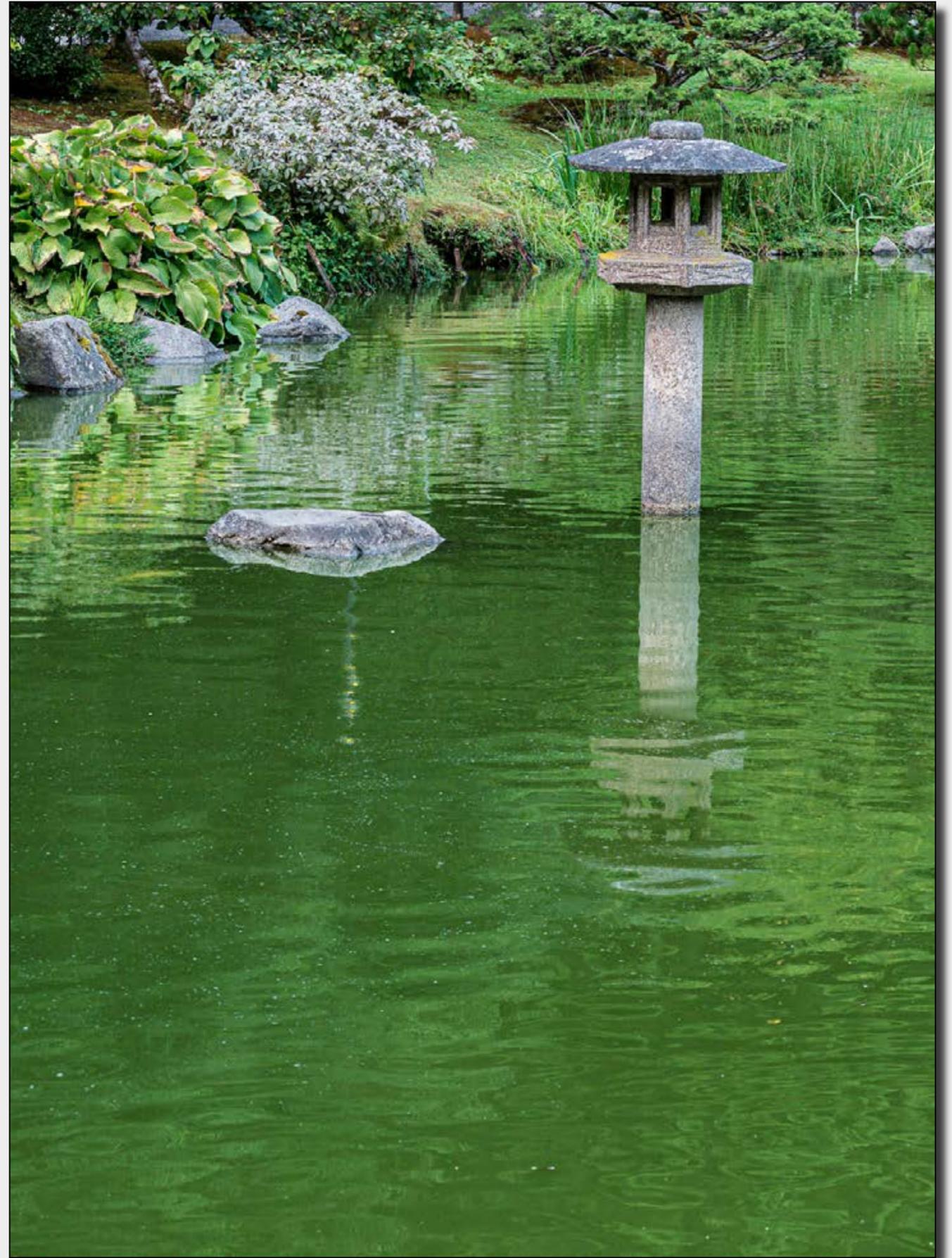
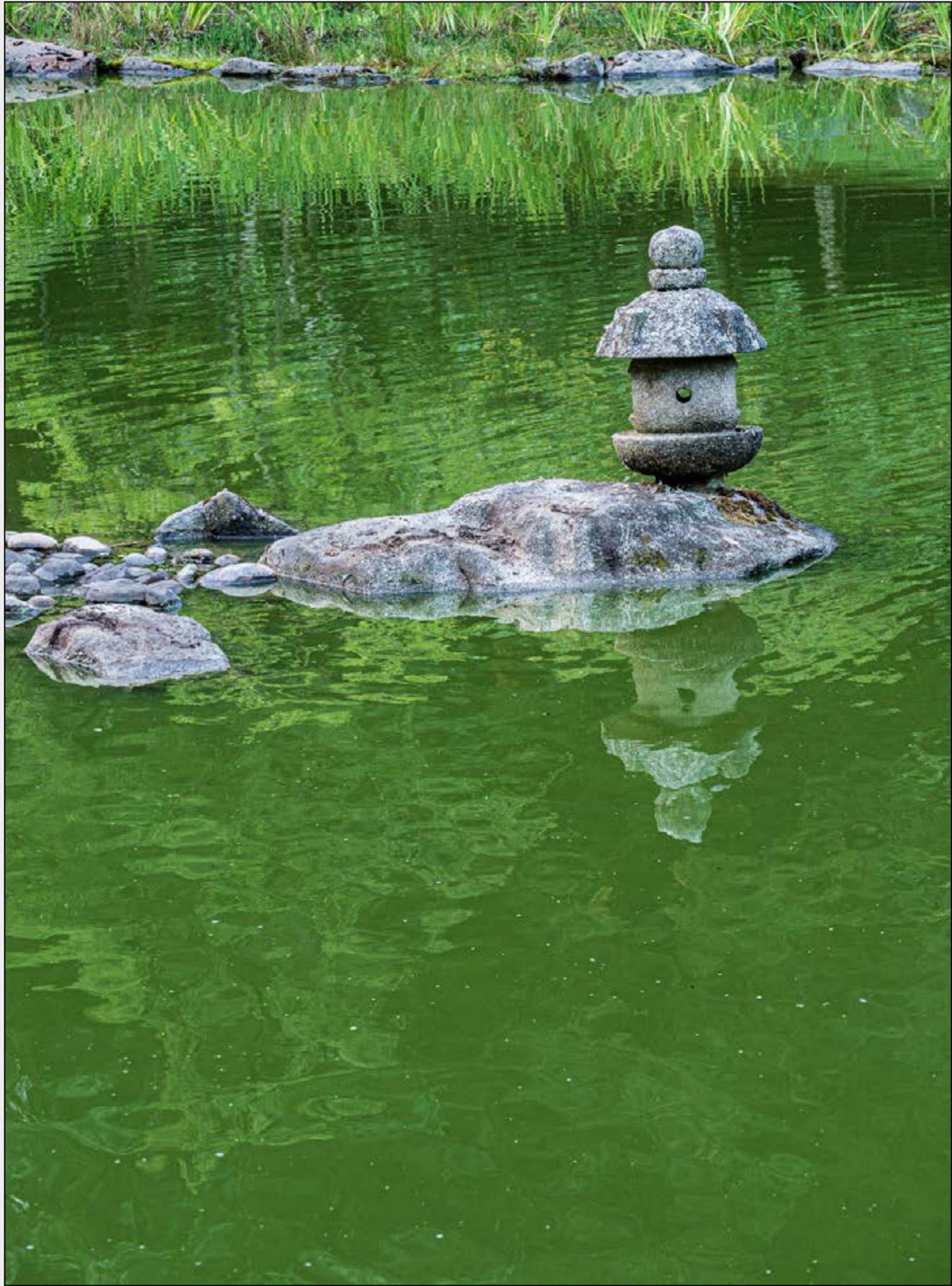


## Reflections

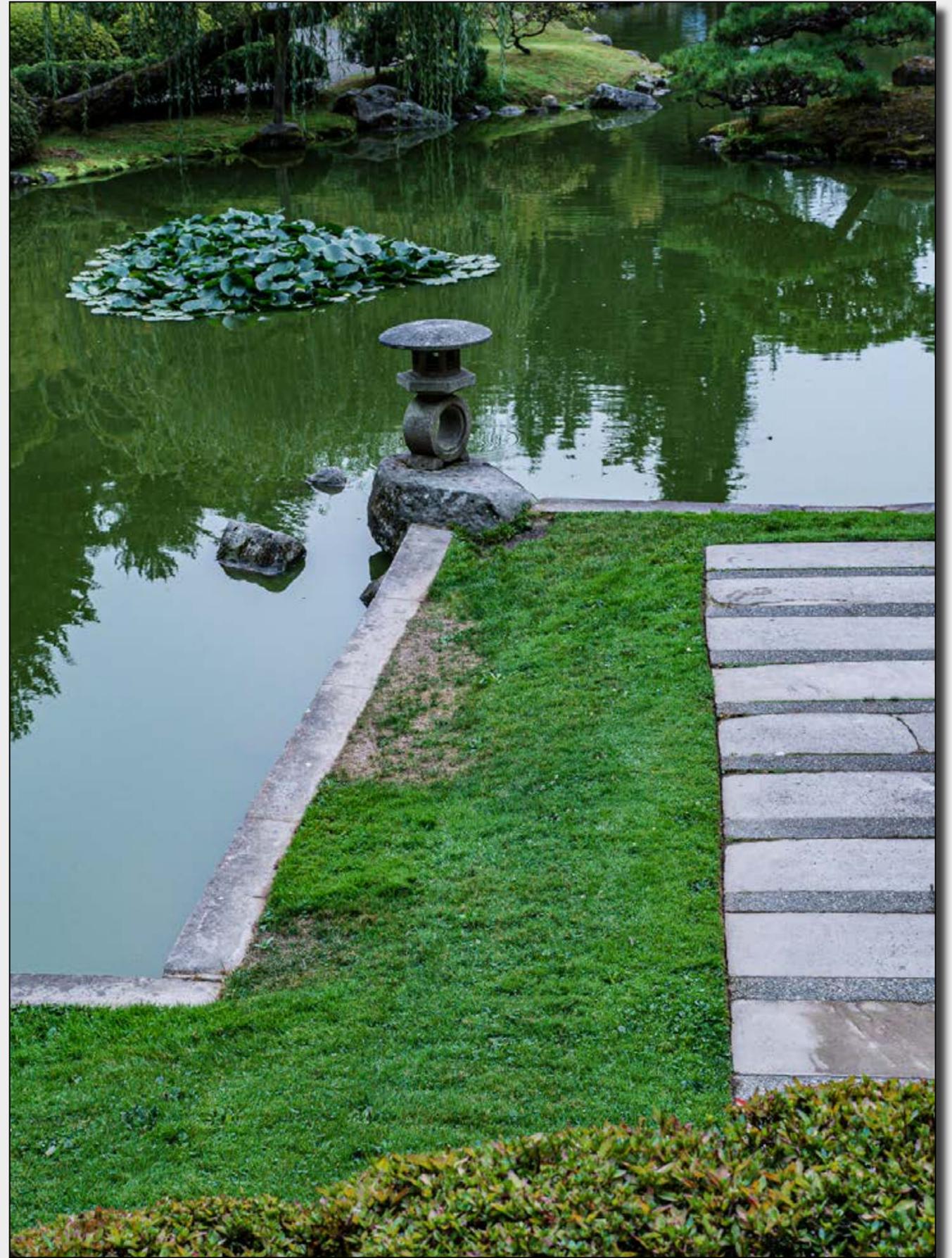
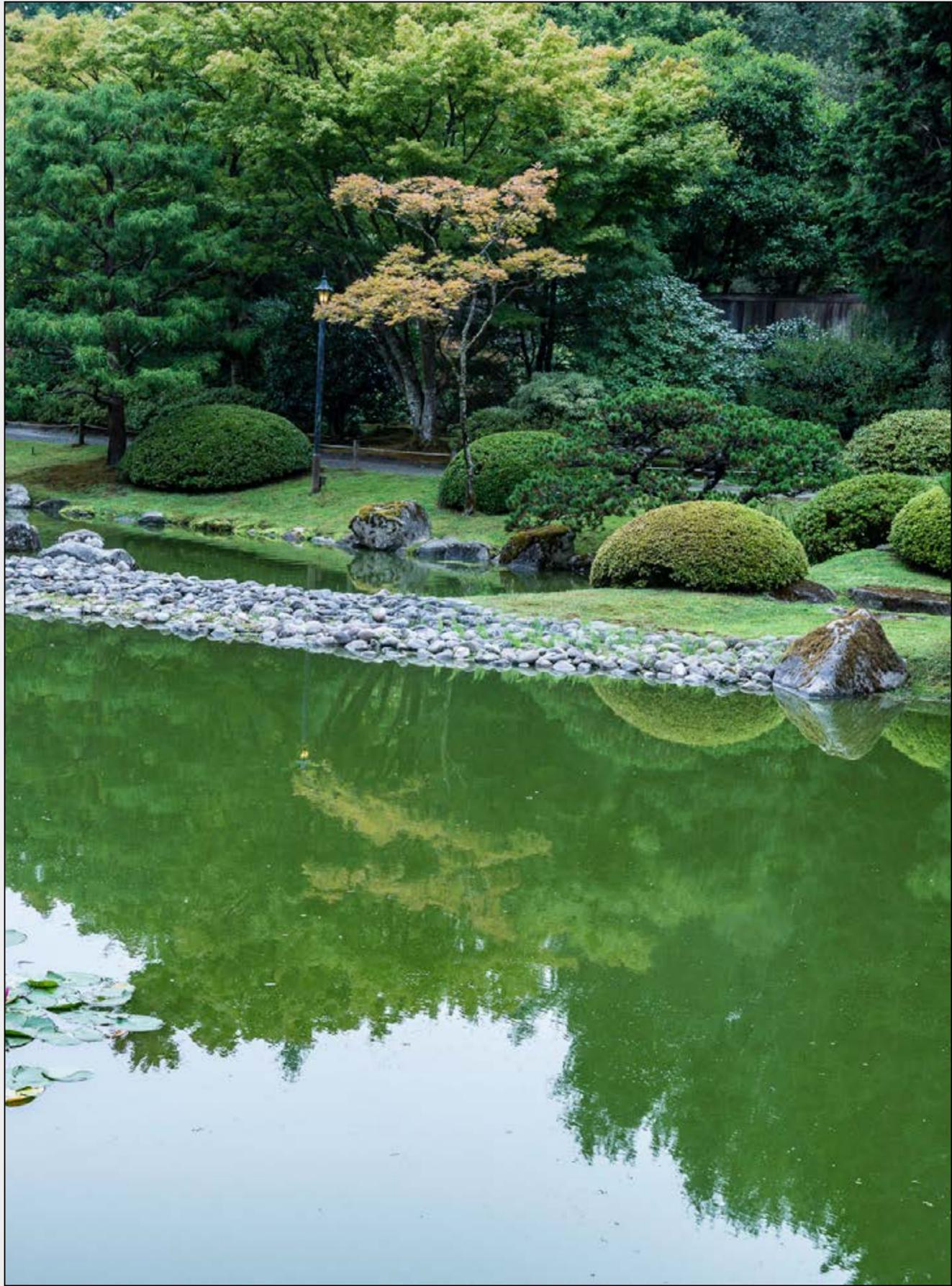
Stillness, quiet and solitude are necessary to reflect on life's mysteries and ponder the path forward into the future. Japanese Gardens are the quiet and contemplative oases needed to assist with these heady thoughts and reflections. As we reflect on our own lives, thoughts, and problems the glass smooth water reflects the sky and the scenes in front of us.

Others in the garden disappear as we consider the great questions of the moment. We only see the garden and its reflection in our eyes.













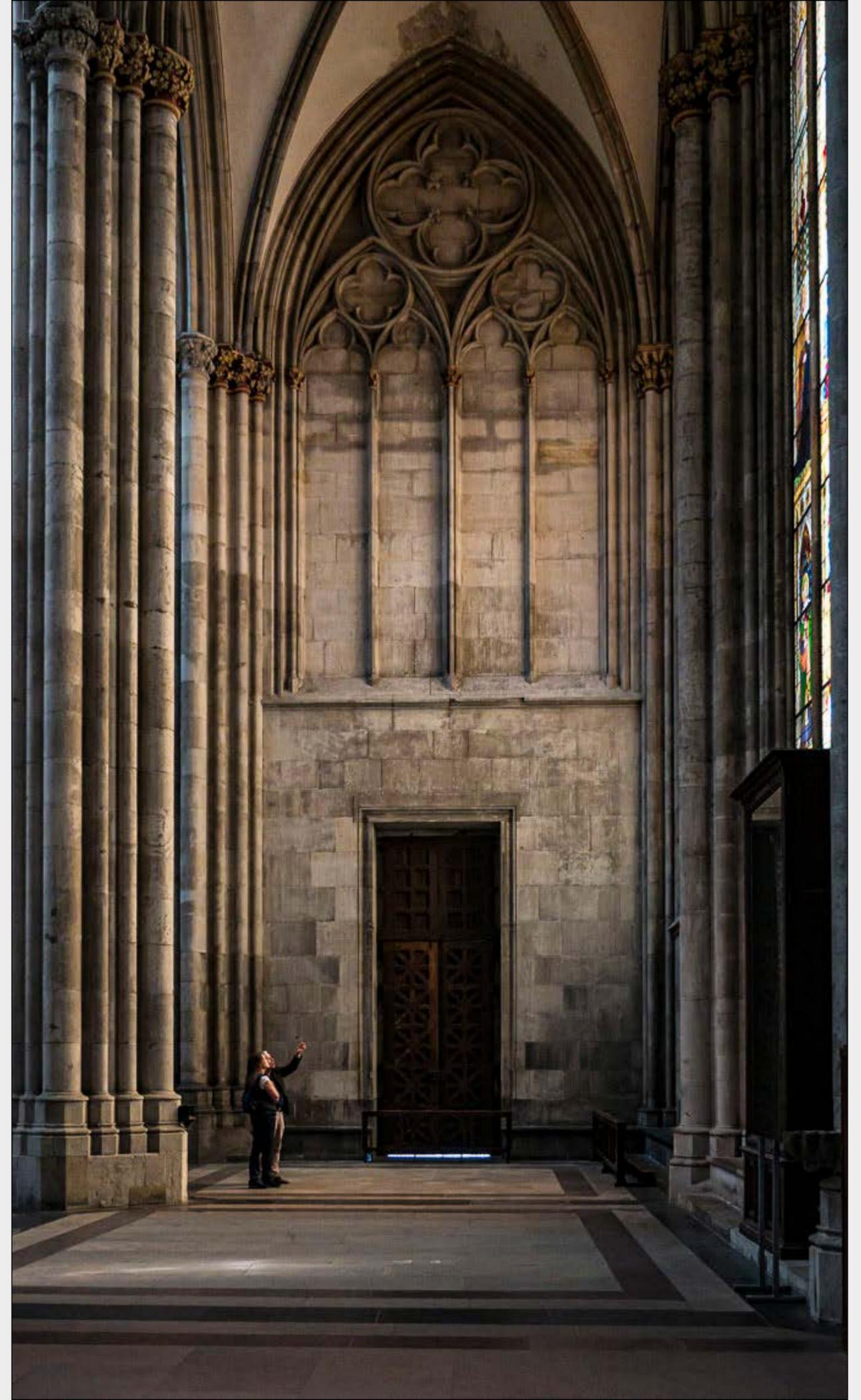






## Six Word Project

He said they were glass prayers.



# The Human Element



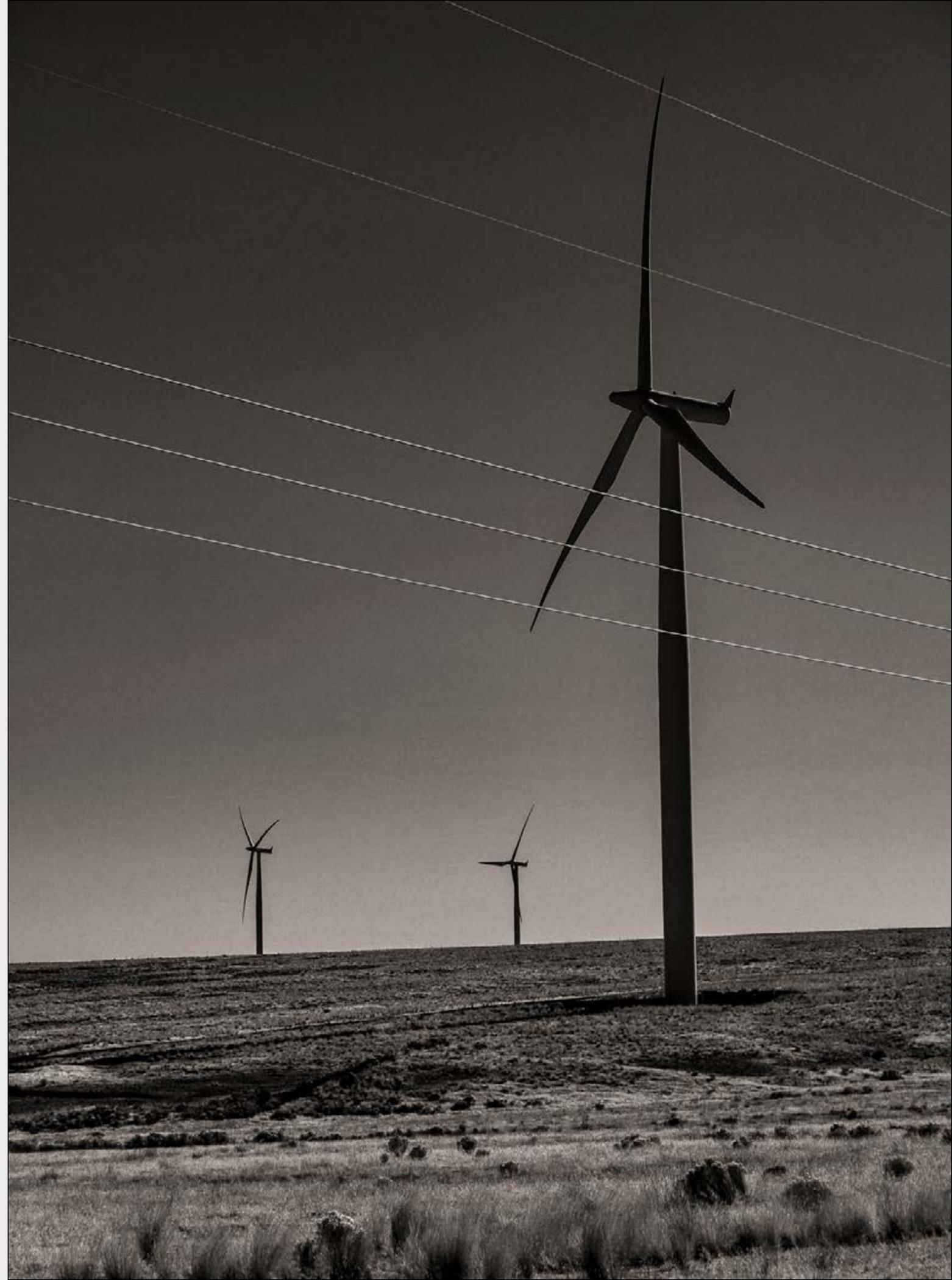
## The Human Element

*"Texas is interesting. The country is flat. But the way the monotonous plain is broken by shacks and little houses is fascinating. Things become interesting as soon as the human element enters in."*

– Paul Strand.

Unoccupied land stretches from horizon to horizon. The sky is usually cloudless. We have placed large machines in the landscape and divided the air with electrical towers and transmission cables.

Should you stop your journey to approach these behemoth machines the whoosh of the massive blades readily convinces you of the human element entering the land.















# Postcards from the Creative Journey

## April 15, 2018

### Stalking the Trophy Photograph

What is a trophy photograph? It's your version of a photograph made from iconic viewpoint. Usually this is the province of large format photographers that dutifully line up to photograph at Point Lobos, or nature photographers standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon. I cannot take credit for coming up with that great appellation, but I think it does clearly define the early levels in photographic evolution – making a photograph from the same vantage point one that is admired by many photographers. It's one that you will print (or have printed) big, frame and hang proudly on the wall.

There's nothing wrong with cloning the masters. The activity has its purpose; to provide practice with the technical aspects of photography, to "knock the rust off" your photographic wheels when you're in a creative slump, or to provide the visual proof that you had great views when you were out photographing. I like to think of it as "warm up" photographs you make until you're ready to "get serious" about photography.

I have a bunch of large format clone classics at home in a "memory box." That's where they belong. As much fun as they are to make, they are not the photographs that will make you a better photographer or a better person.





*A castle on the Rhine.*

## A Few Closing Words

### Of a Time Past

One can go to the world, or have the world come to you. Floating down the Rhine River, the vantage point is exceptional, the scale incredible and my job was to watch the world go by. Oh, that, and to be ready to press the shutter when it was the perfect time to do so.

Who were the creators of these grand structures? Did they think, know or even consider that their work would last for centuries? Or were they just making monuments to honor themselves?

### Reflections

I've photographed the Japanese Gardens in Portland and Seattle and I love them both. The aesthetic of how a space is divided and presented to those that wander the paths of both parks are distinctive and reflections of the culture. In both places, I try my best to get out of the way of my camera so the garden's designers can be center stage.

### The Human Element

The quote from Paul Strand always impressed me as the key to photographing the amazing open spaces in the American West. The subject is the space, but more importantly, how the space is divided by those that live in the open spaces of Eastern Washington. It is the way we divide the land (and the air above it) with fences, windmills, power lines and roads that brings a design and order to the open spaces.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and has been printed in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*.

His website [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com) has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, feature a photograph and a little bit of writing.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

## COLOPHON

### The Lipka Journal, March, 2022

*Joe Lipka*

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Web site: [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com)

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