

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

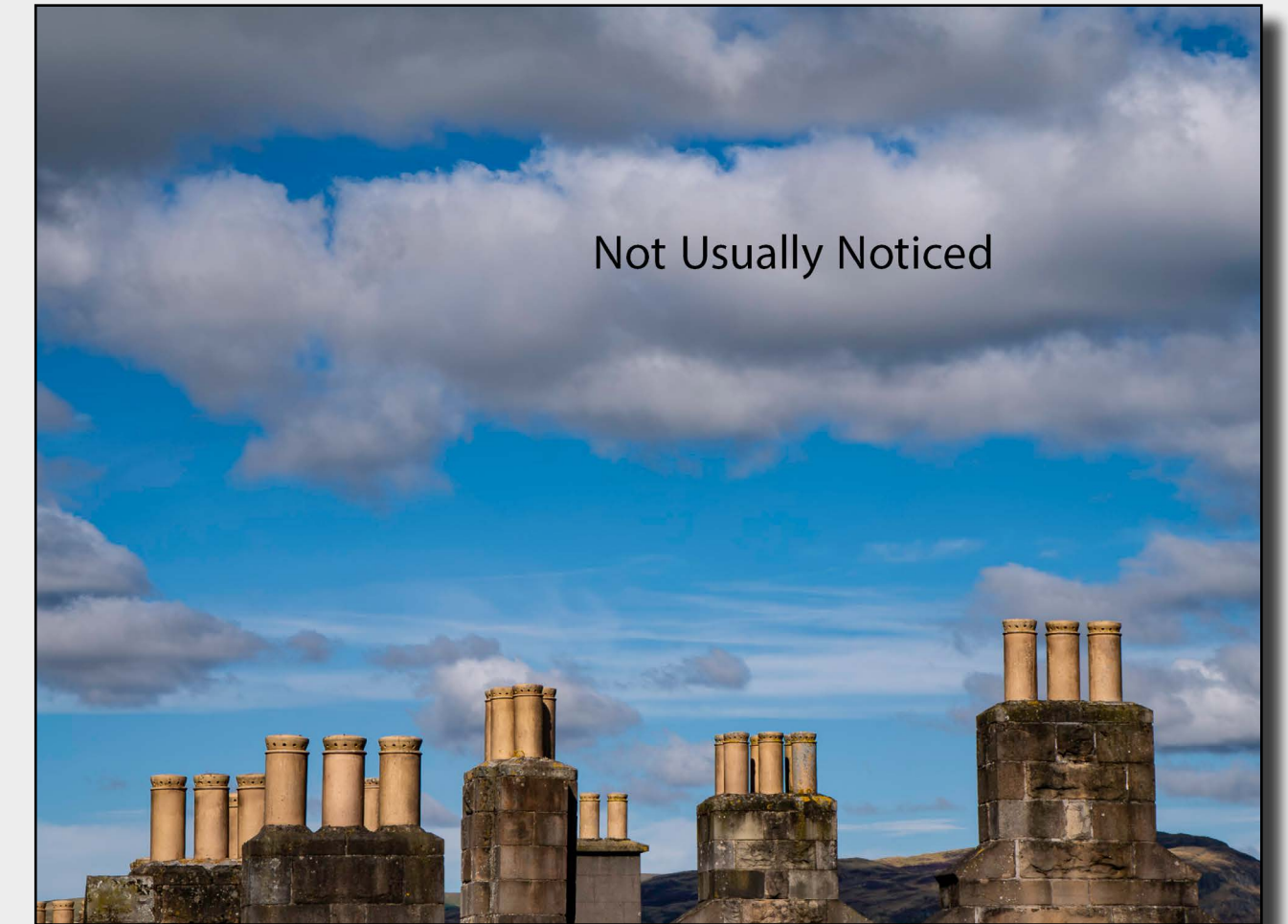
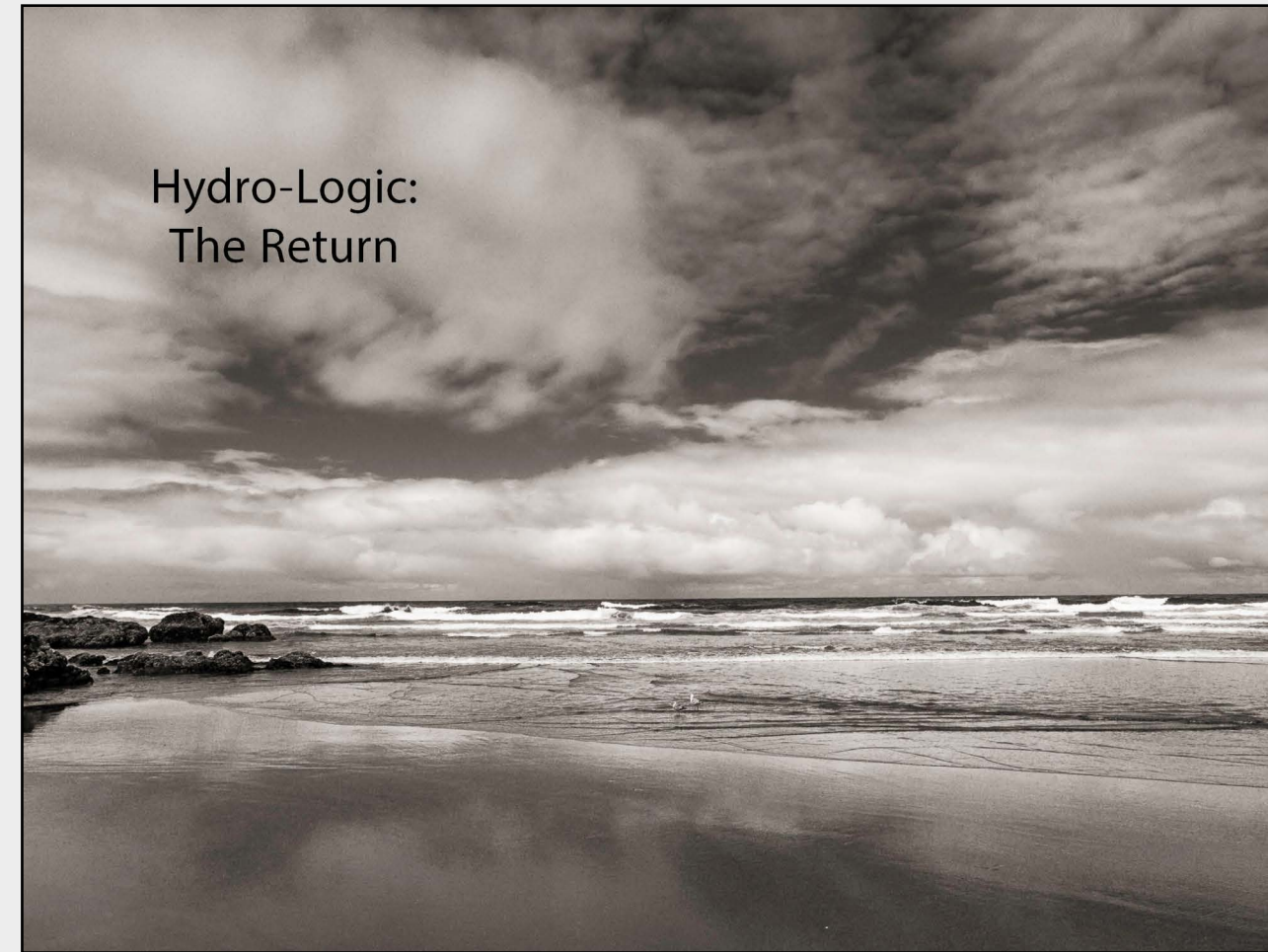
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

OCTOBER 2025



WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL OCTOBER 2025



This month is about the borders of a project. The borders are the beginnings and ends of projects. This month we have two beginnings and an ending. The Hydro-Logic image suite is the (temporary) end of the Hydro-Logic project. I say temporary because my projects never end, they are more like the conclusion of a chapter in a book. Most of our planet's surface is water, so yes, I will continue to find images with water. While this chapter is ending, there are two more that are just getting started.

Telephone poles and chimneys, however, are just in the embryonic stages of their growth. More than a few years ago I made a couple of nice landscapes in Utah that really needed a phone pole in them to make them work. Then there's that whole thing with chimneys. I imagine I will see more of them in the future.

As It Is



As It Is

Man intrudes upon the land, changing the world to fit his needs. Some intrusions are obvious such as the ubiquitous power pole or telephone line. Some landscape photographers hate them and were forever overjoyed when digital photo editing made the disappearance of these structures merely a point and click away. I have been among those that avoided or removed them from my compositions – up until now, at least.

Our changes are part of the landscape, and these changes are actually part of the real world that we live in, not the idealized pristine landscape that we create digitally. Let us make these intrusions as part of our art.

















A Mostly True Story

Meet us in front of the restaurant, they told him. We'll be there when they open for dinner. He arrived early and waited. The sunlight shone on his face, but it was not warm sunlight. He tried not to think about how cold his feet were. He figured he had been waiting for an hour. His watch told him he had been there only twelve minutes. Time always seems to move more slowly when it's cold – and you're waiting.



Hydro-Logic: The Return





Hydro-Logic: The Return

We arrive at the beginning, or is it the end? In a cyclic process one gets a chance to define the beginning and ending points. Water returns to the ocean, and that is where the clouds are formed and the (correctly) named hydrologic cycle either ends or begins. It's a process that has been going on for eons and I have been lucky enough to find a few moments in that eternal cycle.















We never expected snow this early.

Prologue: A photo and six words.

Not Usually Noticed



Not Usually Noticed

There are many things in the world we do not usually notice in our daily life. Until we see (for example) a purple car. Then it seems like every other car we see is purple. Then our friends comment on seeing more purple cars. Purple cars begin showing up in advertisements and YouTube videos. What causes this phenomenon? I can't explain it.

I saw a chimney. That did it. I saw them everywhere. Always nicely arranged, just waiting for me.



















Postcards from the Creative Journey



Dear Phileas,

Our local photography group invited a photojournalist to talk to us about her memorable photographic experiences. She was candid about her professional life and the famous people she photographed.

In the question-and-answer period one of our group asked about her vacation photographs. She said she had no vacation photographs and adamantly stated that she was not the family photographer. She went on vacation to get away from photography.

The same activities as pursued by professionals and amateurs are viewed quite differently.

JOE



Mr. P. Fogg

7 Savile Row,

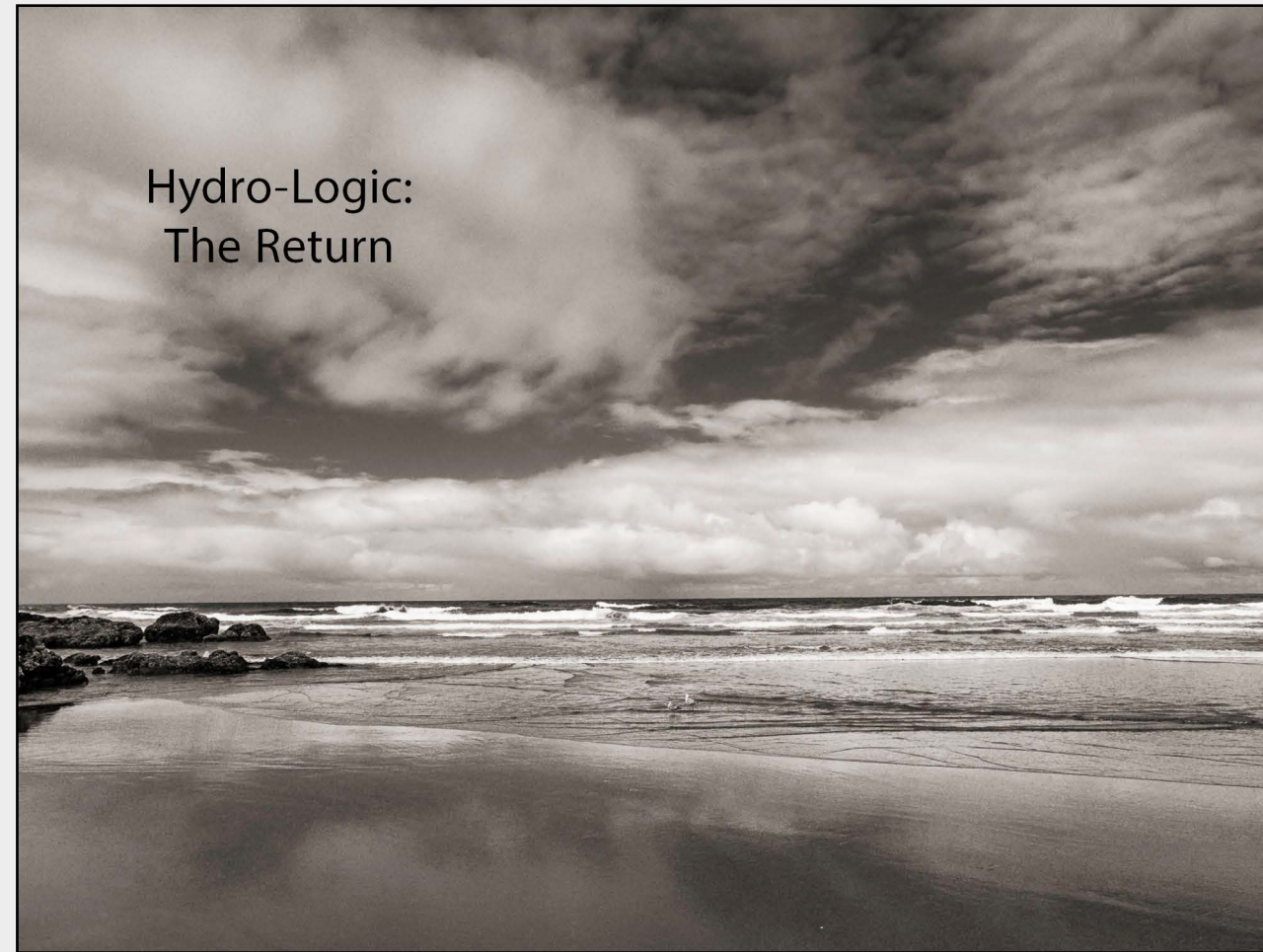
London

A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



As It Is

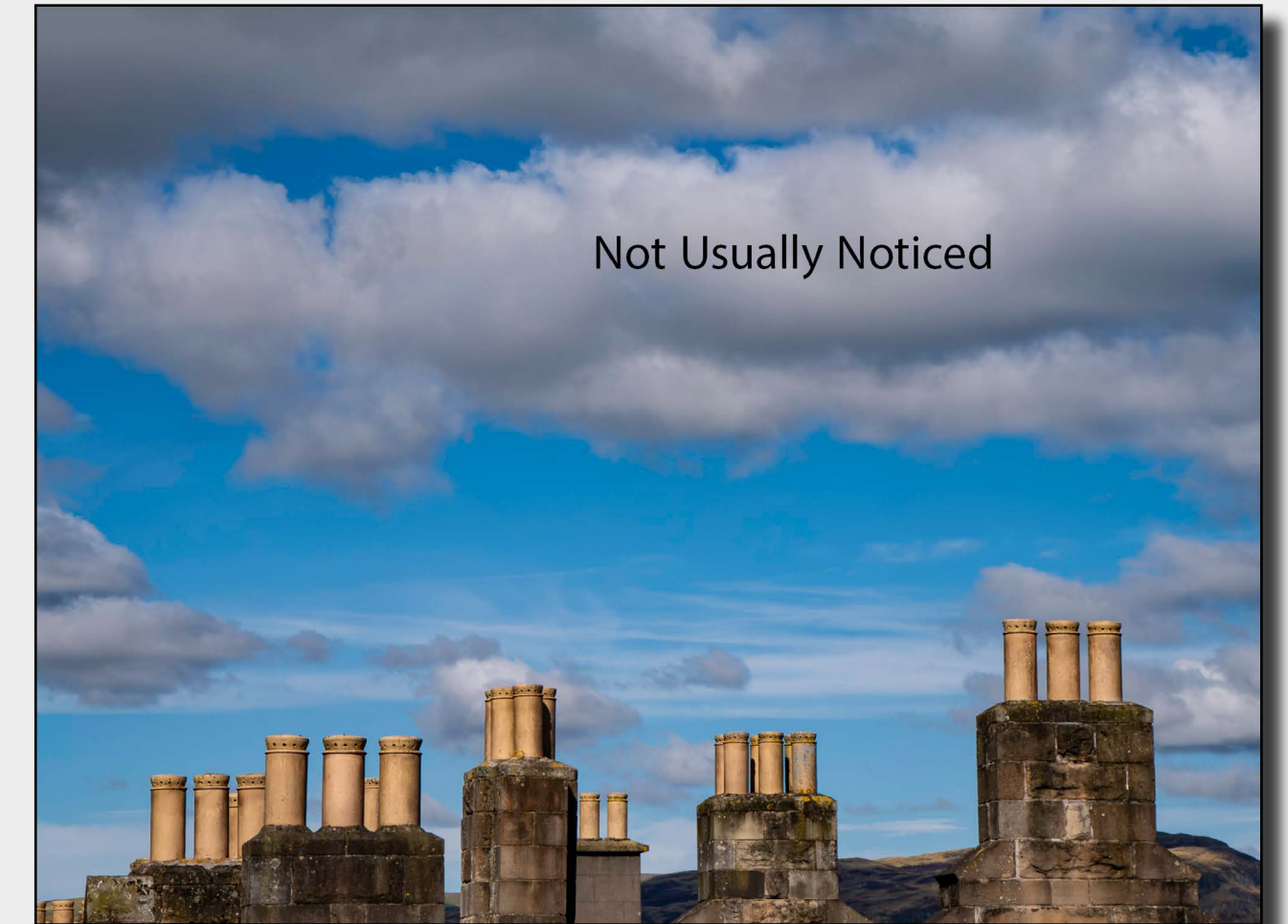
A reminder, I guess, about the imperfection of the world. We used to walk by scenes with those inconvenient objects messing up our pristine landscape compositions. Then photoshop appeared and the phone poles disappeared. I miss those intrusions on the landscape, because they do provide us with some way to break up the monotony of the horizon. I'll resume looking for them now that I've decided to make them part of the landscape.



Hydro-Logic: The Return

All projects end, because that's how a project is defined. After the end of the project there is an exhilaration that a goal has been achieved. There is also the apprehension about finding another project to fill the creative void left by its completion. Well, I've added telephone poles and chimneys on the list of future projects to be expanded, and I'll continue to look for the next project.

In the meantime, I will assemble the parts of Hydro-Logic into a single big PDF publication.



Not Usually Noticed

I wonder how many other things I have photographed but haven't noticed. Telephone and power poles and chimneys are a start. I wonder to what depths I must plumb my Lightroom catalog to find the beginnings of yet another project.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, is now part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, has migrated to Instagram. Don't forget to follow him on this new platform.

The Lipka Journal, October, 2025

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dailyphoto7375

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