



Dancing With Light: Compulsories

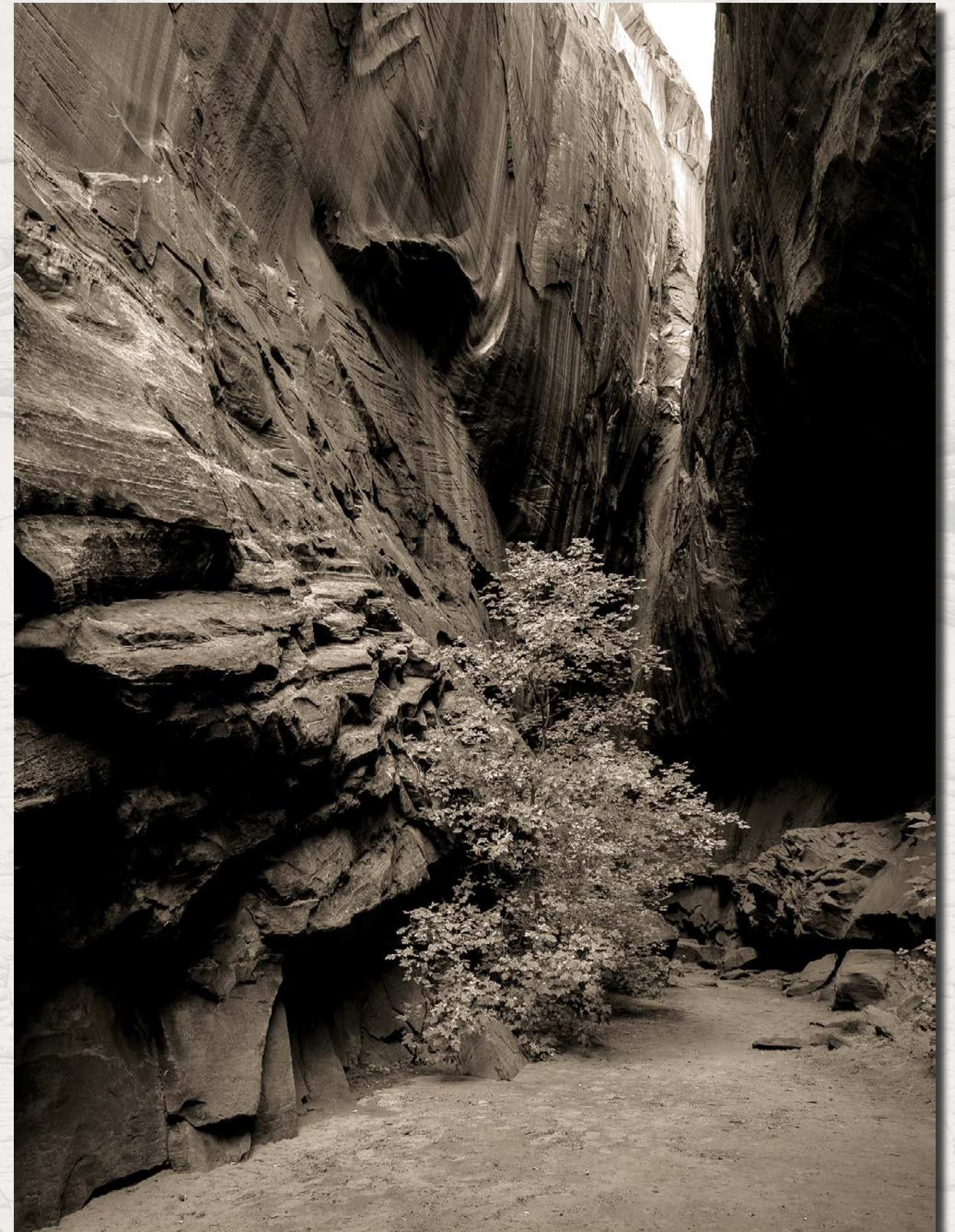
Photographs by Joe Lipka

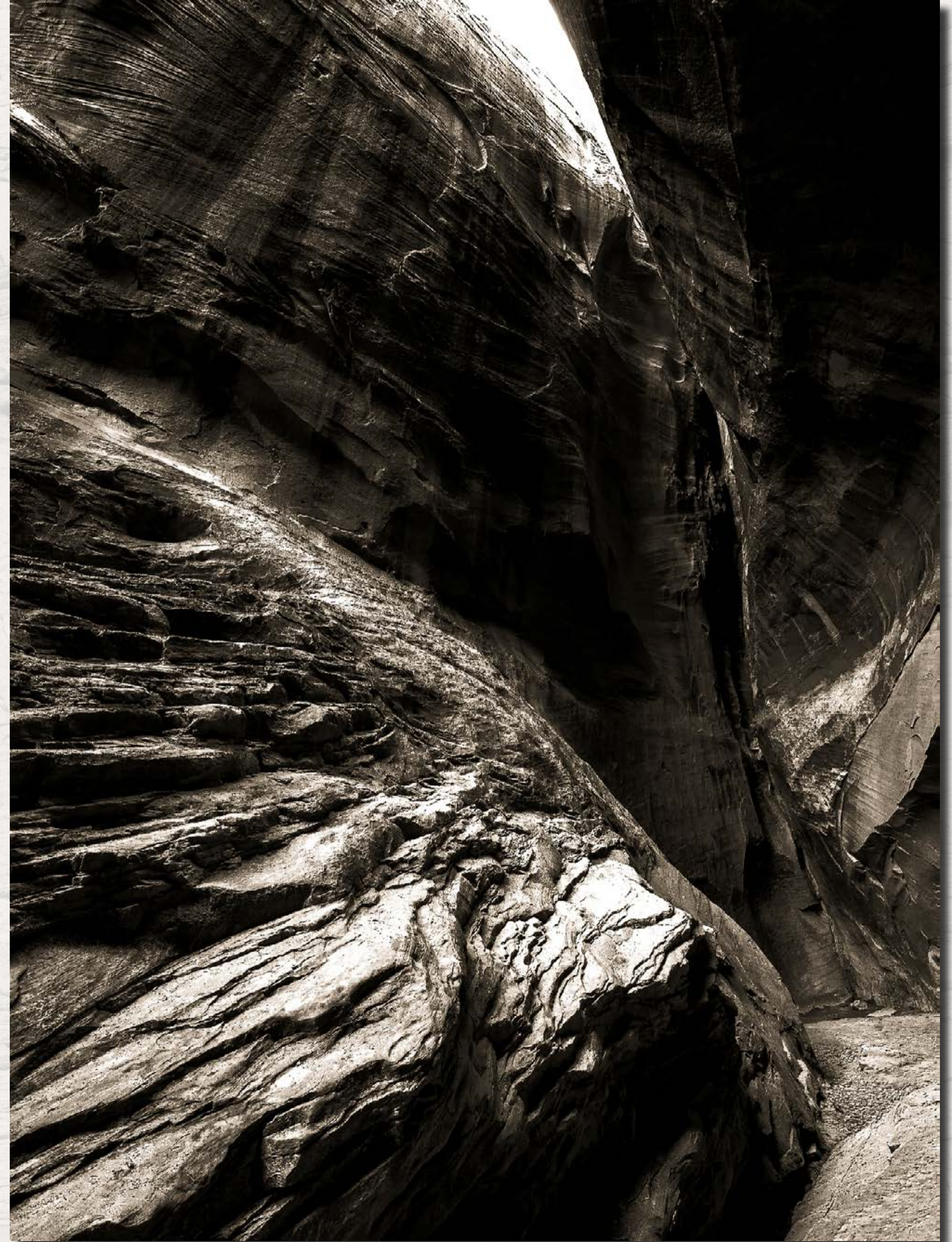
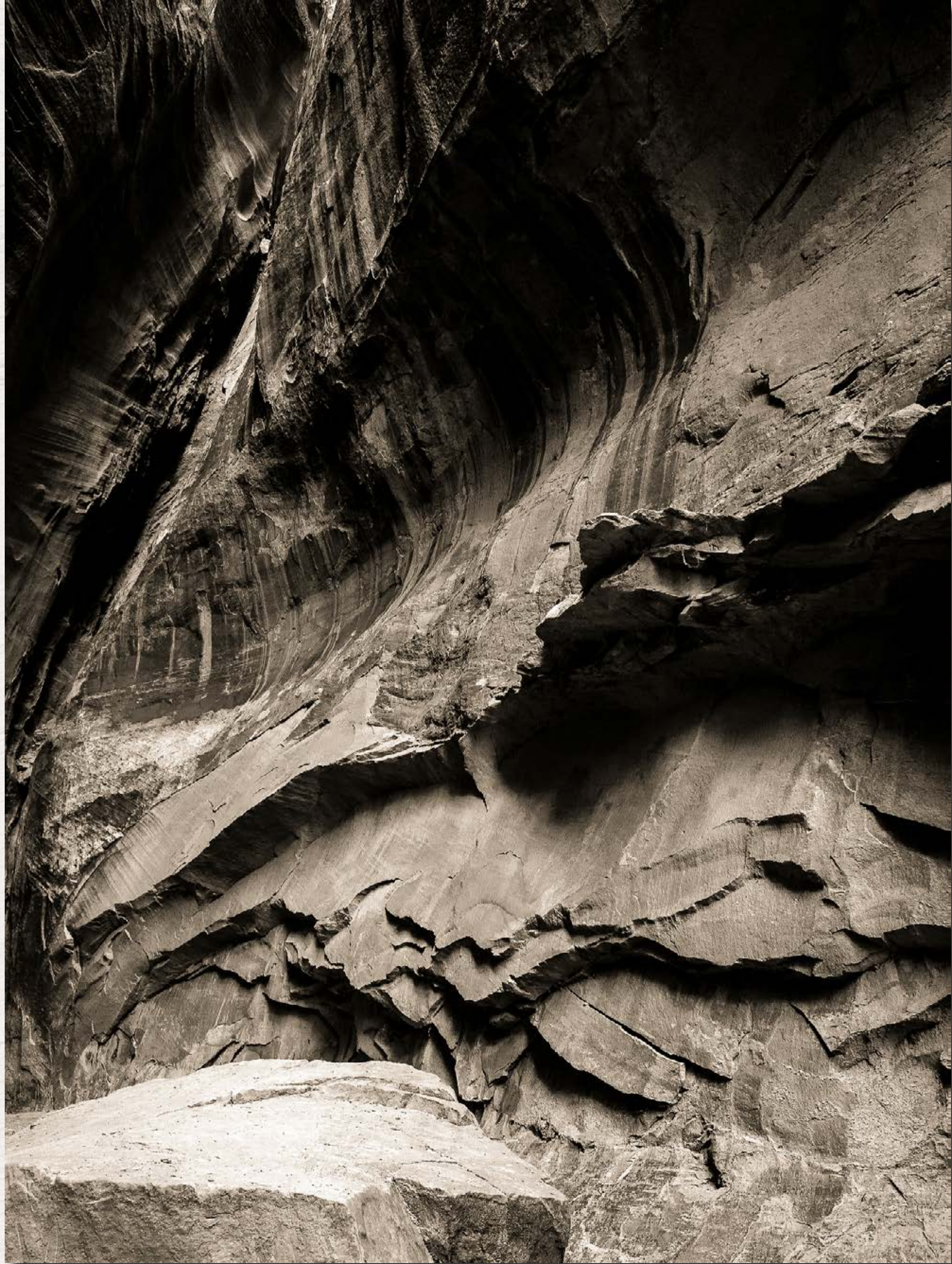
Compulsories

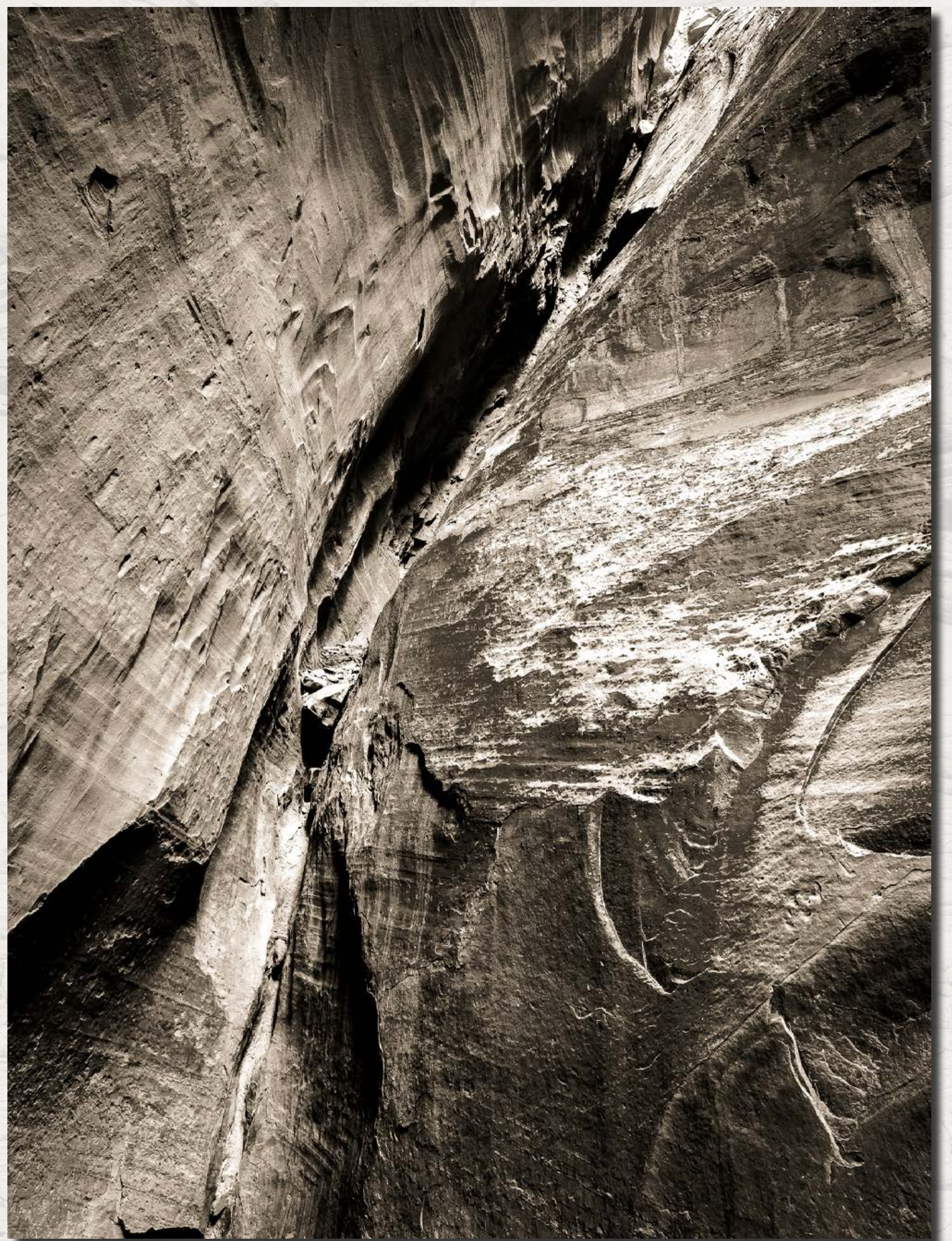
Similar to competitive ice skating, compulsories demonstrated a basic skill in the craft of photography. In the days of silver gelatin technology, they served to display the photographer's technical skills, although some images transcended that limited role to become Fine Art. Compulsories functioned as the control in a scientific experiment. The subject matter was the same, the photographer's vision and technical skill were the variables tested. It was the way we compared ourselves to the Masters.

The compulsories changed as new standards for excellence were set. Edward Weston led the way to Point Lobos and showed us how to photograph dunes at Oceano. When forced to stay at home he passed the time by photographing a pepper or thirty. Ansel Adams photographed Yosemite National Park and set the standard for photographing that location that few have surpassed. Bruce Barnbaum first photographed the slit canyons of the desert southwest in 1981. Slit canyons are the modern compulsory.

Along the Burr Trail, we passed a slit canyon. When you see something like that, you pretty much have to stop and give the subject matter your best try.

























Colophon

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Photographs by Joe Lipka

The images in this portfolio were made
in September, 2013 in southern Utah

Myriad Pro font was used for the text.

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