Early in my life I was a maintenance engineer in a chemical plant. After a particularly difficult repair I paid a compliment to one of our craftsmen on completing a technically and aesthetically successful repair. In a plain spoken manner he replied it was his job to “cut to fit and paint to match.” The skill he said “was to be able to find the edges of the good material and work from there:”
Cut to fit, paint to match. That little scene from my life played over and over again as I photographed around Port Townsend. The craftsmen repairing these wooden ships knew exactly how to cut, form and shape wood to fit it in to old wooden hulls making a repair look as good as the original.
Photographically, our job is much, much easier. The difficult work of visualization and setting the boundaries of the work area have been completed for us. The craftsman used their judgement based on years of experience to find the edges of the good material. All we have to do is find the edges of our image in our viewfinders and make our photograph.
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 have been printed in both *LensWork* and *Black & White Photography* (UK) Magazines.

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, feature a photograph and a (very) short story.

**COLOPHON**

**Cut to Fit**

*Joe Lipka*

*The images in this portfolio were made in Port Townsend, Washington in 2016 and 2017.*

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: http://blog.joelipkaphoto.com/

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