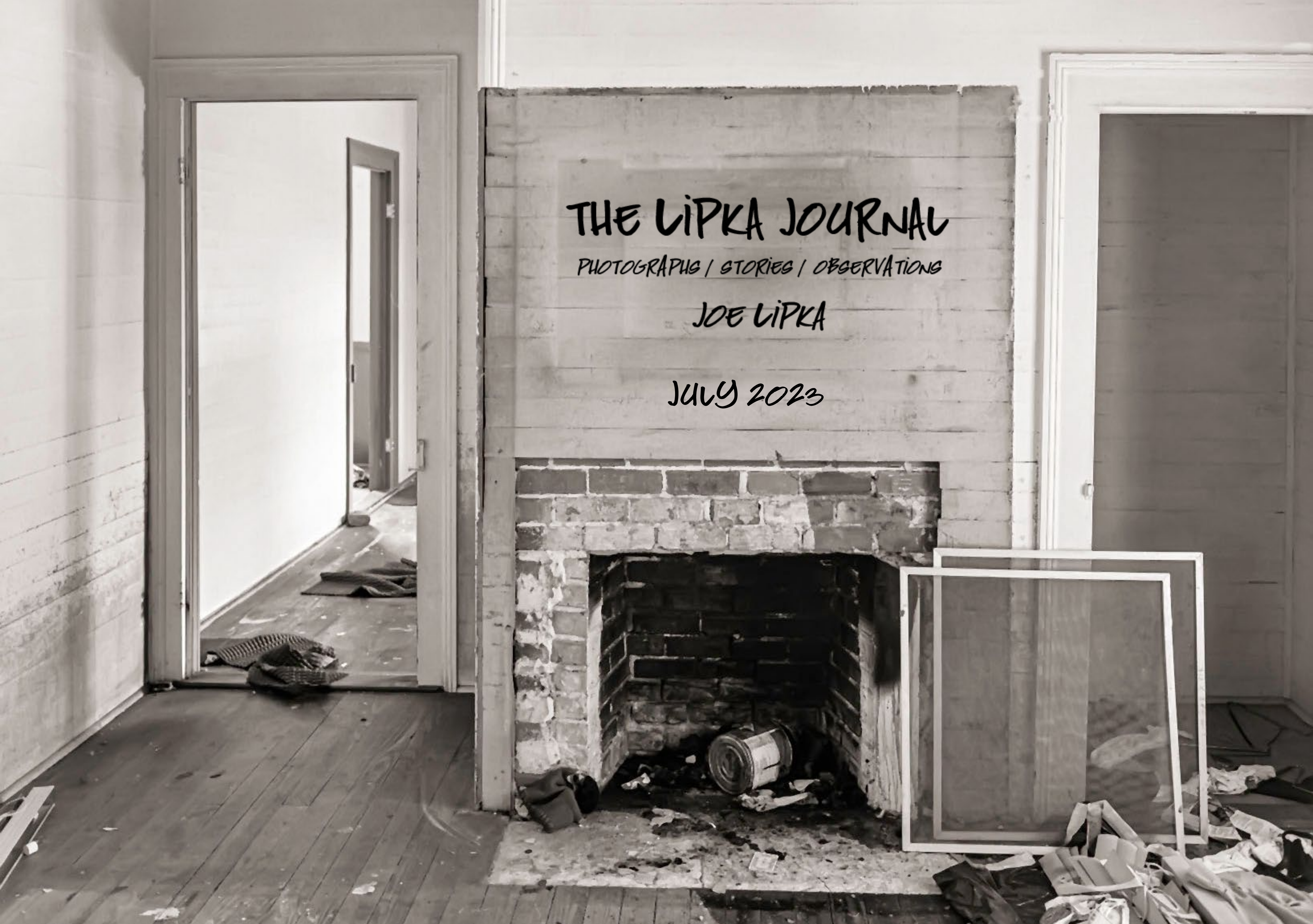


# THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

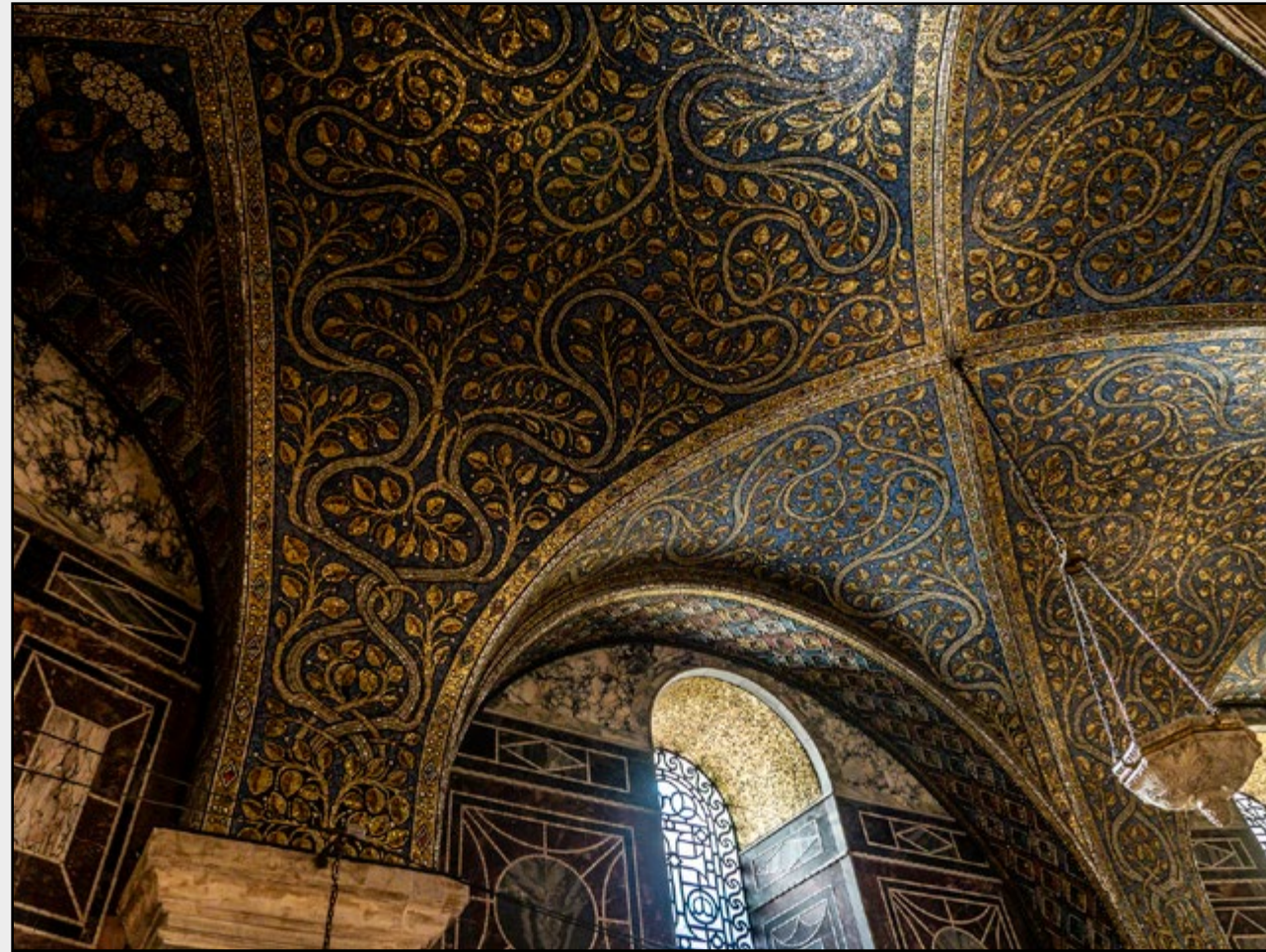
JOE LIPKA

JULY 2023





# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL JULY 2023



Synthesis



Relentless



Explorations

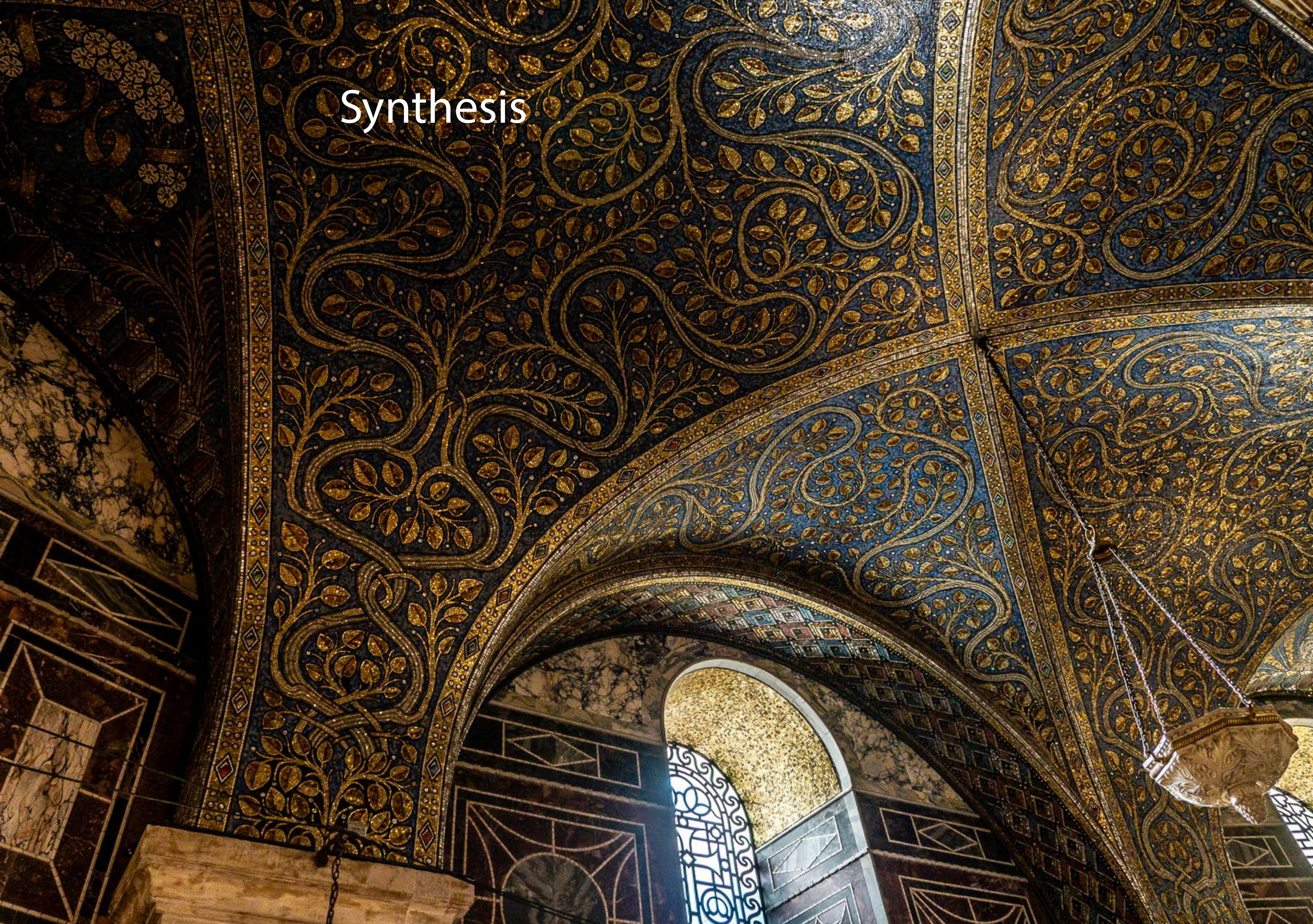
Two specific journeys and a bit of a wander. We revel in the wonders of man and nature in a Cathedral and on the rocky shores of the Oregon Coast.

The wandering is geographic, stylistic, and aesthetic. The journey is indeterminate, the path unclear, but the destination is a photographic style. We seek it by sampling many places and subjects.

Explorations begins images selected from the second decade of the More Memories than Dreams Project.



Synthesis

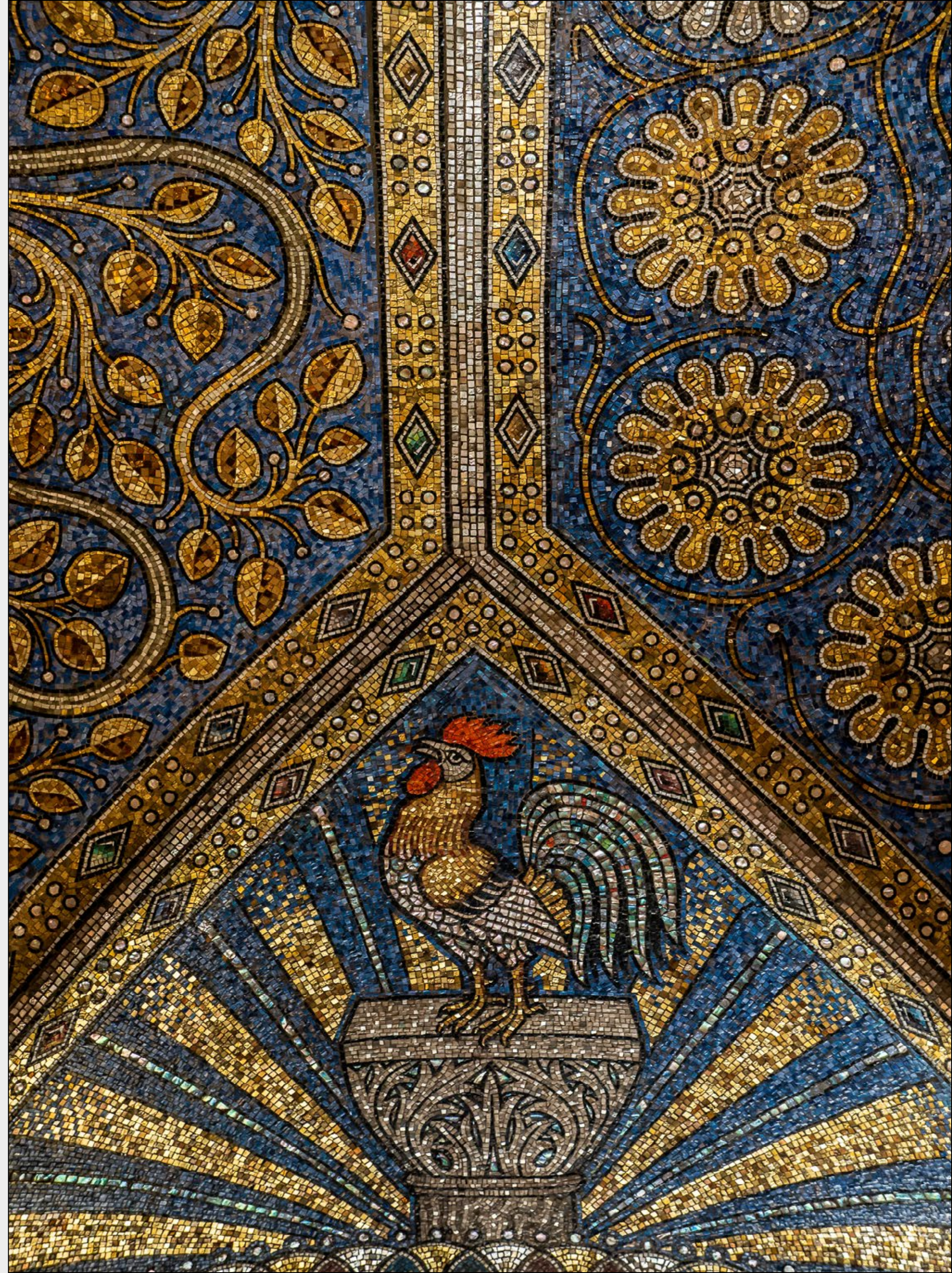




## Synthesis

It's odd how sometimes an off-hand comment will turn out to be much more than that. The guide said the interior of the Cathedral was both Western and Eastern. The vaulted structure was definitely of European design, but the ceiling decorations came from what we now call the Middle East.

The synthesis of these design elements was mesmerizing. The tour group moved on, and I looked up before joining them. From that point on my attention was split between what we were to see on ground level and the magnificent ceiling. After the tour I circled the dome several times reveling in the intricate design of the dome.



































## Single Image Project

It was tough not to be jealous of his neighbor's luck in catching the rain. The local weatherman predicted scattered showers. And there it was, a scattered shower of much needed rain, but not on his fields. He mortgaged the farm to pay for this year's seed and fertilizer and no rain meant he would lose the farm. He couldn't afford many afternoon storms that missed his fields.





Relentless



## Relentless

The waves just keep on coming. Propelled by the moon's gravity and the prevailing winds, the waves keep on pounding against the rocks. We see this as a futile activity, but our viewpoint is quite restricted by the instant of time we spend observing the awesome power of nature. Oh, sure, we spent a few hours overlooking the ocean, with these amazing waves, but the ocean beats itself against the rocks all day, every day and has done so for millions of years. Eventually the ocean will move the rocks because it is relentless.























## Six Word Project

His crimes closed all doors forever



# Explorations





## Explorations

Part of the Creative Journey is that of exploration. We have a tool and some newly learned skills. The question is, “What do I put in front of my camera?” The only way to answer that question is to go out and use the new tools and skills to make photographs. Photographs of many types of many subjects in order to find the elusive subject matter that fits our vision and skills. It is a process of trial and error (and a lot of error) before we can lay claim to a place where we can create.

## *More Memories Than Dreams*

More Memories than Dreams is an episodic segment of The Lipka Journal going back over the fifty years of my photographic career. This suite of images is the beginning of the second decade of photographs.

Page 33 of this document contains links to eight previous image suites from the first decade of my photographs.















































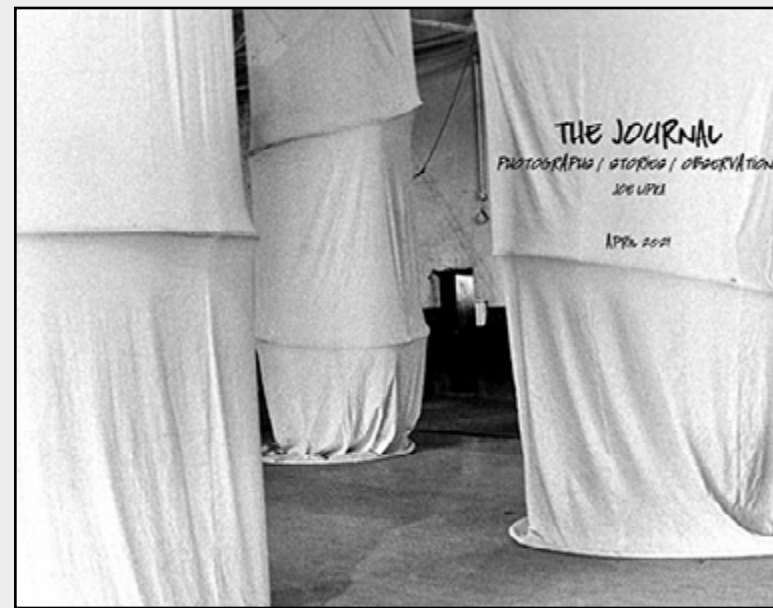


# More Memories Than Dreams

I started developing and printing my own photographs in 1972 while in college. In 2022, I decided to create my own “Fifty Years of Photography Book”. (It took Google .75 seconds to return 126 MILLION results for the search term “Fifty Years of Photography.”) Rather than concentrate all that effort at one time to do something millions of others have already done, I decided to make More Memories Than Dreams a feature in the Lipka Journal.

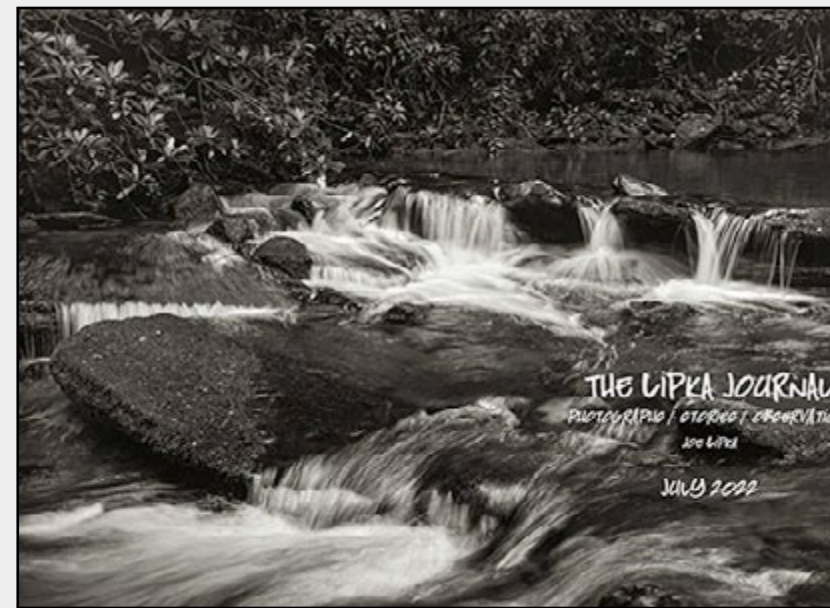
The first decade 1973-1983 is filled with the struggle to master the technical aspects of developing film and making photographic prints. Mastery was the foundation of photography because without technical skills the aesthetic vision could not be brought to life.

Below are links to the Journals with More Memories Than Dreams Projects. The title of each Project from More Memories Than Dreams is below the linked image.



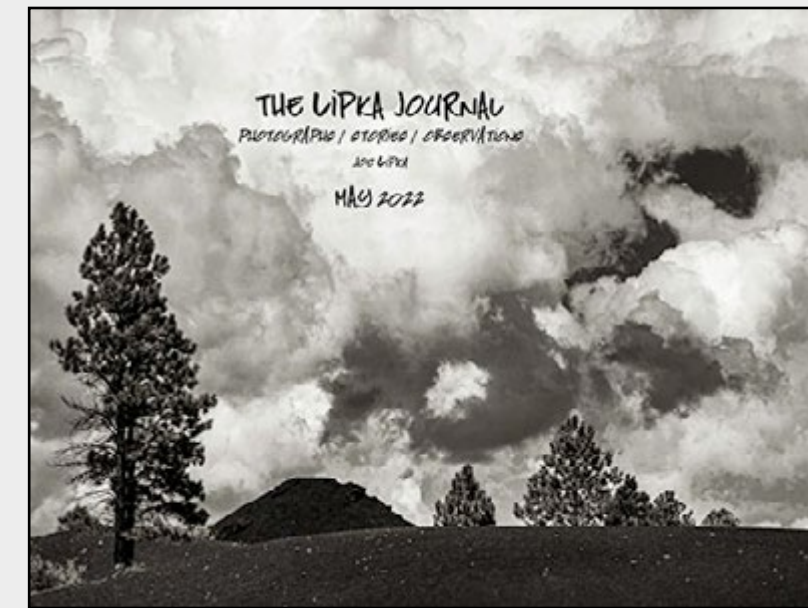
The Fieldhouse Project

page 13



A Place to Fish

page 28



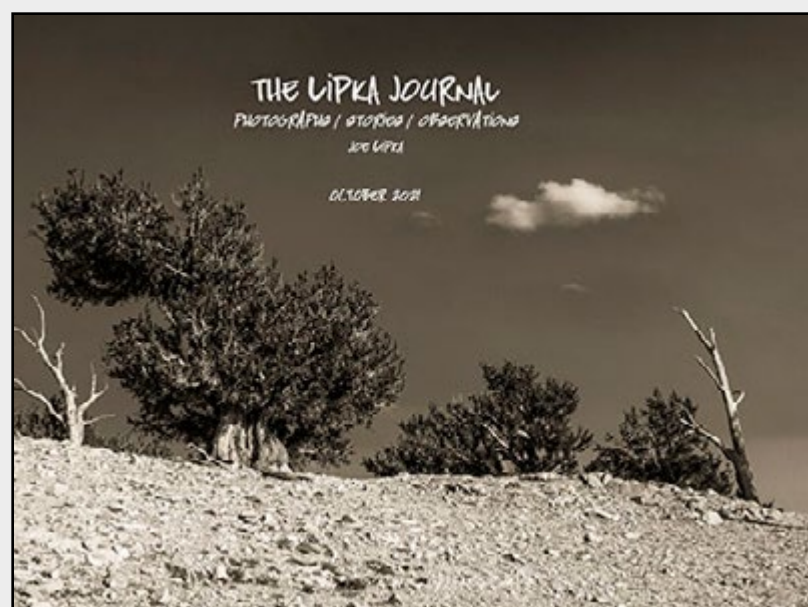
Geometry Games

page 14



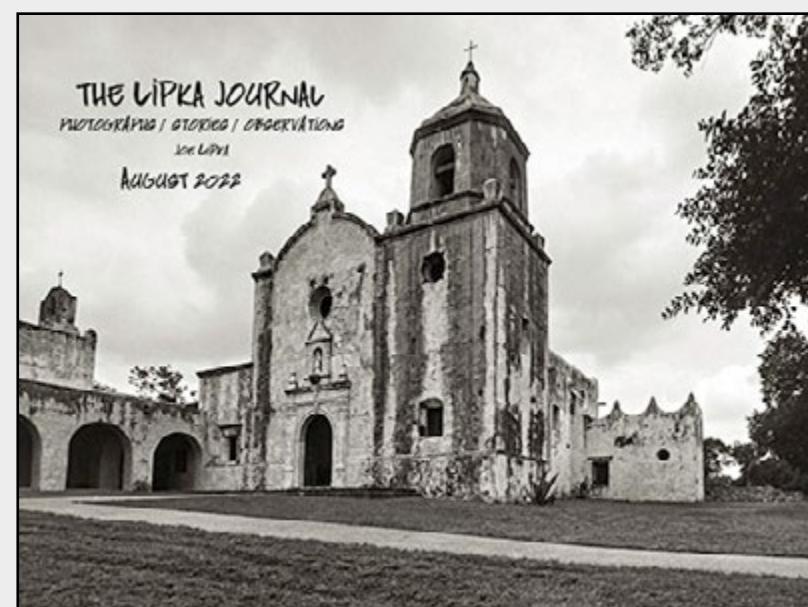
Waiting for the Ferry

page 23



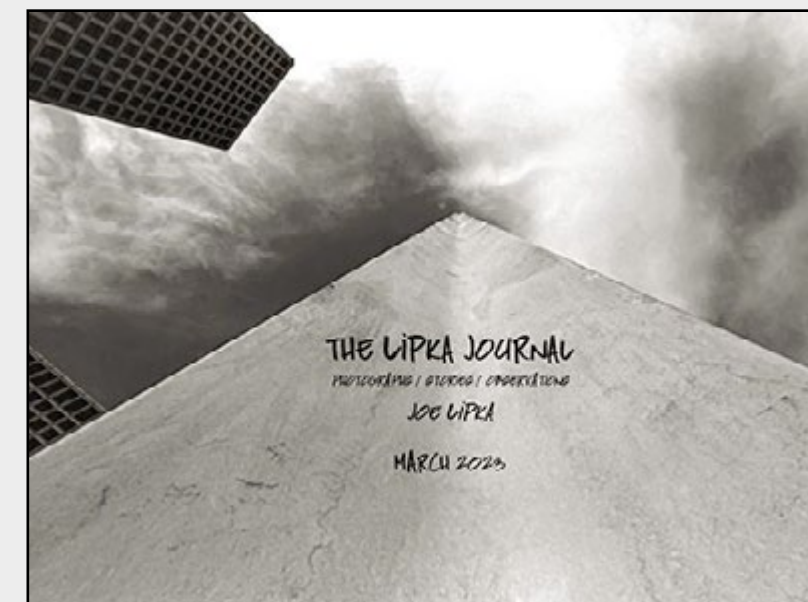
Reflections on a First Love

page 12



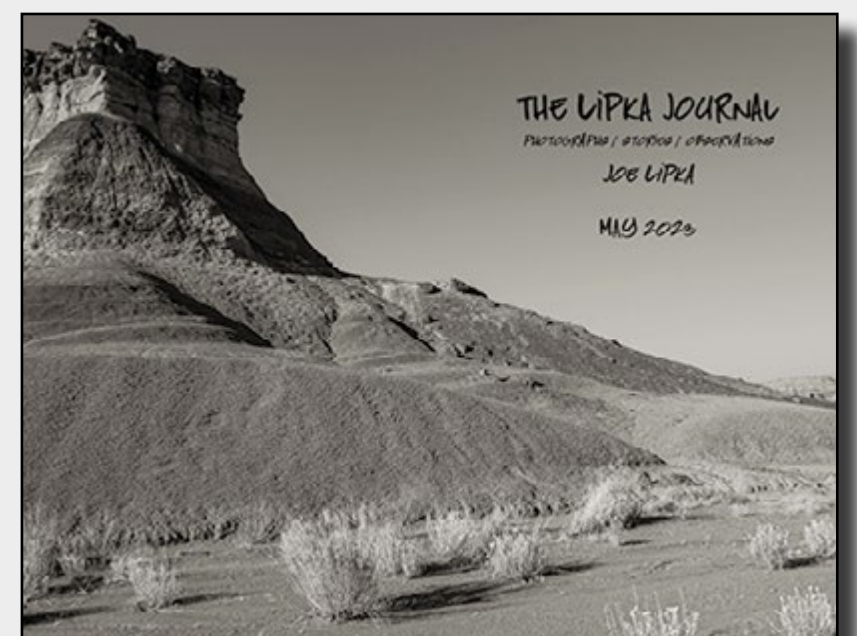
La Bahai

page 12



Familiar Ground

page 14



Elk Creek

page 4



# Postcards from the Creative Journey

February 14, 2021

## Photographs with and without Memories

There are some photographs you remember, and there are others you do not remember. I like to think the photographs you don't remember are the best ones because they come from a place free of thought, planning and rationality. This is the place we all try to get to when we are out there in the world camera in hand. These photographs just happen and when we find them in our LightRoom catalogs or contact sheets (remember those?) we are happy because we have come upon something of great value.

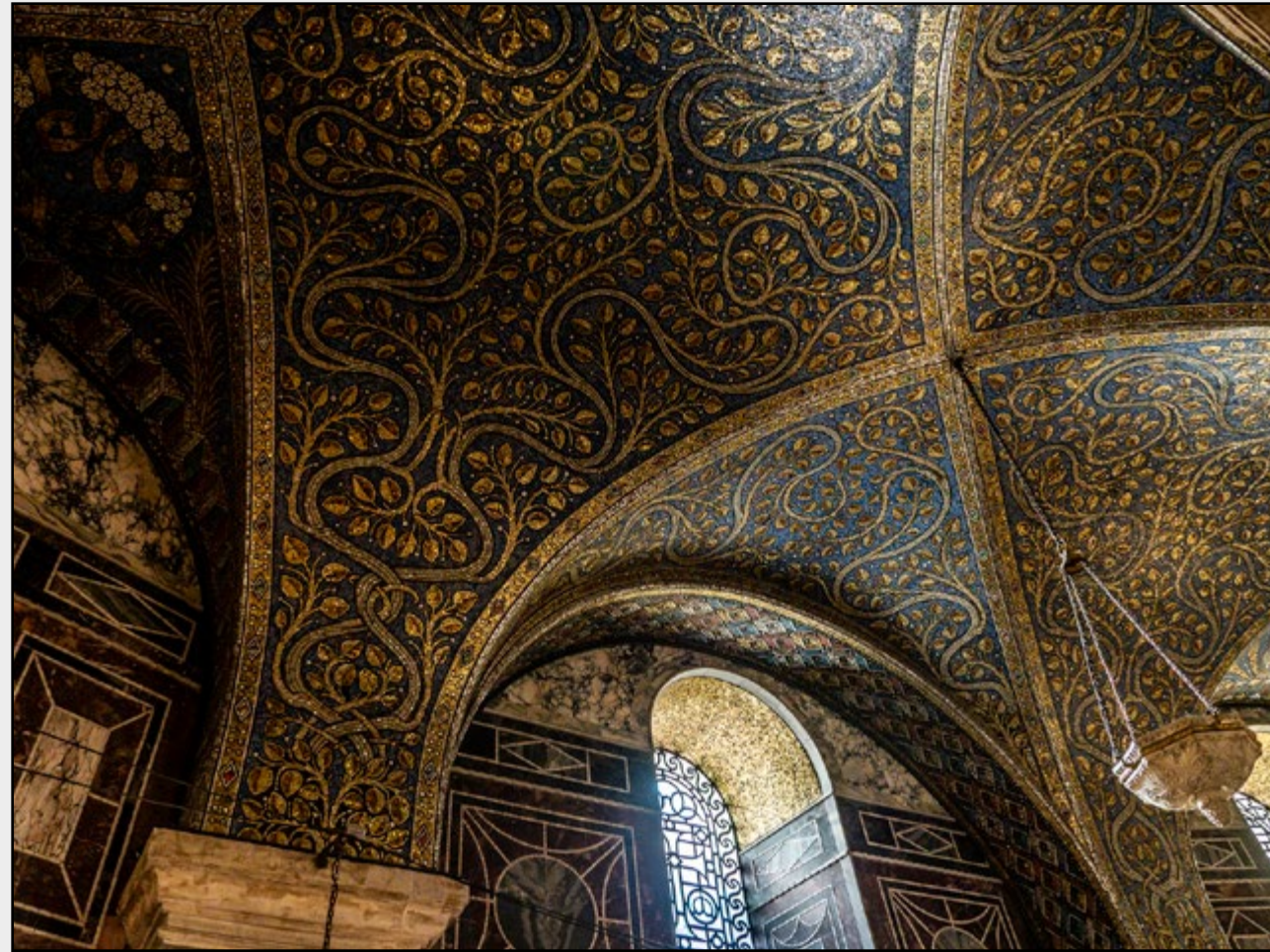
As I dig back through stacks of old contact sheets (remember those?) in search of images for the first part of the "Fifty Years of Photography" Project. There are images I see reminding me of the places I've been and the people I have known and then there are the images that, for all I know, may have been made by someone else.

And before you ask, the photographs I don't remember are sometimes much better than the ones I do remember making.





# A FEW CLOSING WORDS



## Synthesis

We had an hour or so to explore the Aachen Cathedral after our tour. In mid-December, just about everyone stayed inside to avoid the cold. It was impossible to photograph anything at ground level because the cathedral was wall to wall with tourists trying to stay warm. I was quite happy to point my camera toward an amazing amalgamation of European architecture and Middle Eastern decorative arts.



## Relentless

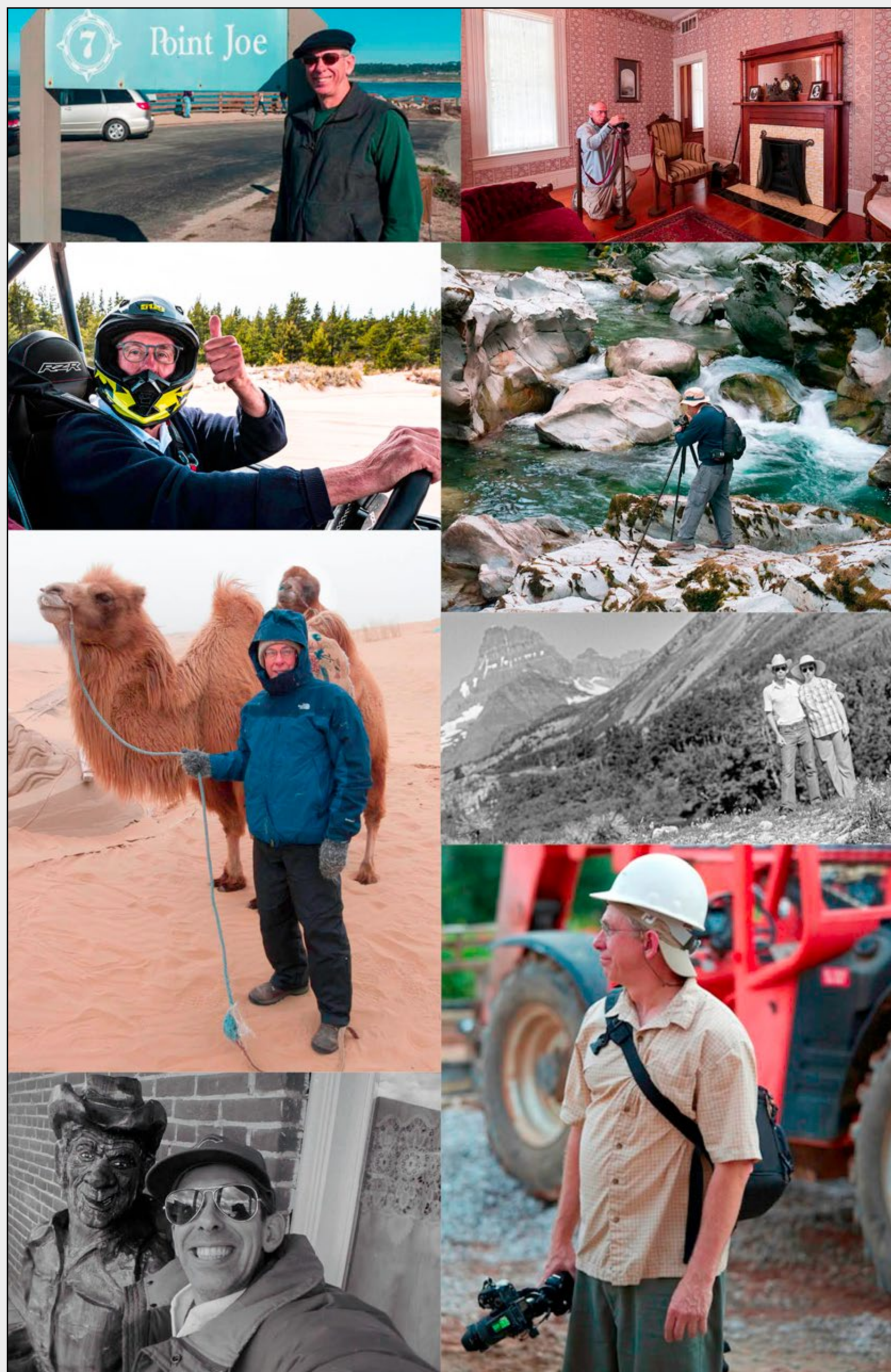
This was just plain fun photography. Just wait around and watch the waves beat against the rocks and use burst mode to capture a dozen or so exposures when the waves get close. In the olden days, we didn't have this convenience when we set the aperture at f/32, cocked the shutter, and pulled the dark slide and waited. We needed the reflexes of a cat to catch the peak action as waves crashed into the rocks. .



## Explorations

Once I began to figure out film processing and printing, the fundamental question of what to photograph had to be answered. The answer was (e) "All the Above" and I went out to explore subject matter; literally and figuratively. Places were explored, subjects were explored and many attempts were made to figure out what I was able to do well. When I look back on these images I thought to myself, "I could do this better now." That is now the correct answer.





Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred twenty juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and his images have been published 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.

## The Lipka Journal, July, 2023

*Joe Lipka*

© 2023 Joe Lipka Photography

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

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

Blog: [https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the\\_daily\\_photograph/](https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/)

***The contents of this computer media are copyrighted materials***

*Please note that this computer file has been provided as a consumer product for the private and non-commercial use of the purchaser only. Its' contents are copyrighted in its entirety and may not be duplicated by any means without the consent of Joe Lipka or his heirs. Each article, portfolio and photographic image is copyrighted by the author and may not be duplicated for any purpose or by any means without his consent*

*All Rights Reserved.*