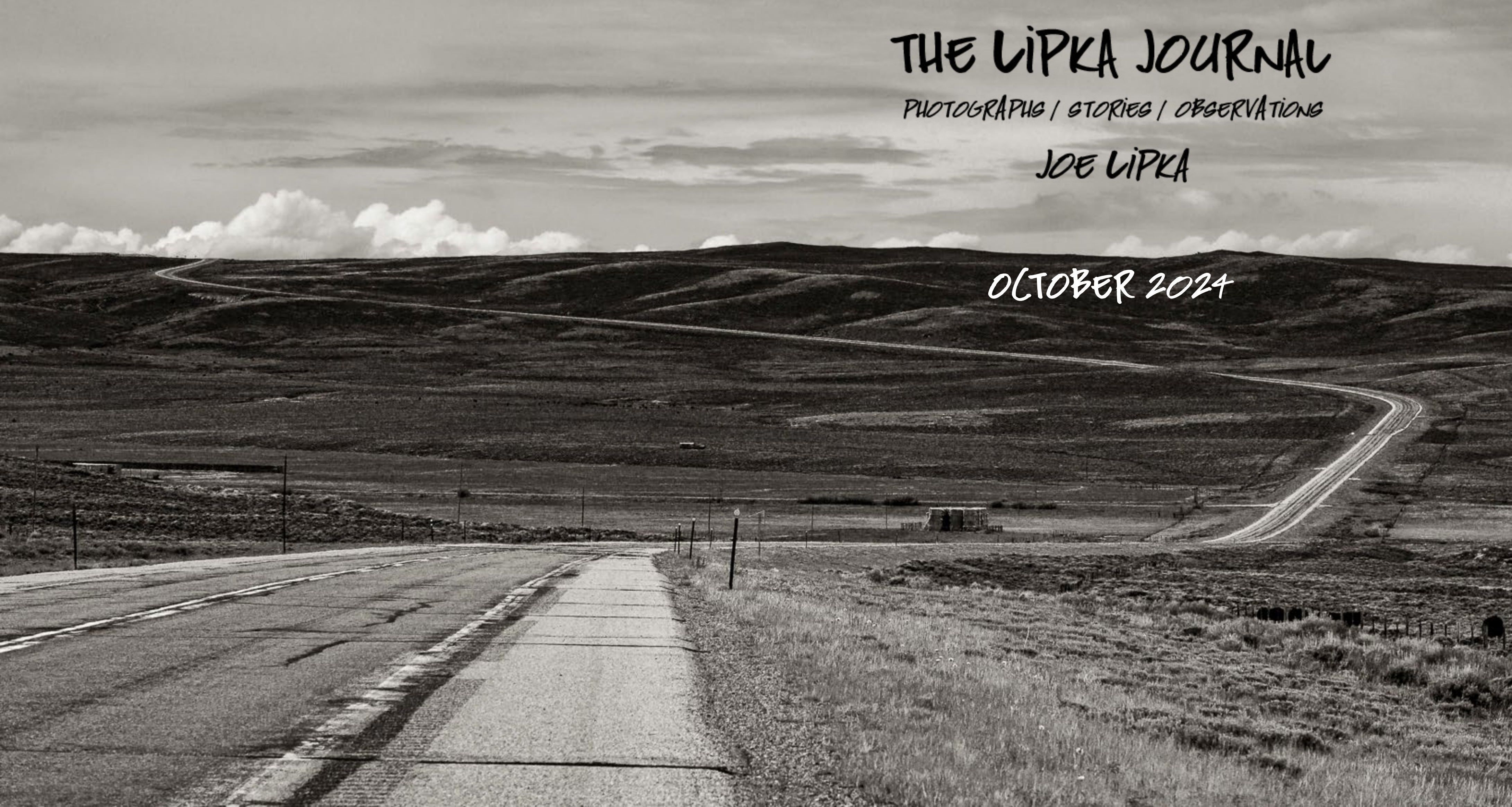


THE LIPKA JOURNAL

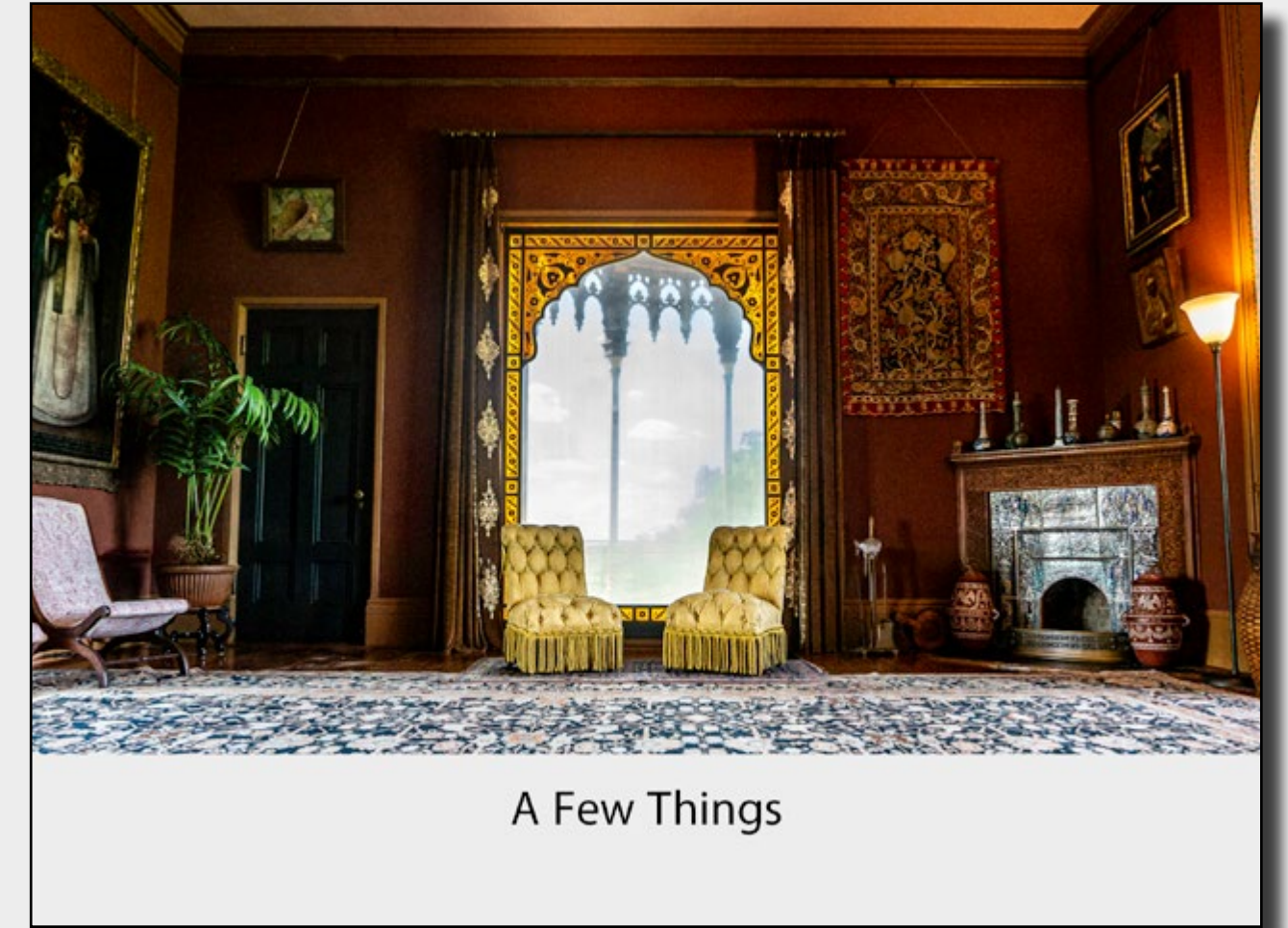
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

OCTOBER 2024



WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER 2024 JOURNAL



It's time again for a photographic journey. We start with a shortcut through Franklin Alley and find ourselves surrounded by art that manages to overcome the surrounding graffiti. On the Way There, we remember to pay attention to the scenes along the way. At the end of our trip we admire A Few Things collected by Frederic Church at his home, Olana.

A word on the Prologue page. I've been searching for the proper name for the one picture, six-word story that has been part of the Journal for a year or so. It came to me a few months ago while reading a book. The basis for the novel was set up a few pages before the novel itself begins in the prologue. I thought that the six word story and a picture is just the beginning of an adventure. Calling it a prologue seems right.

FRANKLIN
ALLEY

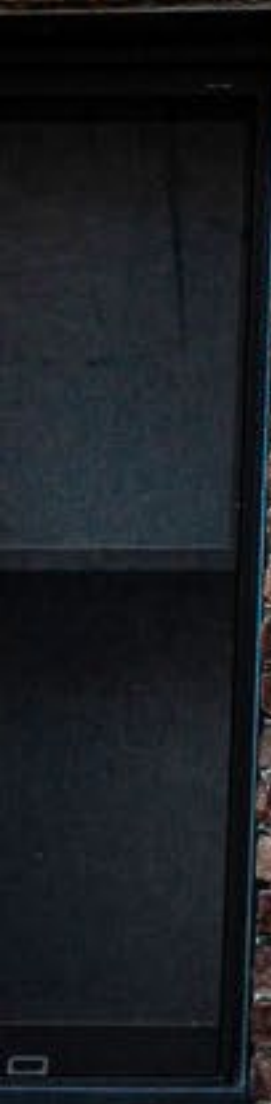


Franklin Alley

You're not supposed to take a short cut down alleys. Alleys are for work, not thoroughfares. Deliveries, trash pick up and tradesman entrances are the functions of a proper alley. The [Alleys behind Main Street in Wallace](#), Idaho are just that.

I had that same expectation when entering Franklin Alley. Until I entered and was amused and delighted that Franklin Alley was something entirely different.













A Mostly True Story

It was a difficult piece of ground. It dropped directly into the back of the cottage. Gordon tried several times, but the grass would not grow on the slope. A terraced garden with shrubbery was the next effort. For some reason Gordon could not explain, the shrubberies also failed to thrive. Fiona bought a garden gnome with a red pointy cap for some good luck.

That single gnome served as the vanguard of a garden statuary migration that mysteriously began to populate the terraced garden. Gordon was pleased that a solution appeared without him having to expend time or effort.



On the Way There

We have no idea what to expect on this journey called life. On our journey we might fall victim to that tunnel vision that puts the goal of getting “there” ahead of the journey. Driving is another type of journey that can tempt us in the same way. We can get focused on the destination to the detriment of seeing the world around us. On the way there, we need to remember that the journey is just as important as the destination.





















Prologues

Had to test.

Yes, they are.





A Few Things

A Few Things

In the Gilded Age, it was considered in the best of taste to flaunt your wealth. If you were wealthy enough to travel to foreign lands, then it was incumbent upon you to return with mementos of your journey. Friends and family needed to be impressed with your wealth and refined taste. But what to do with your acquisitions? Displaying them shamelessly in your mansion was the proper thing to do. Everyone would be impressed with the extravagant display of your acquisitions.

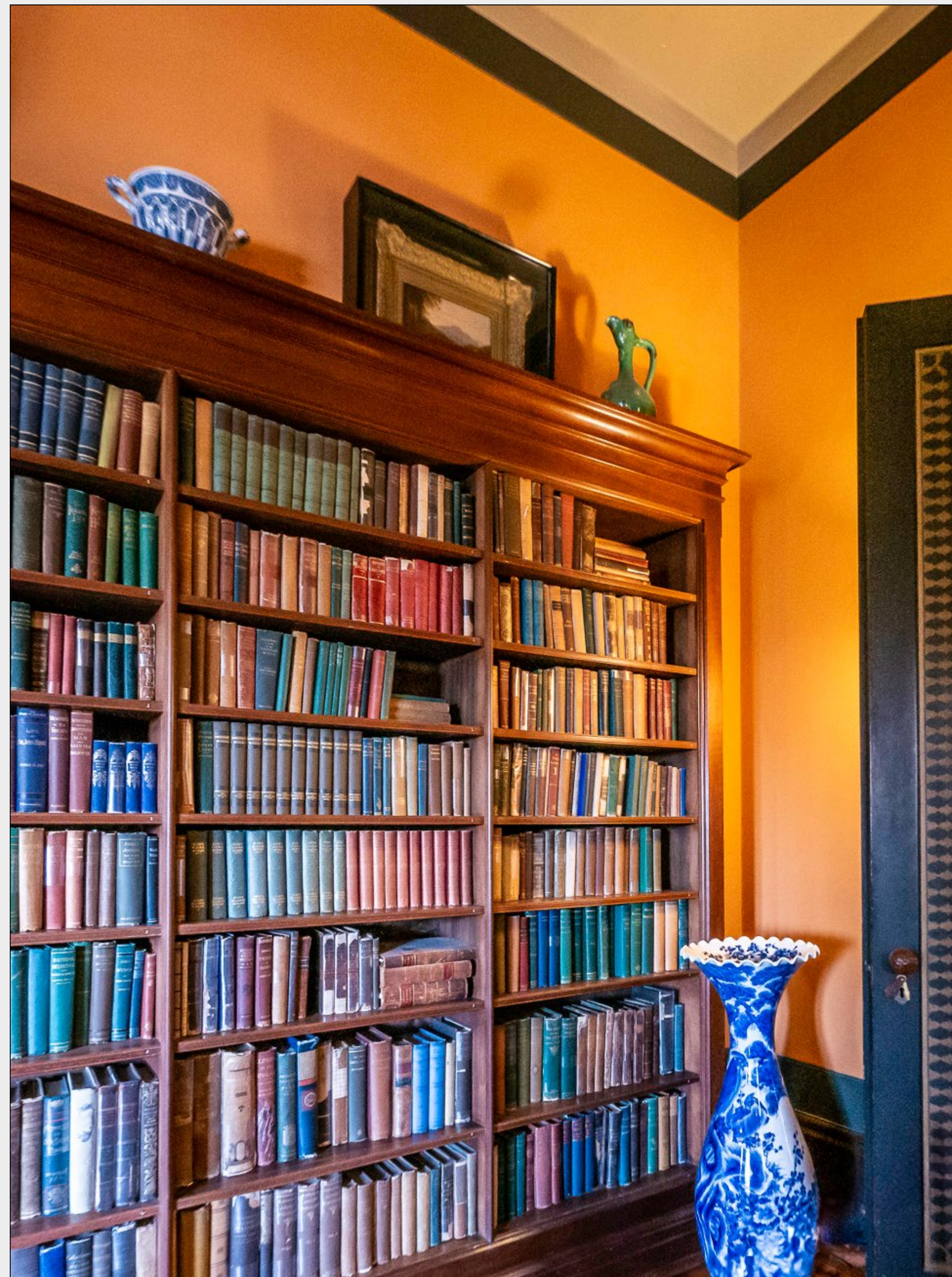


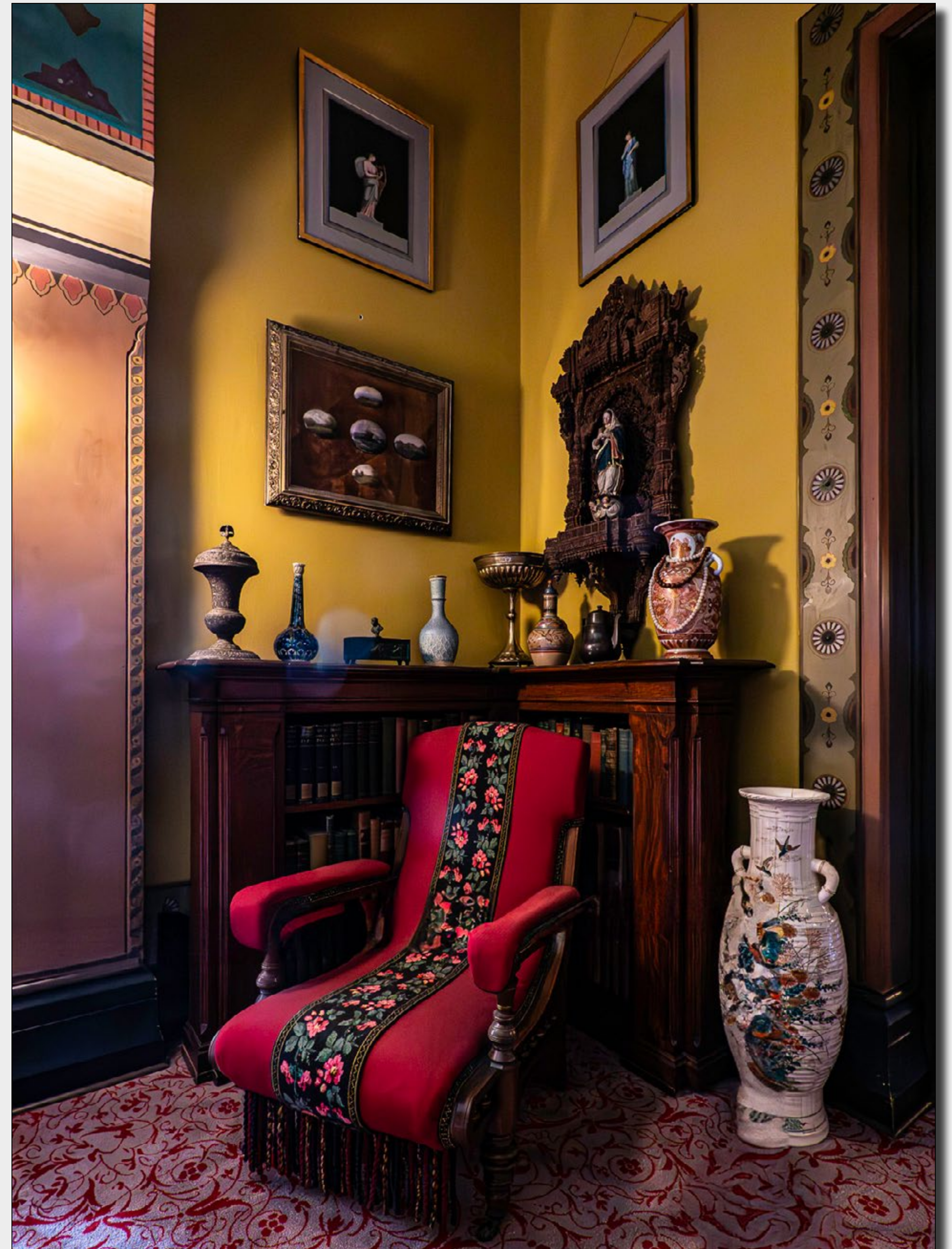
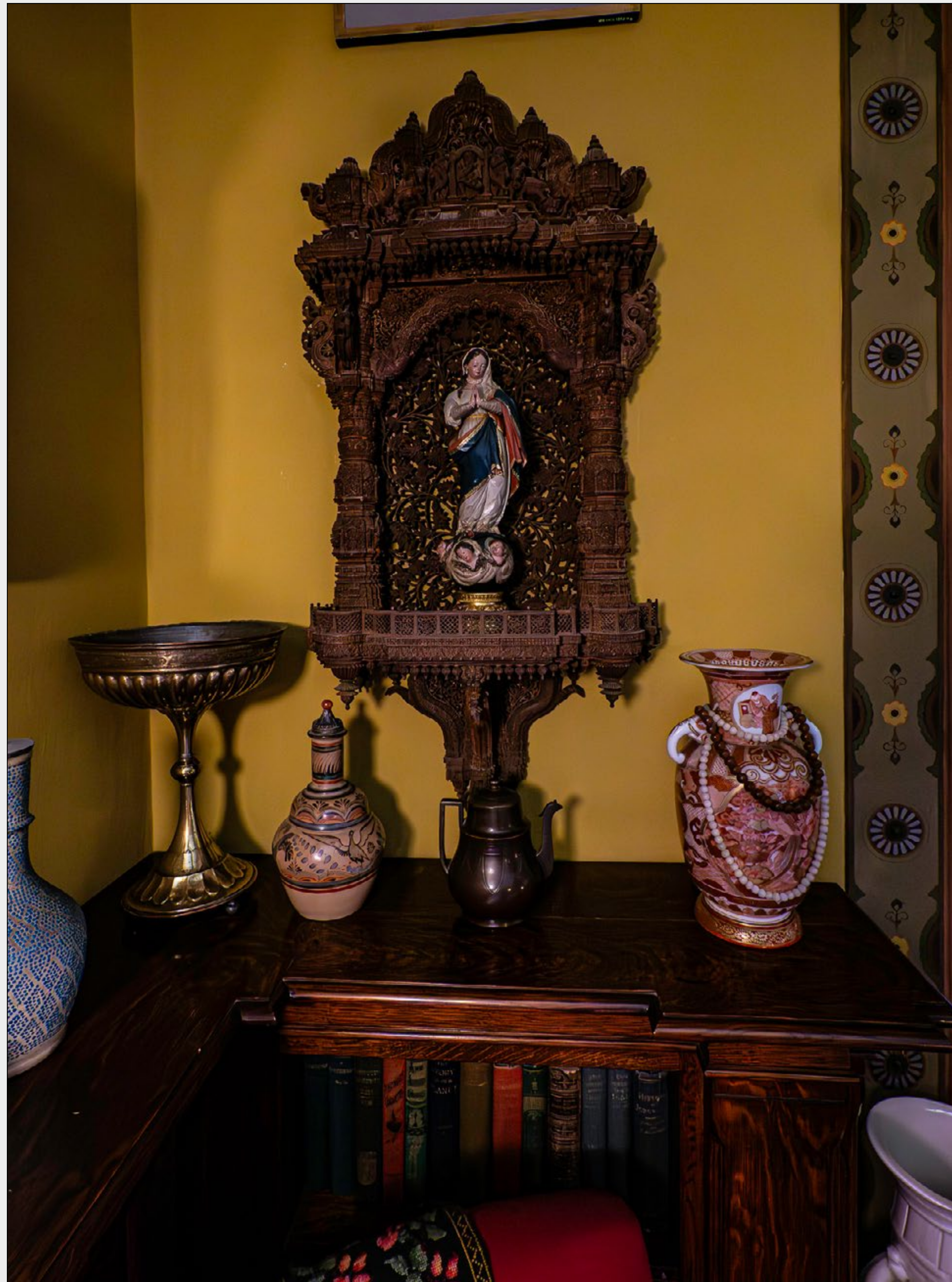


















Postcards from the Creative Journey

December 24, 2017

What Story Are You Telling?

Your audience looks at a photograph. They are more concerned with what they see (the actual photograph) rather than the journey (the processing) it took to get there. As a photographer, you are very much aware of the effort you put into making a photograph and you might wish to tell the world all about your version of the journey. Resist the temptation to tell the audience your story.

It is more important to tell your audience a story about the subject of the photograph, not about how the digital file was processed. The number of people that can be entertained with a story about what they see is far, far greater than the number of people that could possibly be entertained by stories about you setting levels, curves, sliders, layers, masks and sharpening.



A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



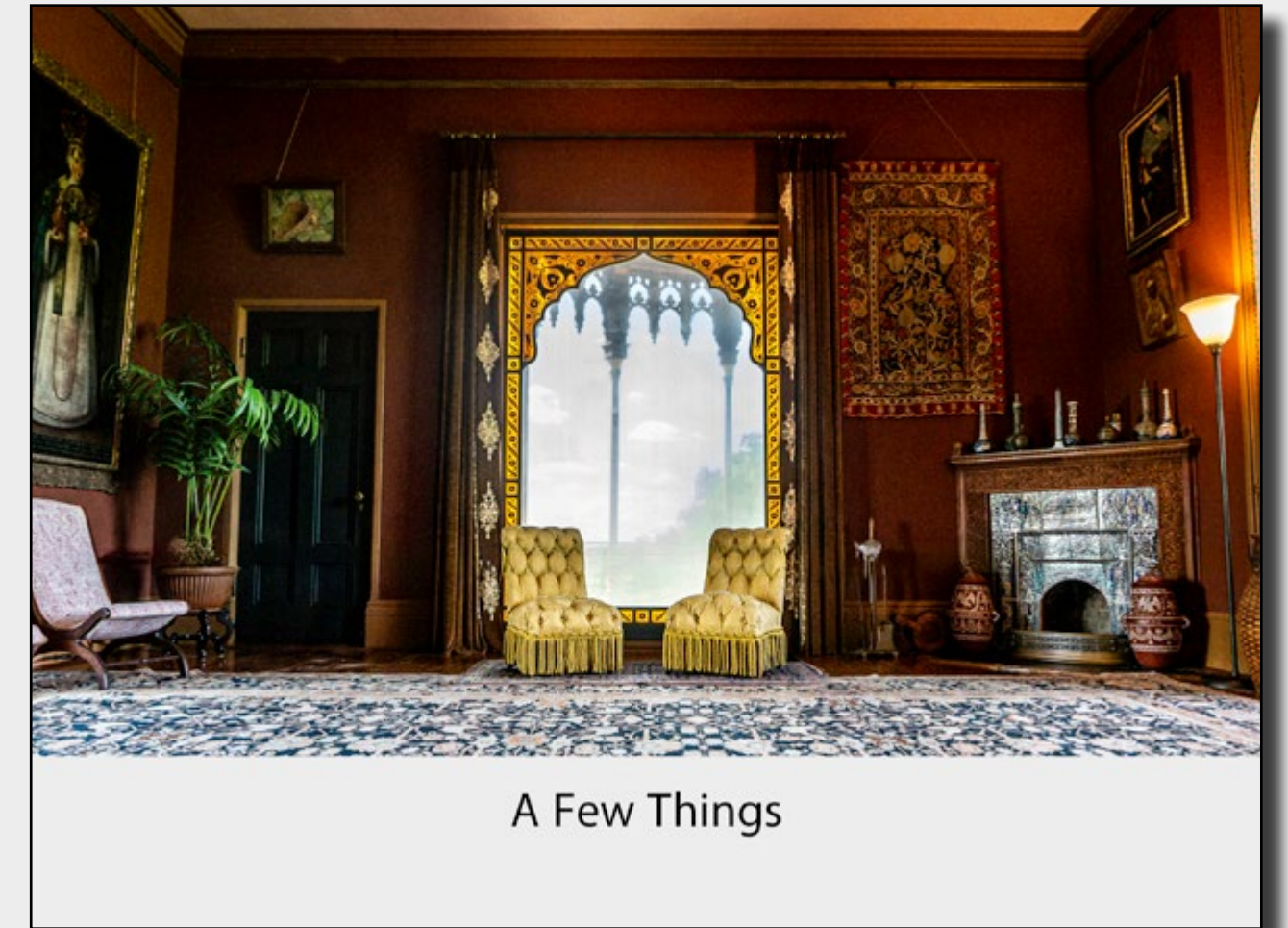
Franklin Alley

We had twenty minutes to make a ten minute walk to pick up our dinner at a local restaurant. A circuitous route took us through the Franklin Alley and I am happy we had just enough time to spend enjoying some well thought out and clever art. Urban alleys usually are a magnet for “graffiti artists” whose sole artistic achievement is spray painting their name on any available surface. It was wonderful to see something more substantive and playful painted on the bricks.



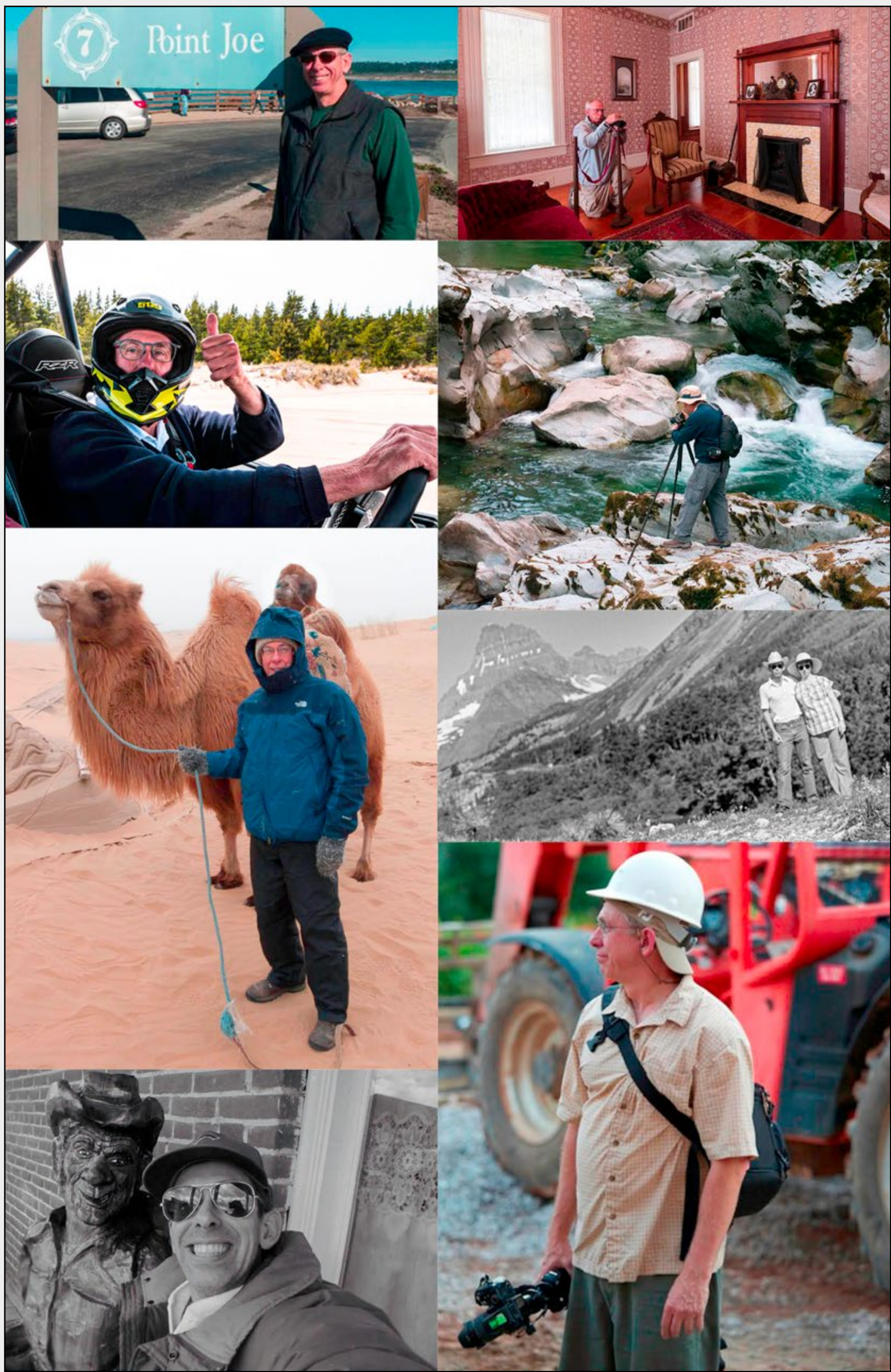
On the Way There

It was an afternoon drive with no real destination in mind just being out in the world cruisin’ for snaps. When there is no real destination for the journey, the journey is the destination. On the way back to our base camp, I chose a “shortcut” through the Snowy Range Pass. I published some of the images from the The Snowy Range Pass, ([State of Being, May 2024 Lipka Journal](#)). When there is no real destination for the journey, the journey is the destination.



A Few Things

That key photograph has a great Maxwell Parish look, doesn’t it? As does the rest of Fredric Church’s Olana mansion. Imogene Cunningham made portraits of people by showing the person’s possessions. That’s what I did for a full afternoon; created an extended portrait of Fredric Church and the Gilded Age.



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, features a photograph and a little bit of writing.

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

The Lipka Journal, October 2024

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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