



THE JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

Weclome to the Journal

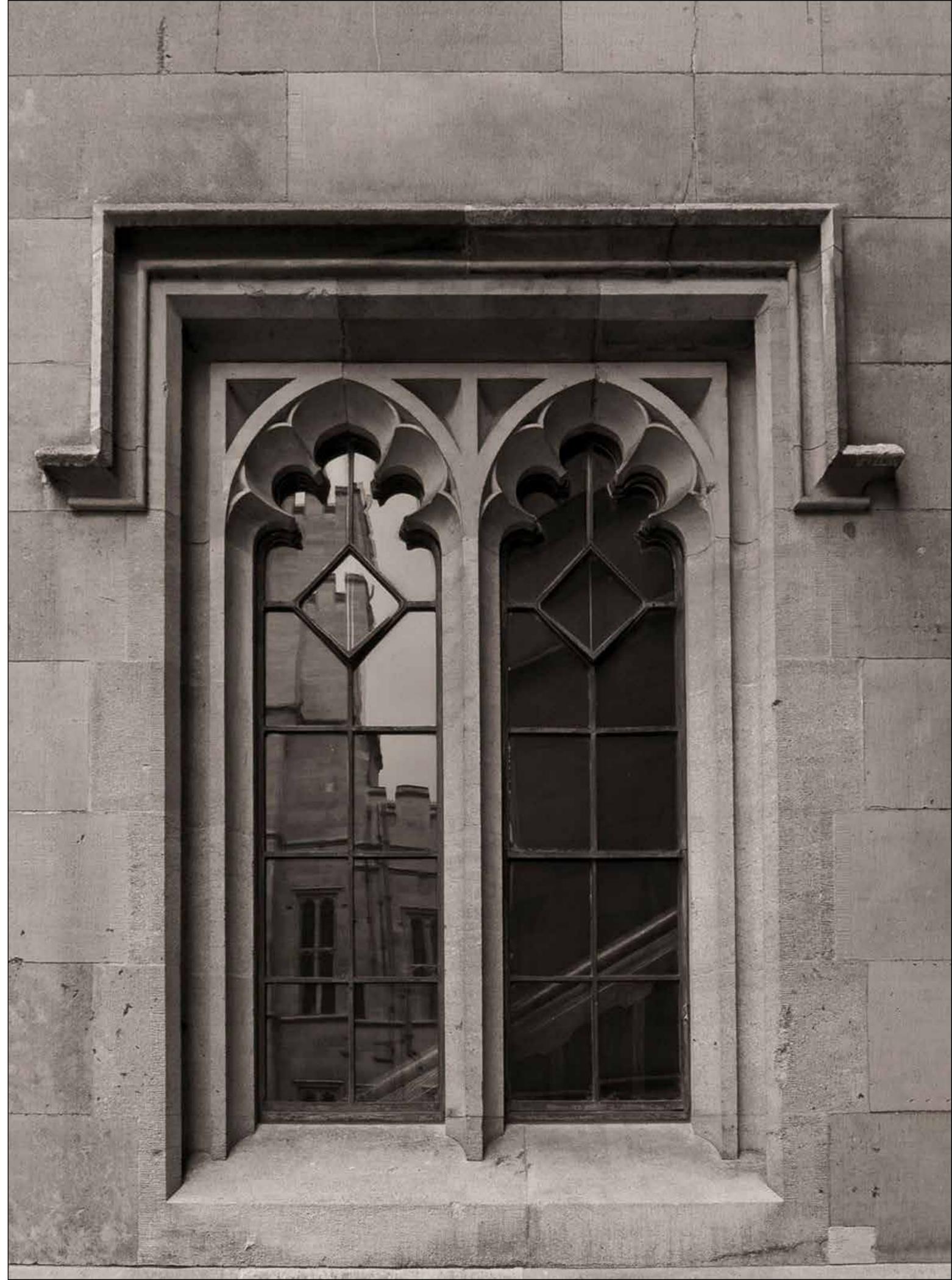
April 5, 2020

Welcome to the Journal. The website is now sixteen years old, gone through twenty plus iterations and will continue to change as the world and I change (although not at the same pace). Up until now, the monthly publication has been restricted to sizeable projects containing twelve to twenty photographs. These projects take a lot of work to create, assemble and produce. As I go through my images searching for projects, I keep finding complete projects with five or six images.

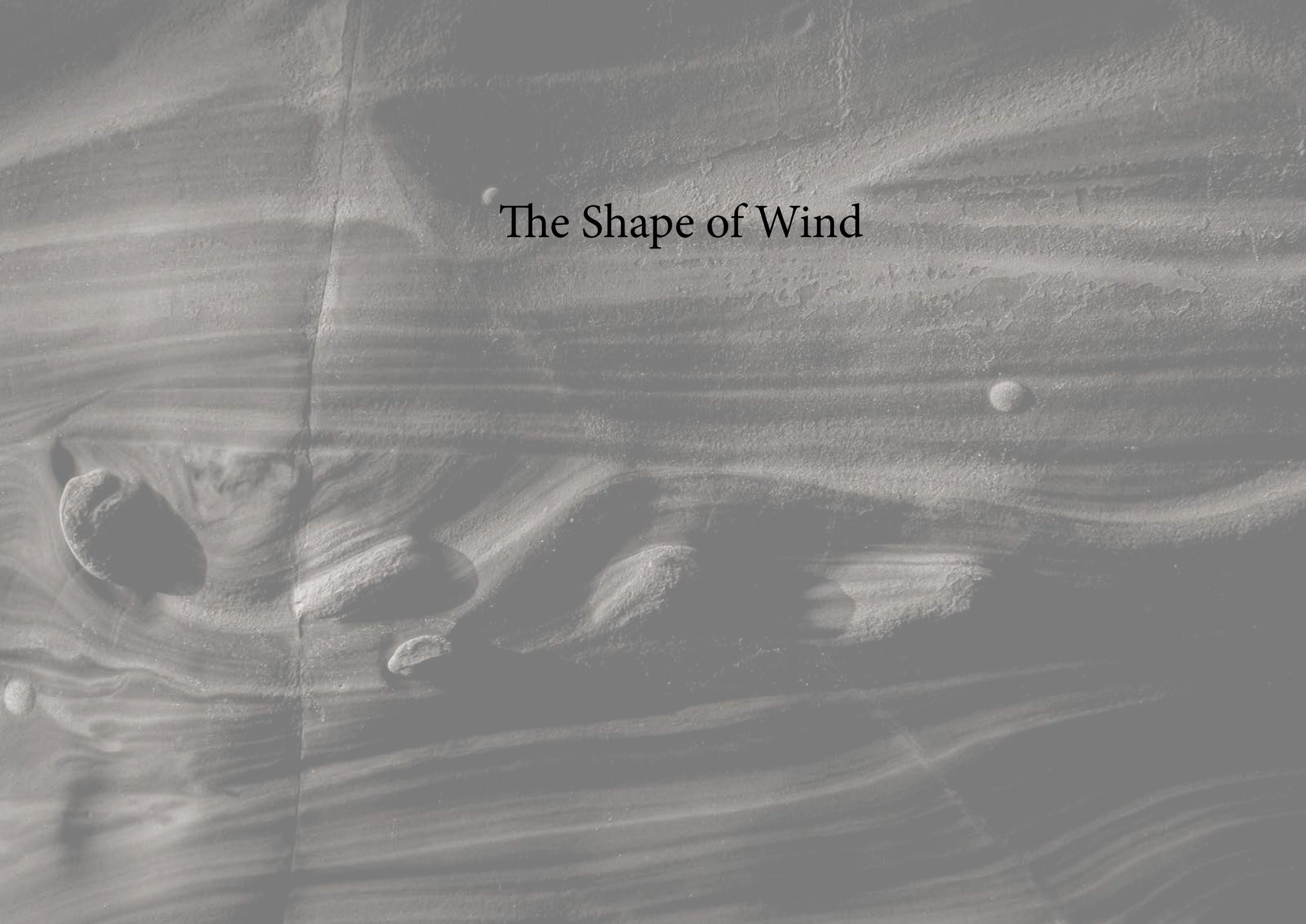
I thought I would bring some of these smaller projects together along with a single image or two and one of my blog entries with some updating it might create a more varied and interesting publication for my visitors. The Journal is my place to show these other smaller projects anything else that I have collected along my Creative Journey.

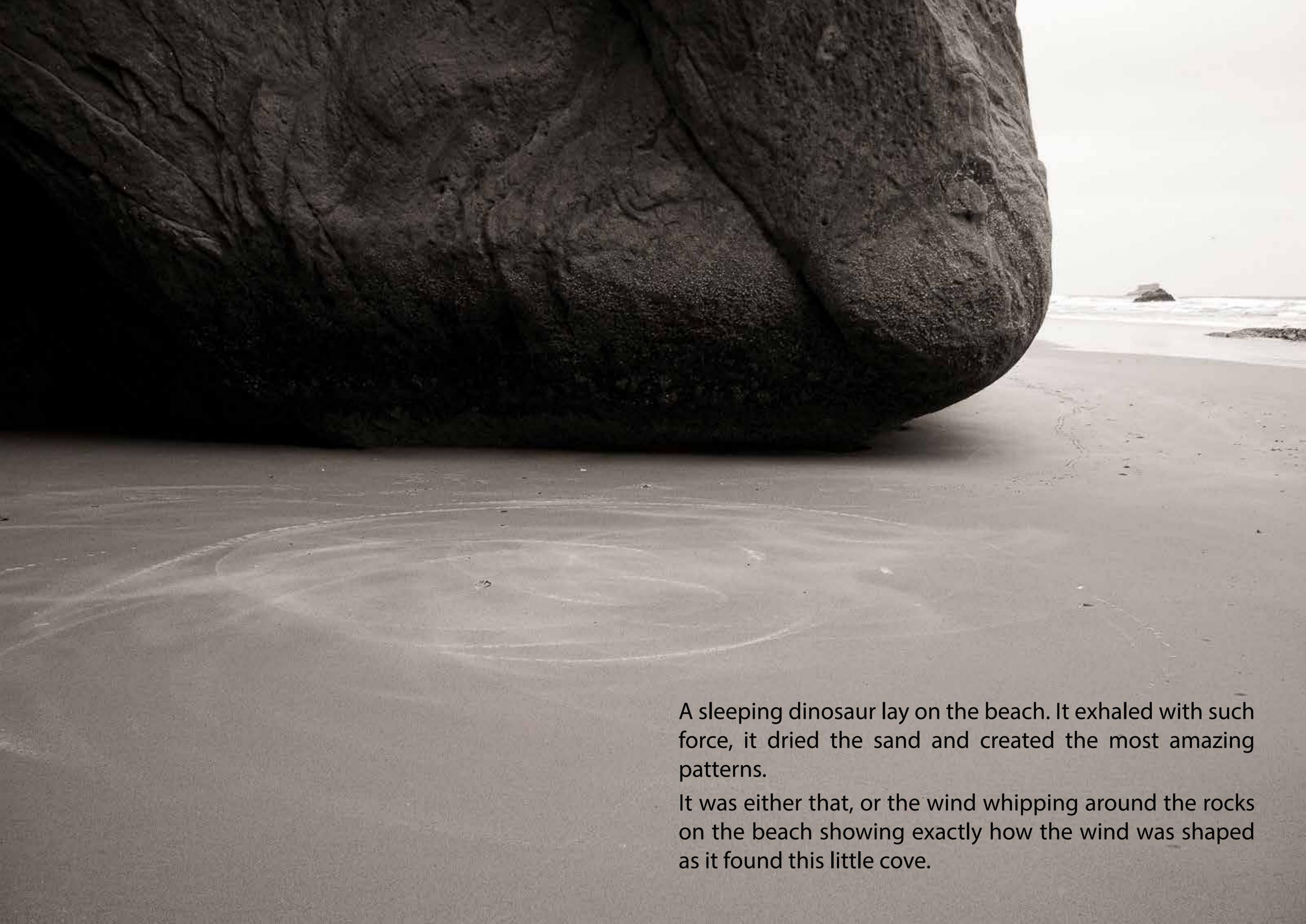
Hope you enjoy the new features.

Parliament Building, London



The Shape of Wind

A black and white photograph of a sand dune. The dune's surface is marked by numerous horizontal ridges and grooves, indicating the direction of wind. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights that emphasize the texture and contours of the sand. The title 'The Shape of Wind' is centered in the upper half of the image in a serif font.



A sleeping dinosaur lay on the beach. It exhaled with such force, it dried the sand and created the most amazing patterns.

It was either that, or the wind whipping around the rocks on the beach showing exactly how the wind was shaped as it found this little cove.







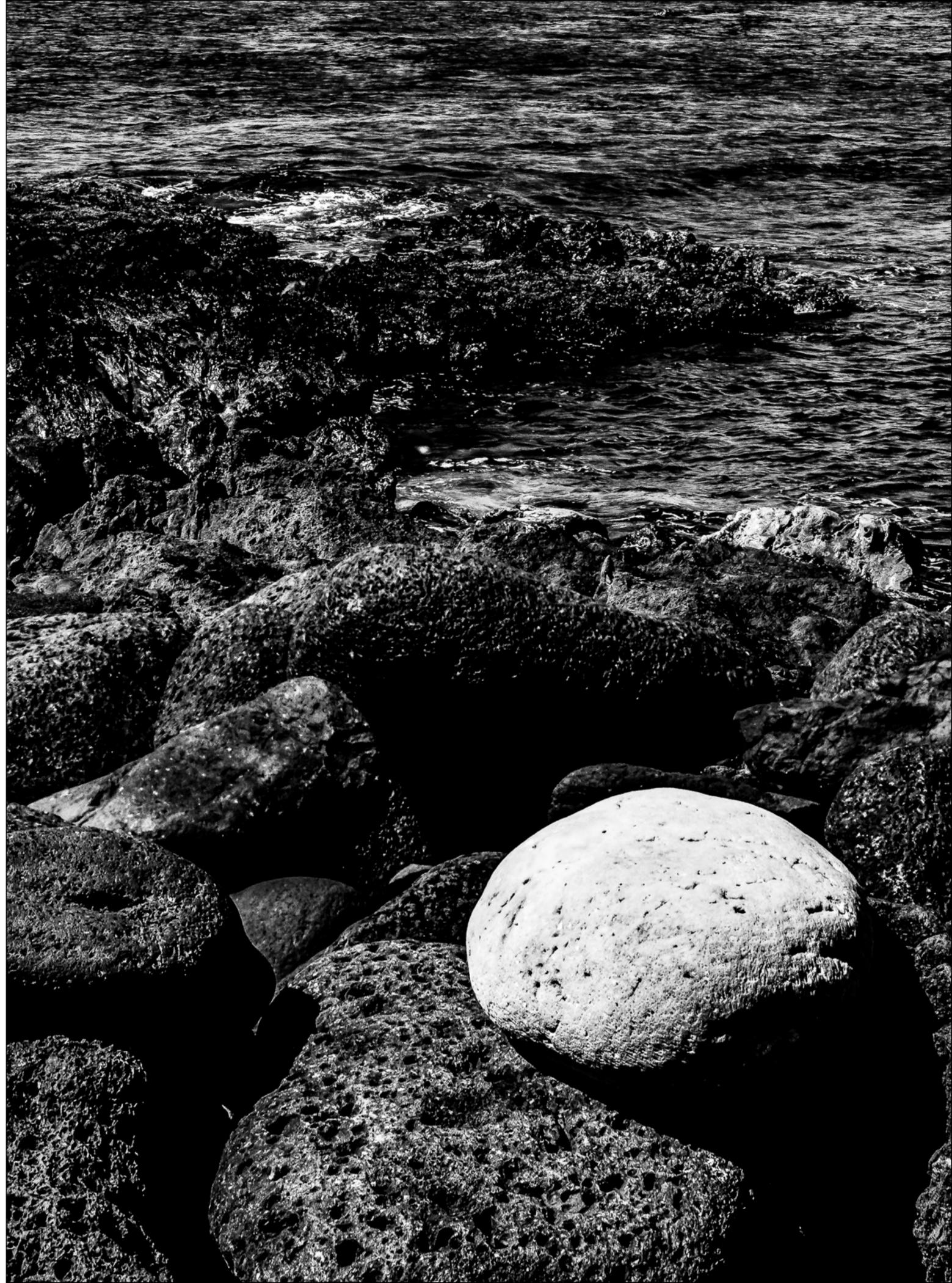




The White Rock

The White Rock

White rocks lay among blackened lava rocks on a beach. The tides and currents play the role of artistic designer using the laws of physics and mechanics to create arrangements that will last until the next tide.















Postcards from the Creative Journey, April 8, 2012



Reenactment, Battle of Bentonville, NC, 1990

These gentlemen organized a Reenactment of the Battle of Bentonville in 1990. Reenactors from both Northern and Southern States came to North Carolina to reenact one of the last land battles of the Civil War.

I spent a few years photographing reenactments wearing period clothes and using my 5x7 view camera. I was always welcome at reenactments because I dressed and looked the part.

This photograph is included in the [Presence of the Past](#) folio on my website.

Great Technique is Humble

Great photographs have great craft and technique, but it's not the reason they are great photographs. They are great because the artist created the work to move you intellectually and emotionally. The craft and technique are just part of the total effort in creating the art. Great technique is humble. It does not draw attention to itself while contributing to the success of the photograph.

The moment that technique begins to strut its stuff the photograph becomes more about the photographer and less about the subject. Getting by the technical tour de force to get to the message is not the path to great photography. What is the first impression of the work? Is it "That makes me feel..." or is it "Look at those great shadow and highlight details? I wonder if it was HDR'd?"

Technical proficiency is not artistic proficiency. An artist needs technical proficiency to be able to create the message he wants to communicate to his audience, but if the message is technical proficiency, the focus of the work is on the artist, not on his audience.

The image features a dark, monochromatic background with a complex, textured appearance. A prominent vertical crease or fold runs down the left side of the frame. The surface is covered in subtle, embossed patterns that resemble ripples or concentric waves, particularly in the lower half. Several small, circular, raised elements are scattered across the surface, some appearing as if they are part of a larger, faintly embossed design. The overall lighting is low, creating deep shadows and highlighting the tactile qualities of the material.

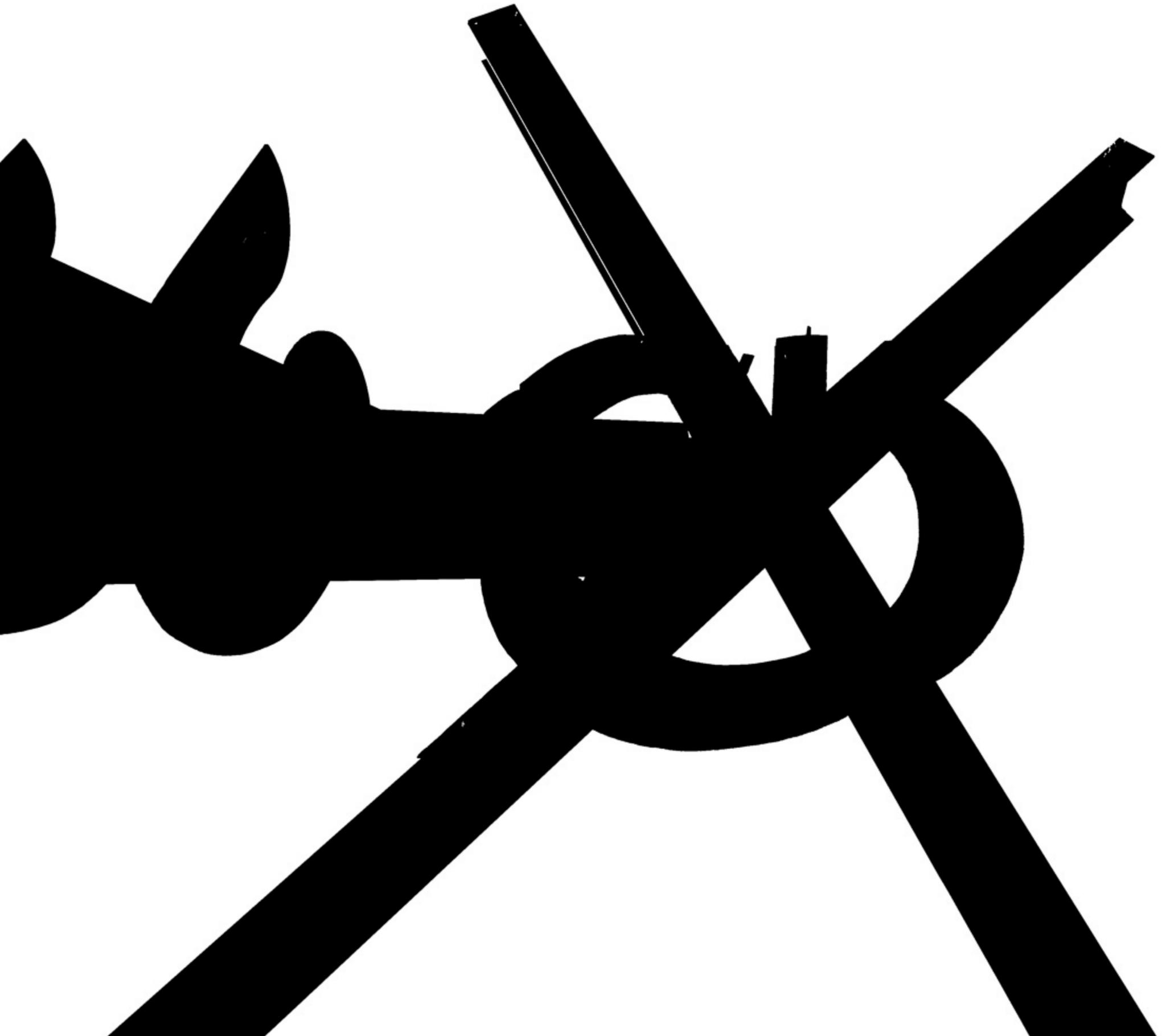
No Fuss

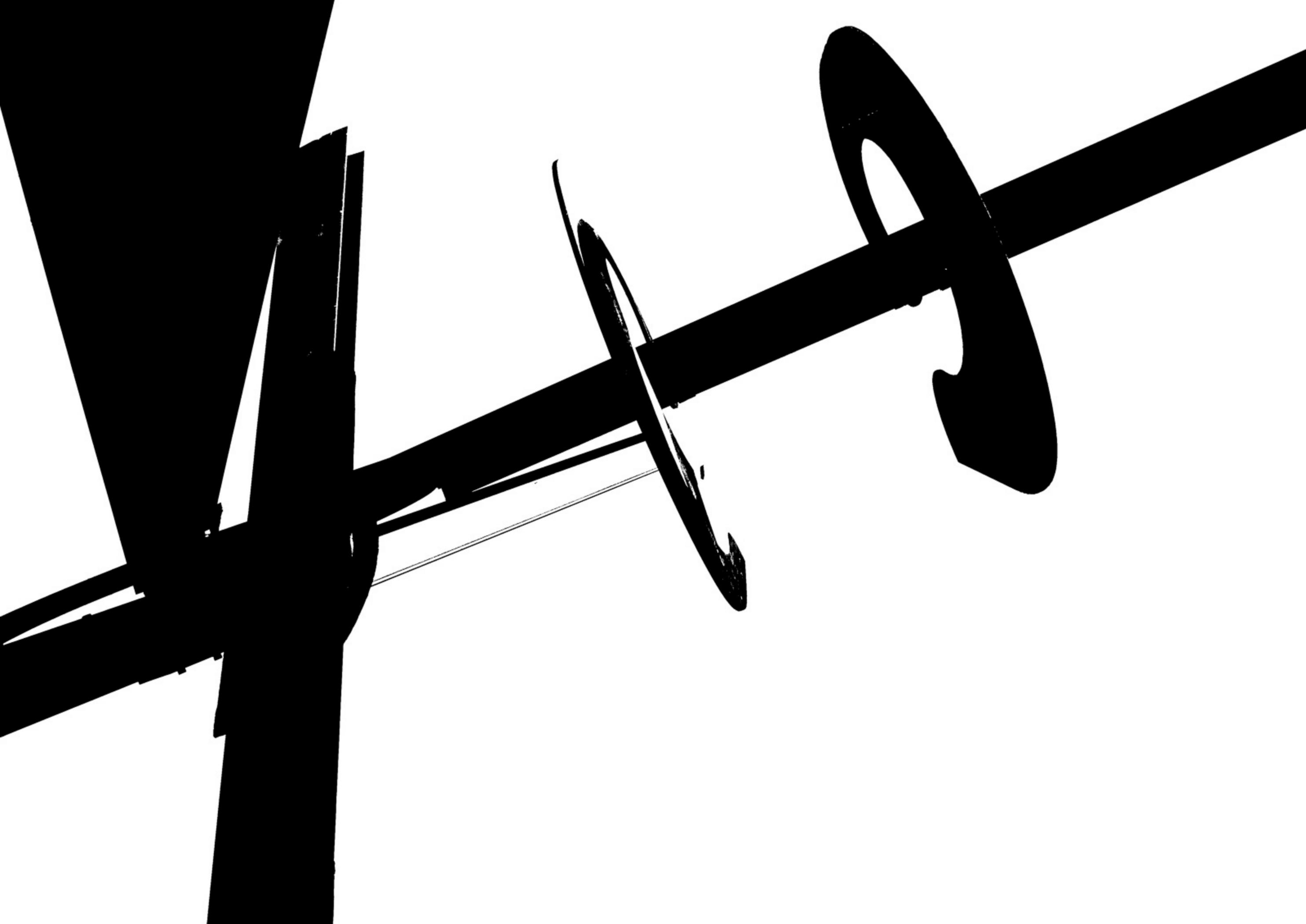
No Fuss

No Fuss. Only the form and none of the distracting details to keep us focused on the form and rhythm of the structure.







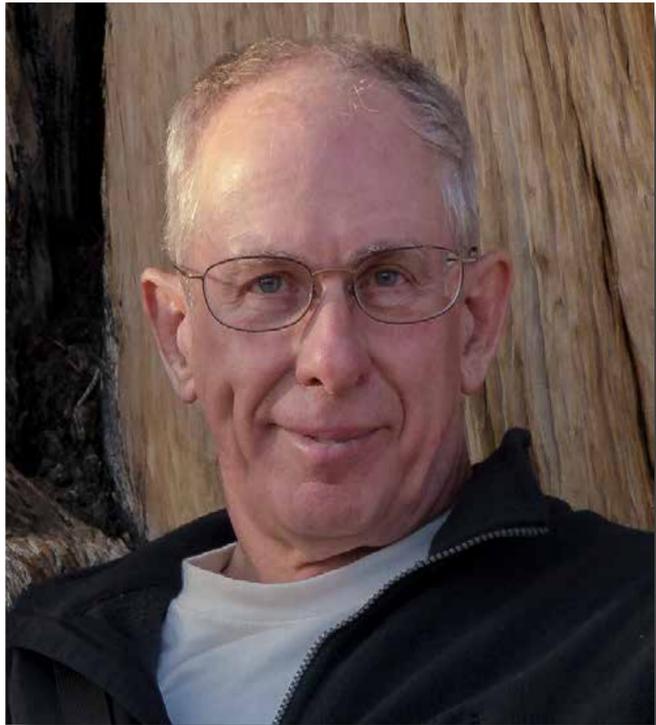












Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

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 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.

COLOPHON

The Journal, April, 2020

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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