

# THE JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

APRIL 2021



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

## APRIL 2021

We're up in the clouds for a little bit, or quite a bit below them when we are surrounded by the yellow and orange leaves of autumn. We'll go indoors and dance with some moveable sculptures and experience the nostalgia for film grain in a very early photographic project.

While the image to the right doesn't fit with any of the topics mentioned in the previous photograph, it's going to get me in the mood for Oregon Coast photographs in a few months.

Beach Rock,  
Bandon, Oregon







The Demands of Autumn



## The Demands of Autumn

Autumn demands your attention on clear days when the leaves have begun to change from green to yellow/orange. The rain has washed the dust off the leaves and the air is crystal clear. The deep greens of the last six months are now orange and yellow. Nature announces the coming dormancy and demands that you photograph the bright colors before they collapse into the drab browns of winter.

































## Six Word Project

We took shelter from the rain.







# The Fieldhouse Project



## The Fieldhouse Project

Without becoming aware the dance began with me caught right in the middle. Sometimes ballet, sometimes jazz, springing, soaring, caught in mid-flight, sometimes standing in repose, hips canted, shoulders tilted in the opposite direction. They danced, without stopping, the camera recording the thrill, the exhilaration, the angles, attitudes and interplay of the dancers whirling across the court. I was caught up in the performance, with camera in hand, I joined the celebration and began photographing my dancing partners.











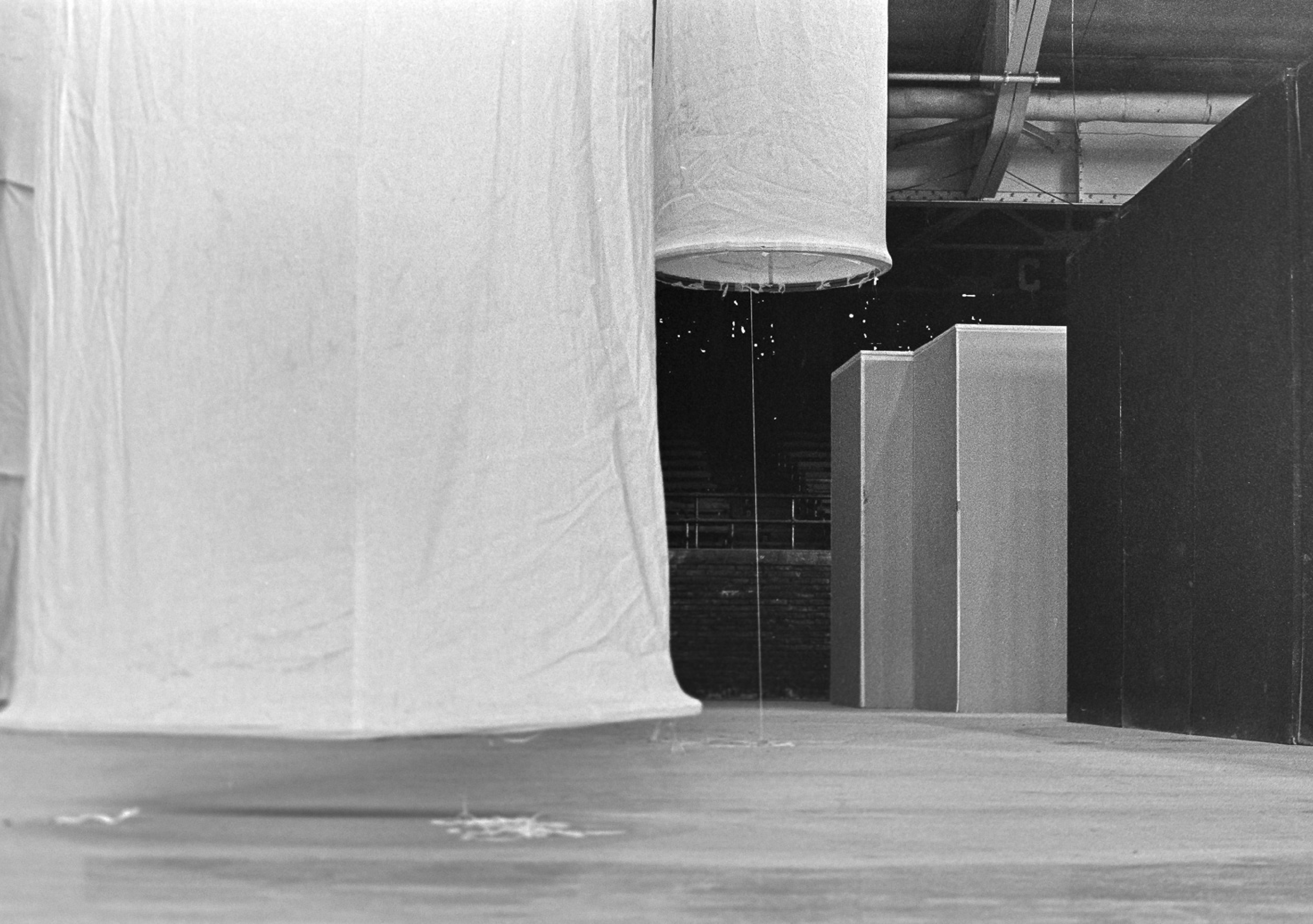




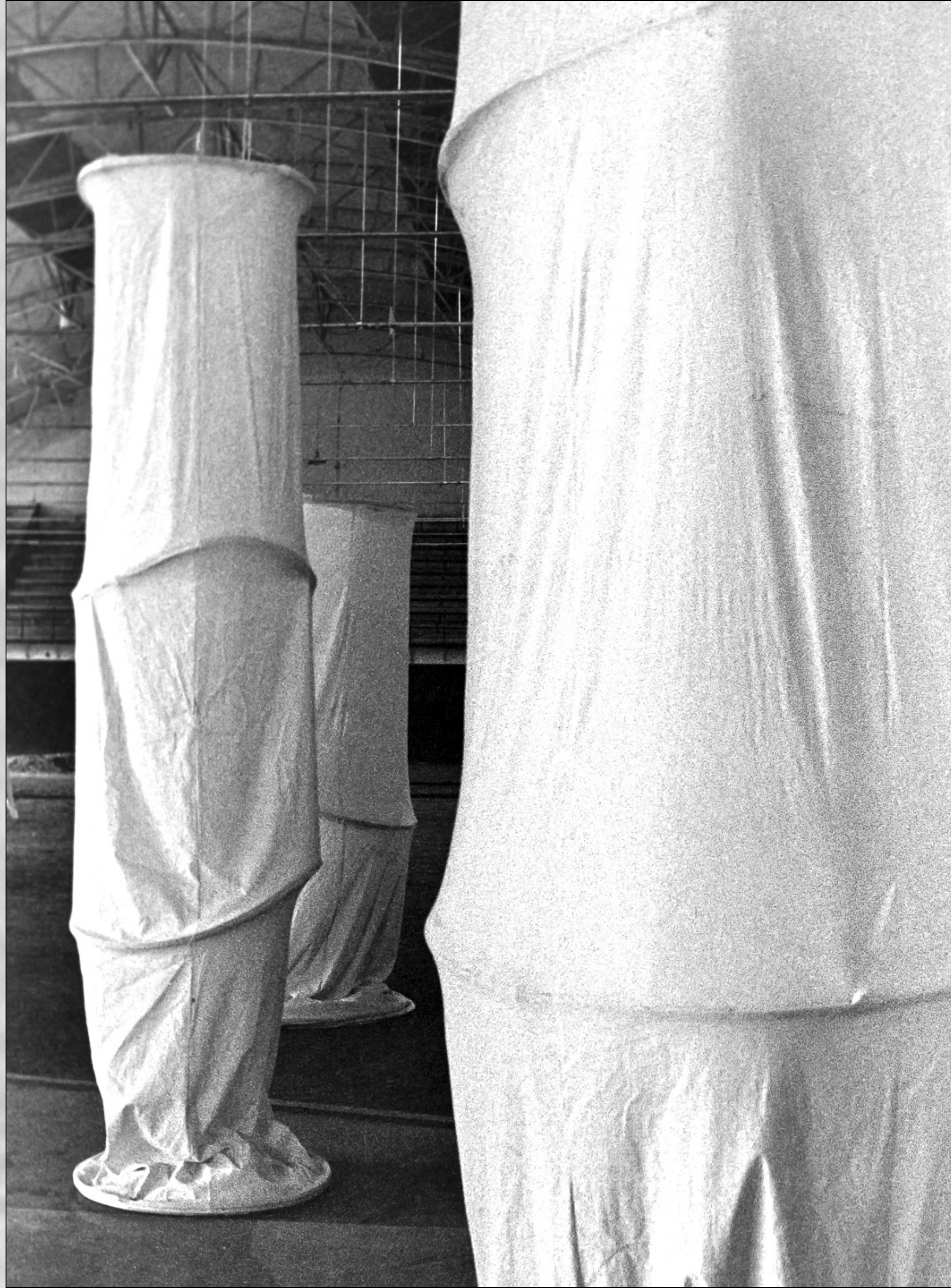














## Six Word Project

Memories and clothes

Were left behind.







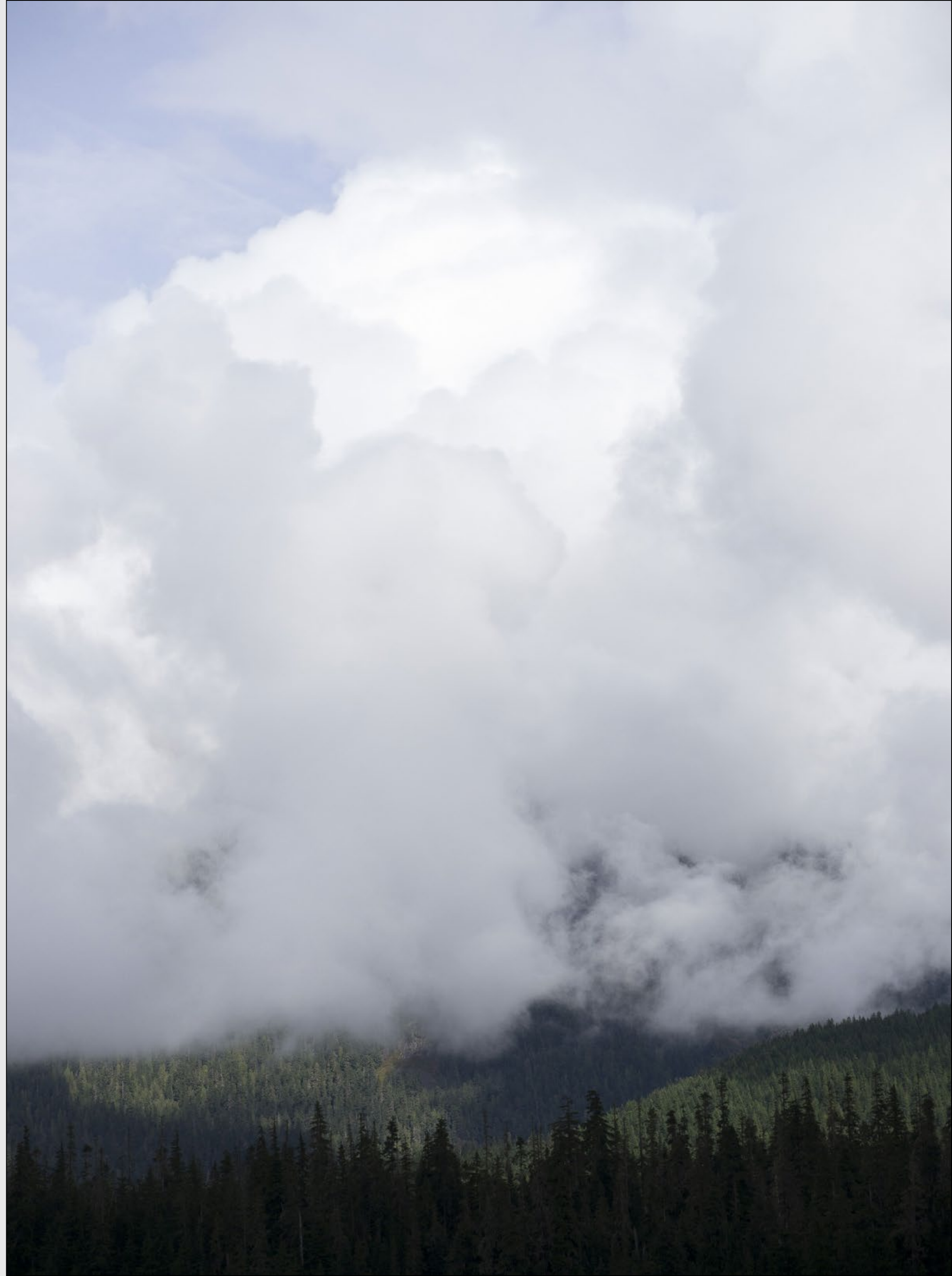
# A Walk Among Clouds



## A Walk Among Clouds

It was a tweener day. We were between the earth and the sky and the rain and the ground. We really wanted to be between the incoming front and the horizon, but we missed that important tweener by only a couple of hours. The vagaries of landscape photography caught us again. At that point the only thing to do is walk among the clouds.

This is the way it is with life; timing is just about everything. Sometimes life will give you everything but what you want for that day. It's up to you to figure out what to do. Sometimes all you can do is walk among the clouds.





















# Postcards from the Creative Journey

June 1, 2014

## The Tough Part of Photography

Today's cameras record crisply focused perfectly exposed image files every single time. Software algorithms smooth out tones, reduce noise and precisely manipulate pixels. Technology provides more and precise control over pixels than we could have ever accomplished trying to manage atoms of silver through mechanical and chemical methods.

This electronic precision makes everybody a technical wizard. It just doesn't take much in the way of practice to get truly exceptional results if you pay attention to the rudiments of digital photo processing. In fact, it's almost embarrassingly easy for the novice to make technically perfect photographic prints in the digital world.

With the physical side of digital photography almost a completely level playing field, why are some folks still better than the rest? Because better photographers are better at doing the tough part of photography. The tough part of photography has been the same thing since Daguerre coated his first plate— and that's figuring out what to put in front of the camera. No matter how technically perfect the photograph is, it's not going to be good if you can't communicate your intention to the audience. Creating the content that excites the viewer is the tough part of photography.

It always has been and always will be that way.







*Spring at the Biltmore House in Asheville, NC.*

## A Few Closing Words

### The Demands of Autumn

Yes, I continue to feed my addiction to low art photographs, a sentimental paean to the colors of autumn. We can always add thoughts about the significance of the last hurrah of the growing season before winter's doldrums take control of the land. But, deep down inside I still like to make pretty pictures. If I keep showing photographs such as these I might have my artistic license revoked.

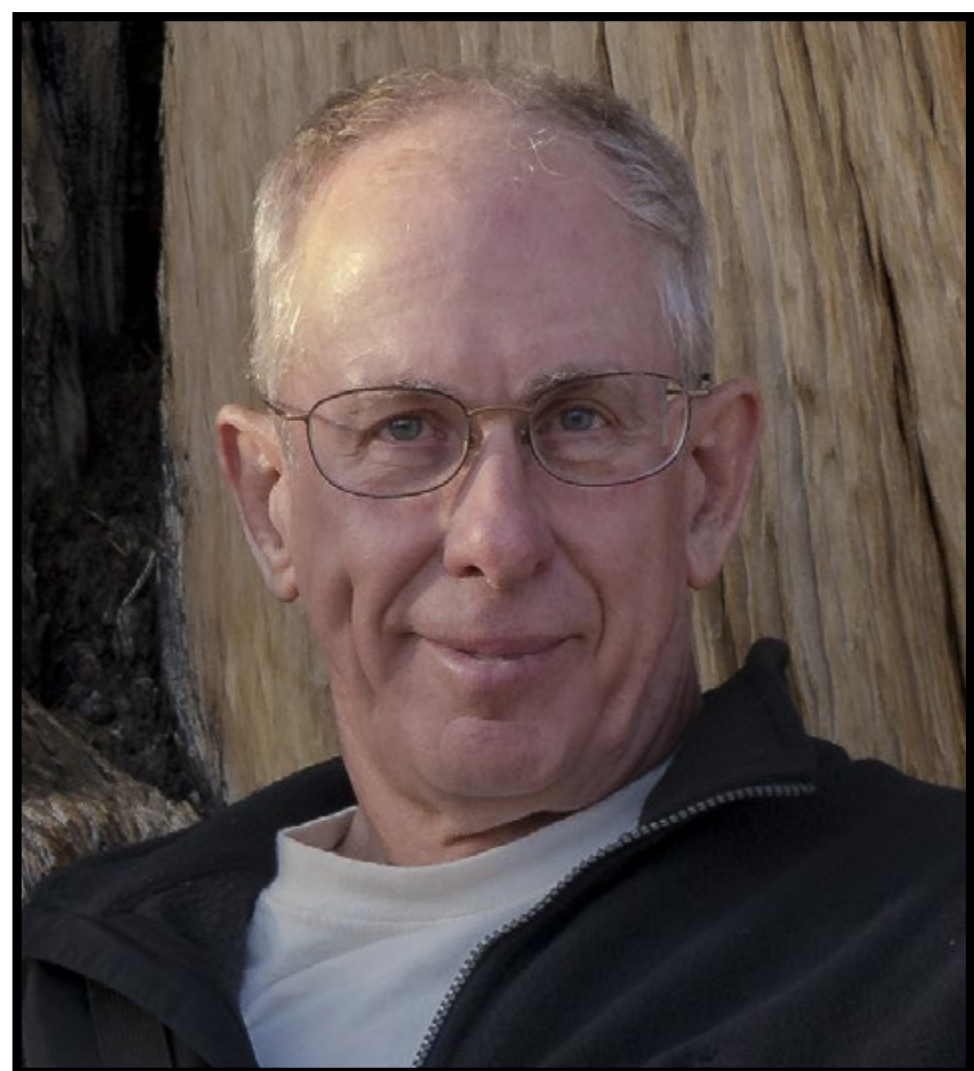
### The Fieldhouse Project

The Fieldhouse Project is the oldest set of photographs I have published to date. These are student photographs from 1974. A friend created a huge installation structure in the (almost) abandoned Old Field House at Notre Dame. I decided to photograph the sculptures as part of my photography class. These photographs finally made it to a completed project almost fifty years later.

### A Walk Among Clouds

A Walk Among Clouds came from a trip to Austin Pass one afternoon. We wanted to get there to photograph the front coming over the mountains. We missed that scenario and stayed there for a little while to take a short walk among the clouds.





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*, *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.

## COLOPHON

The Journal, April 2021

*Joe Lipka*

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

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