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THE JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

MAY 2020

Here's the next experiment with a new phototographic publication. So far the recipe includes a selection of projects, seasoned with a few single image stories, blended with a blog post and topped off with with a smidgen of humor.

Enjoy.

Bicycle Parking, Amsterdam



A black and white photograph of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, there's a small, dark, rectangular object, possibly a piece of wood or a small building, partially buried in the snow. The middle ground features rolling sand dunes covered in a layer of snow. Several clumps of tall, thin grass or reeds are scattered across the dunes, some standing upright and others leaning over. The background is a vast, flat expanse of snow under a pale, overcast sky. The overall tone is quiet and desolate.

CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

Closed for the Winter

The temperature was far below freezing in Baotou, Inner Mongolia. None the less, we left the comfort of our hotel and headed across the street to photograph the park. The Amusement rides, were, of course closed for the winter, bearing a light mantle of snow rather than little children.





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There's Always Hope

Many years ago I was playing golf at the Waterville Golf Course in the West of Ireland. The wind is always a factor on the seaside links. The day I played was no exception. On one shot the wind was swirling about, randomly changing direction and velocity. I asked Seamus, my caddy, for advice on how to play the shot. His response was "Hitch yer five ahrn an' hope."

All these years I've remembered his advice to "hit a five ahrn an' hope" when I'm not sure what to do. The answer is to make the decision, take action and not worry too much about the consequences.

The photograph above is the twelfth hole, named "Tranquility." If you have trouble finding the fairway, that's OK, I had trouble finding it, too.

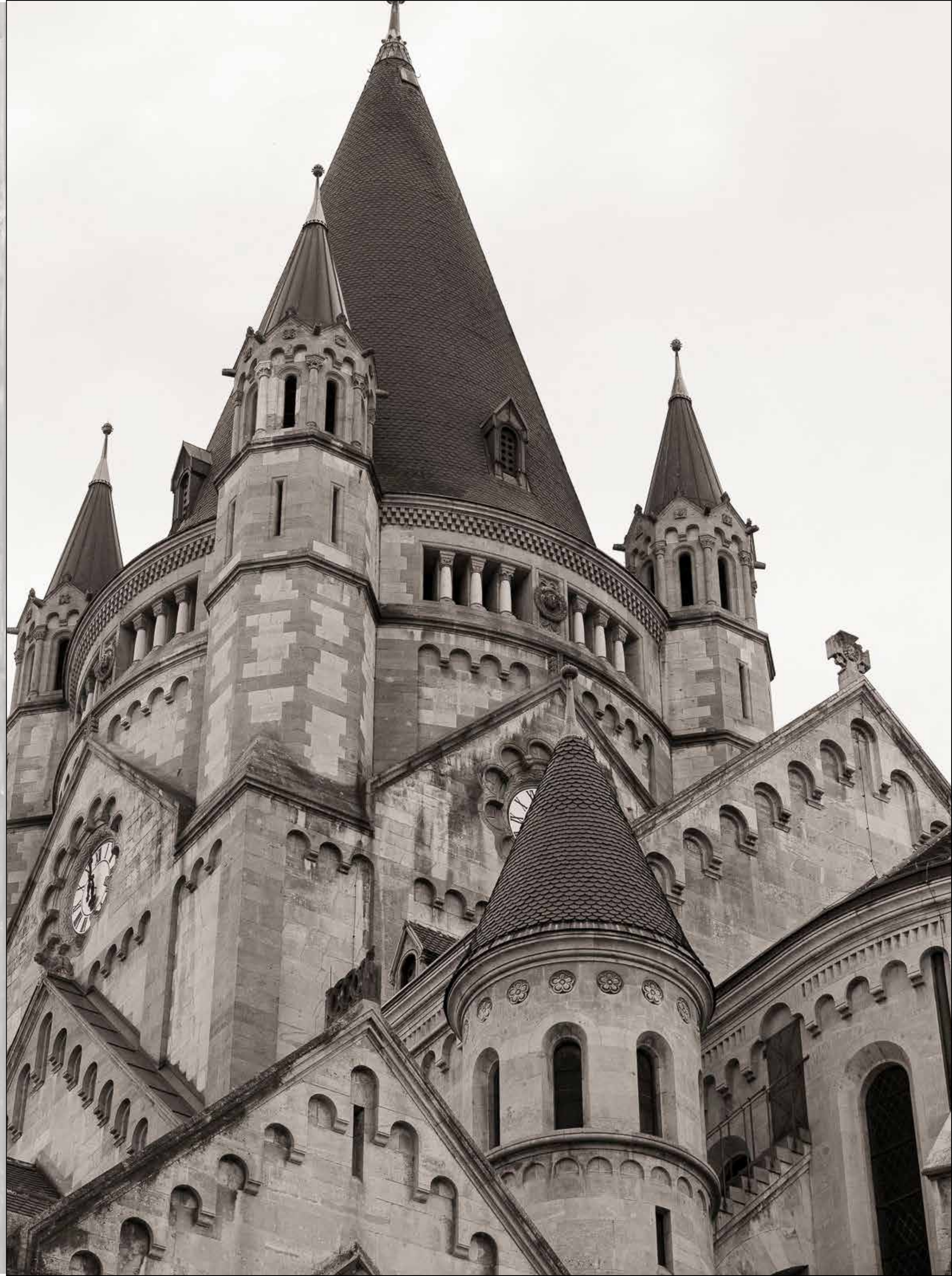


The First Church of Escher

The First Church of Escher

I admired the steeples and roofline of the church from the river's edge. The church was fenced in and had no signs. I wondered what type of church it was. As I walked around the church, the rooflines became a jumble of angles, planes and forms. I thought of the architectural drawings of M.C. Escher and wondered if he had a hand in the design.

Months later when I rediscovered the images in LightRoom, I took to Google Maps and discovered the Church was St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Vienna, Austria.















Postcards from the Creative Journey November 18, 2012



The Gesture

I made these photographs at two different places. One is a Catholic University in the Midwestern United States. The other in a Buddhist Temple in Mongolia. Both pilgrims journeyed to a Holy Place to pray. I was there with my camera both times. The odds of me being at two widely disparate locations to capture both moments are astronomically small.

I don't know what to write about these photographs.



Seven years later and I still not completely sure what to say about a photograph of faith. There are many ways to pray to our chosen deity and these two people separated by so much show the same form. Humans need to rely on a higher power to answer the questions they can't answer, to plead for support in difficult situations and give thanks for answered prayers.

Only their God knows the contents of their heart and needs. I hope their prayers were answered.



Family Tree

Family Tree Portraits

The family vacation photograph is an American Standard. I would imagine, it's probably not just American but every family wants to have a record of being someplace special.

So it is with families of trees. Everyone lined up for the camera, except that sometimes Mom and Dad have trouble controlling the small ones that run all over the place and are lucky if they are caught in the frame.

















Time on My Hands

I remember my Aunt Mary Catherine telling me that idle hands are the Devil's playground. Well, my hands have been idle for a while.

Members of the Getty Museum re-created famous artworks with the things they had at home and had no serious intent to create an actual piece of art.

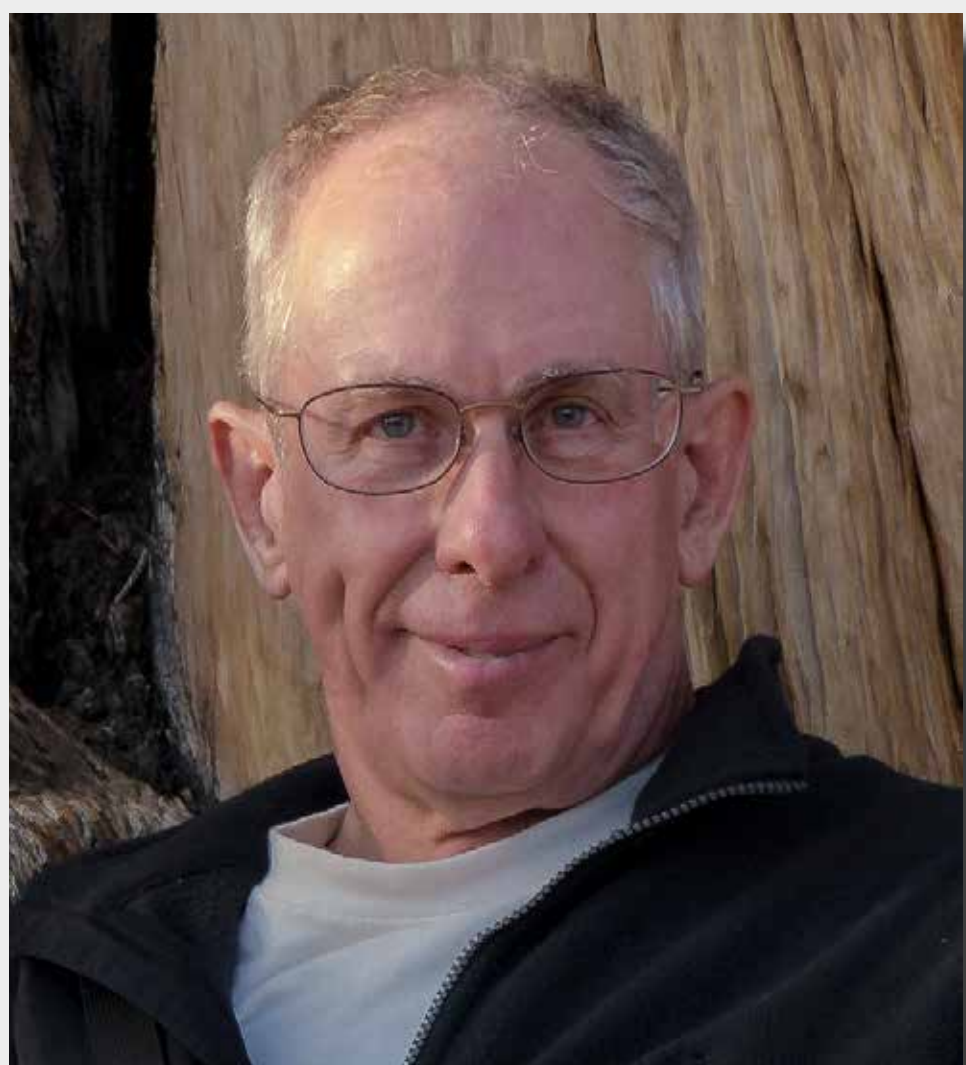
Well, why not? I had a pepper, a funnel and a few moments one morning.

I would like to let you know this little photograph was a fun project and I had no serious intent about creating an actual piece of art.

I mean, really, who would think that photographing a pepper in a funnel could actually be art?



Pepper Number_1190526-2



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

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Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

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