

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JANUARY 2025

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL JANUARY 2025



I didn't plan it this way, but this edition of The Lipka Journal has a decidedly aquatic look. We look down at the abstract patterns during the feeding frenzy of the koi. The traditional desert landscape of the American Southwest turned slightly askew when the foreground is water. Finally, we look at the tools of the trade of Lobstermen on the coast of Maine. Anchors aweigh and cast off, matey.



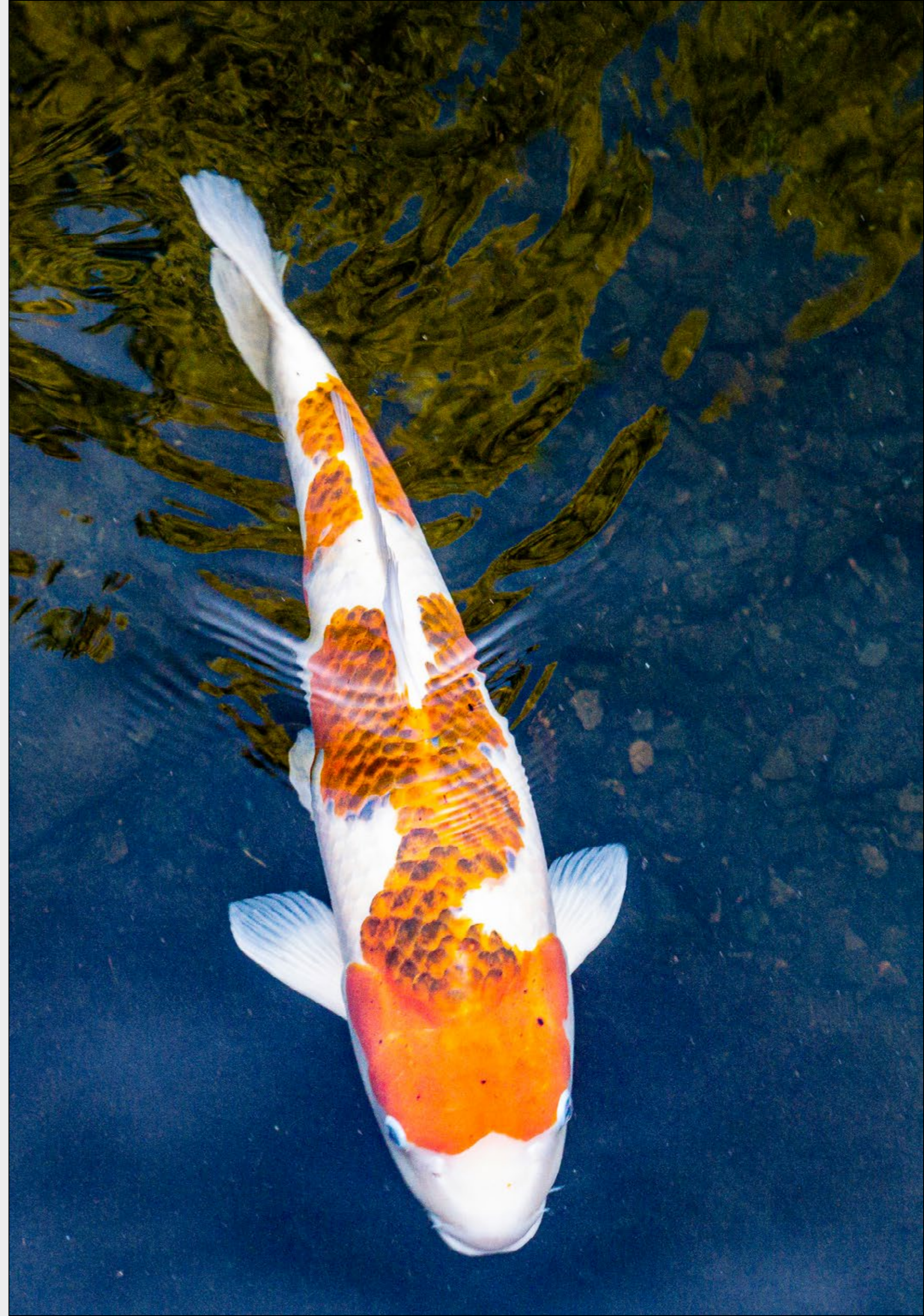
Feeding Time

Feeding Time

Aquariums are supposed to be very relaxing and stress relieving. That's why you might see a nice aquarium at your dentist's office. The fish swimming around smoothly, effortlessly and silently are supposed to calm us.

Watching Koi is equally relaxing. Until those food pellets hit the water. Then it gets downright Darwinian. Smooth elegant activities are replaced with twisting and bashing in order to compete for food. We silently cheer for our favorite fish to get more than their share of food.

We are distant aliens watching the struggle for survival in a different realm. I wonder if there are others out there observing us in the same way.















A Single Picture and (Mostly True) Story



Emma loved her stuffed dinosaur named Pinky. She hugged her oversized sauropod every night as she fell asleep. At the beach she looked down and saw the big egg shape and she immediately knew it just had to be a dinosaur egg. She asked her Daddy to pick up the big pink egg and take it home because she knew when it hatched Pinky would have a playmate.

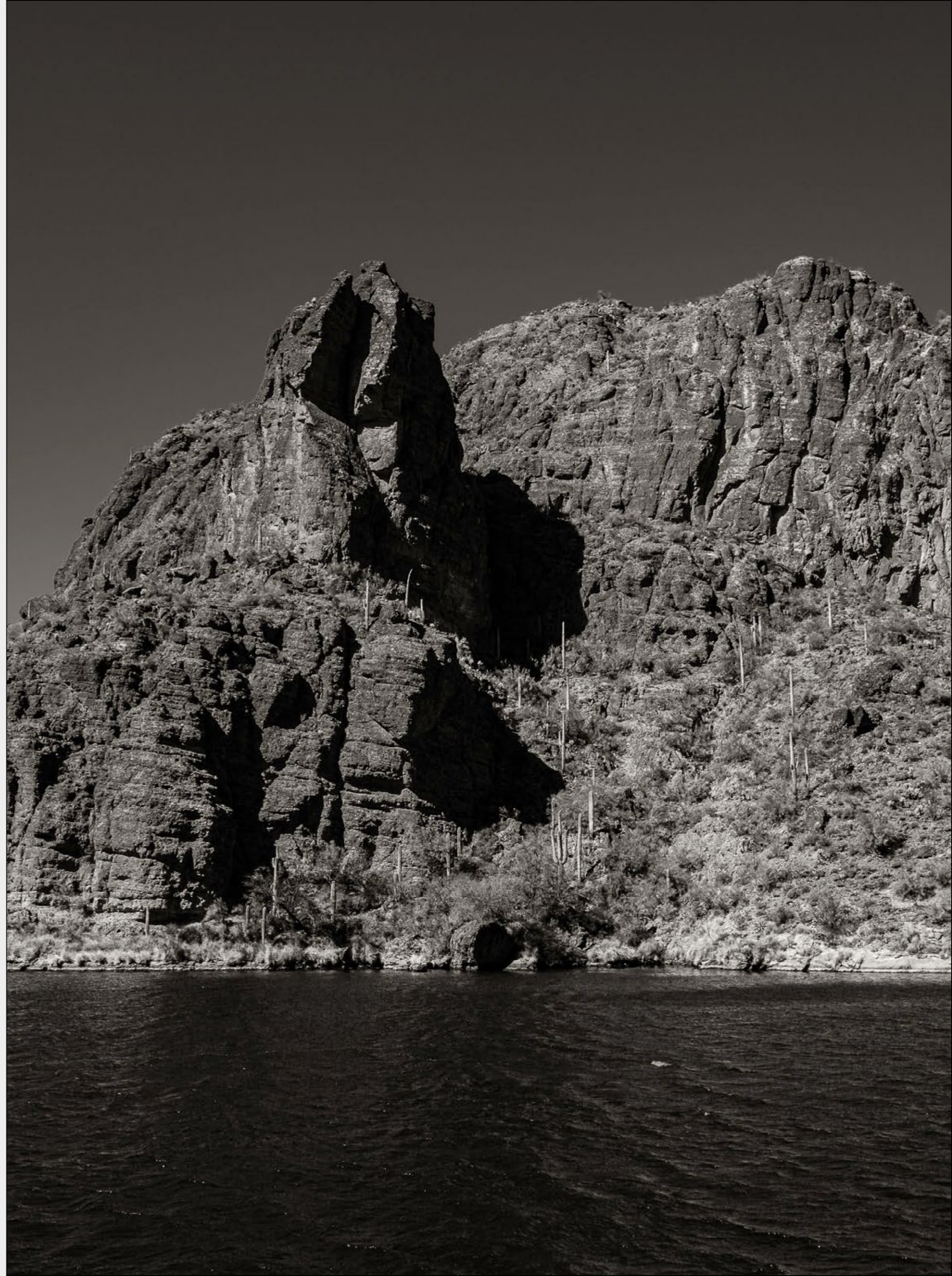
Not Expected



Not Expected

Shattered expectations are usually pretty noisy. We have expectations about how things are supposed to turn out, and when that doesn't happen, we might be amused, agitated, or just resigned to having our dream not come true. We drive out into the desert to make photographs, and the subject meets our expectations, the skies are clear but the entire foreground is water. In the desert.

Our photographic expectations are destroyed. The camera accompanied us on the trip, so our expectation is to make photographs. I just didn't expect to have so much water in the desert landscape.



















Prologue:
A Six Word Story

How many generations climbed these stairs?





DODGE

MADE IN U.S.A.

DODGE

MAINE SEP
LOBSTAR
ANTIQUE AUTO

Lobstah

Finding what's yours. We all have ways to identify what is ours. We have our names, a way to identify our families, our states and even our countries. We have serial numbers, to identify large purchases as ours. If we are a rancher, we have our brand to identify our cattle and to discourage rustlers from making off with something that is ours. It's a human thing, we like to make sure that we can reap the efforts of our work.

It's the same with the Lobstermen of Maine. Their lines of lobster traps are identified by distinct buoys. It denotes their work, their area and what is theirs. It's the way they find what is theirs.

















Postcards from the Creative Journey



I was reading an essay by Guy Tal in which he stated that we had many more people studying philosophy than we had philosophers. That got me to thinking about the difference between the study of _____ and the practice of _____. My education was in engineering. I did not particularly like the study of engineering, but once I began the practice of engineering, I loved being able to engineer the repair of complicated equipment. I think the same holds true for photography. Looking at photographs versus going out and making photographs are two very different activities. I know I like making photographs a lot more than looking at them.

JOE



Rick Blaine

Casablanca,

Morocco

A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Feeding Time

I've spent only a few wonderful afternoons in Portland Oregon's Japanese Garden. It is a wonderful refuge from the bustle of city life as well as one of the most fertile photographic hunting grounds for my style of photography. I have created many aesthetically successful projects with images from that place. As photographers we rarely point our cameras down. It's a shame. There are so many beautiful things in front of us when we look down; especially if there are Koi there.



Not Expected

Rocks, Cactus, and scrub. It's what you expect in the Desert Southwest when making landscape photographs. The twist comes when the foreground is water. Not dry streams, but a real lake. Canyon Lake, to be exact. It's east of Phoenix and it's a twisty turning drive out there. Not quite Road to Hana twisty, but it's pretty close.

I found it odd to be photographing the Desert Southwest from the middle of a lake on a cruise boat. It was supposed to be a touristy outing, but sometimes the art somehow elbows its way in and you have to make photographs.



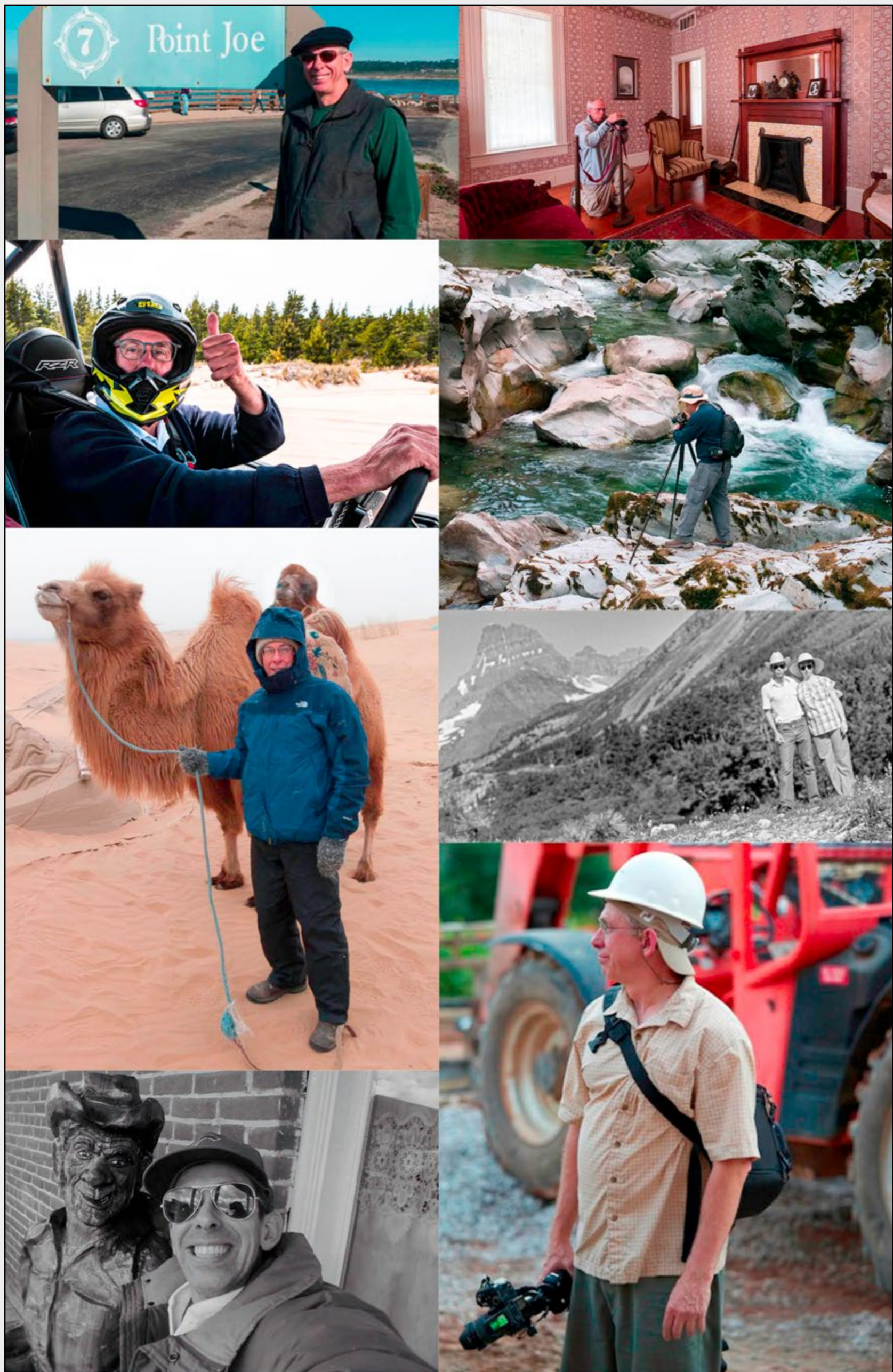
Lobstah

This project is from my second trip to Mount Desert Island, home to Acadia National Park. There are a lot more places and things on the island than the Park. Because of Maine's complex coastline there are many small harbors for lobstermen to moor their boats and process their catch. I had the chance to stop by a small harbor and spend the morning photographing.



"Postcards"

I began blogging fifteen years ago, sharing my thoughts on photography religiously (that would be on Sunday mornings). Re-posts from the blog began showing up in The Lipka Journal when I began in April 2020. I've decided to slow down a bit and end the now twice weekly blog. Now, one new Postcard will be published with each new issue of The Lipka Journal. With the change I'm having a little bit of fun with the graphic elements and making the postcards look like postcards.



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, now publishes new content as part of *The Lipka Journal*.

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, January, 2025

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

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