THE LIPKA JOURNAL

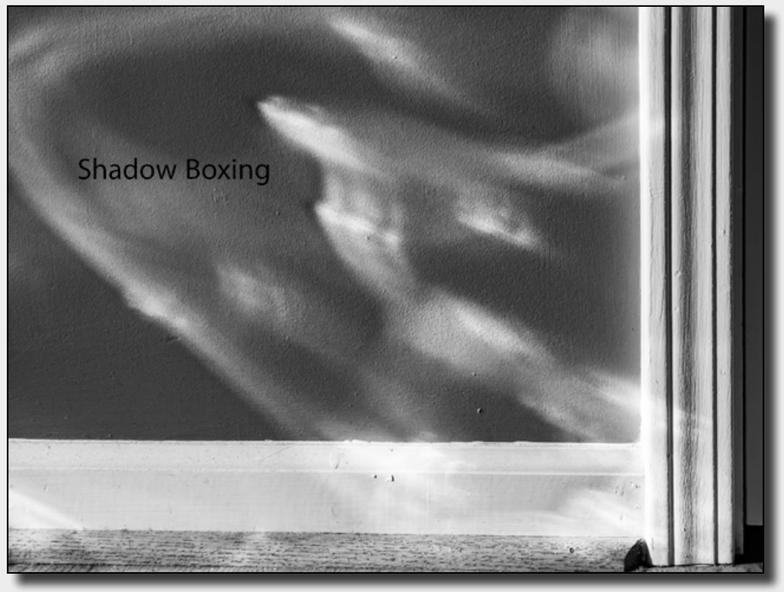
A PHOTO EZINE WITH

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

NUMBER 080 NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome to the Lipka Journal November 2026







It's about a different way of seeing in this month's Lipka Journal. We're starting with beautiful images that fall short of that grand landscape aesthetic. It's surprisingly tough to make a bad picture out West, but I gave it my best shot (not sorry about the pun). For penance, I grounded myself which resulted in making photographs of shadows at home. A fun exercise in composition. Lastly I look at Ordinary Places that were anything but ordinary in the past.

A Little Bit Short



A Little Bit Short

“You couldn’t make a bad photo here if you tried.”

Challenge accepted.

My challenge was to come up with images that are not exactly complete failures, but nowhere near what I would proudly claim as my best. Something that comes up a little bit short in the aesthetics department. The resulting images are inconvenient, with enough excess distractions to make them not presentable They would require a great amount of editing, perfecting, retouching, rectification and massive edge cleanup. They could be “fixed in post” but they may not be worthy of the effort required to make them “keepers.”

Just try to imagine them without the obvious intrusions and it will be just fine.








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STOP

A Mostly True Story

We stopped at a hotel in Germany for a one-night stay. I entered the hotel's lobby and walked up to the reception desk. The young desk clerk was on the phone speaking to someone in German. I neither understand nor speak German, so I was just listening to sounds he made. His rhythm, cadence of words, and the precision of his pronunciation entranced me.

He spoke words, but I heard the music of JS Bach and felt the Baroque World.



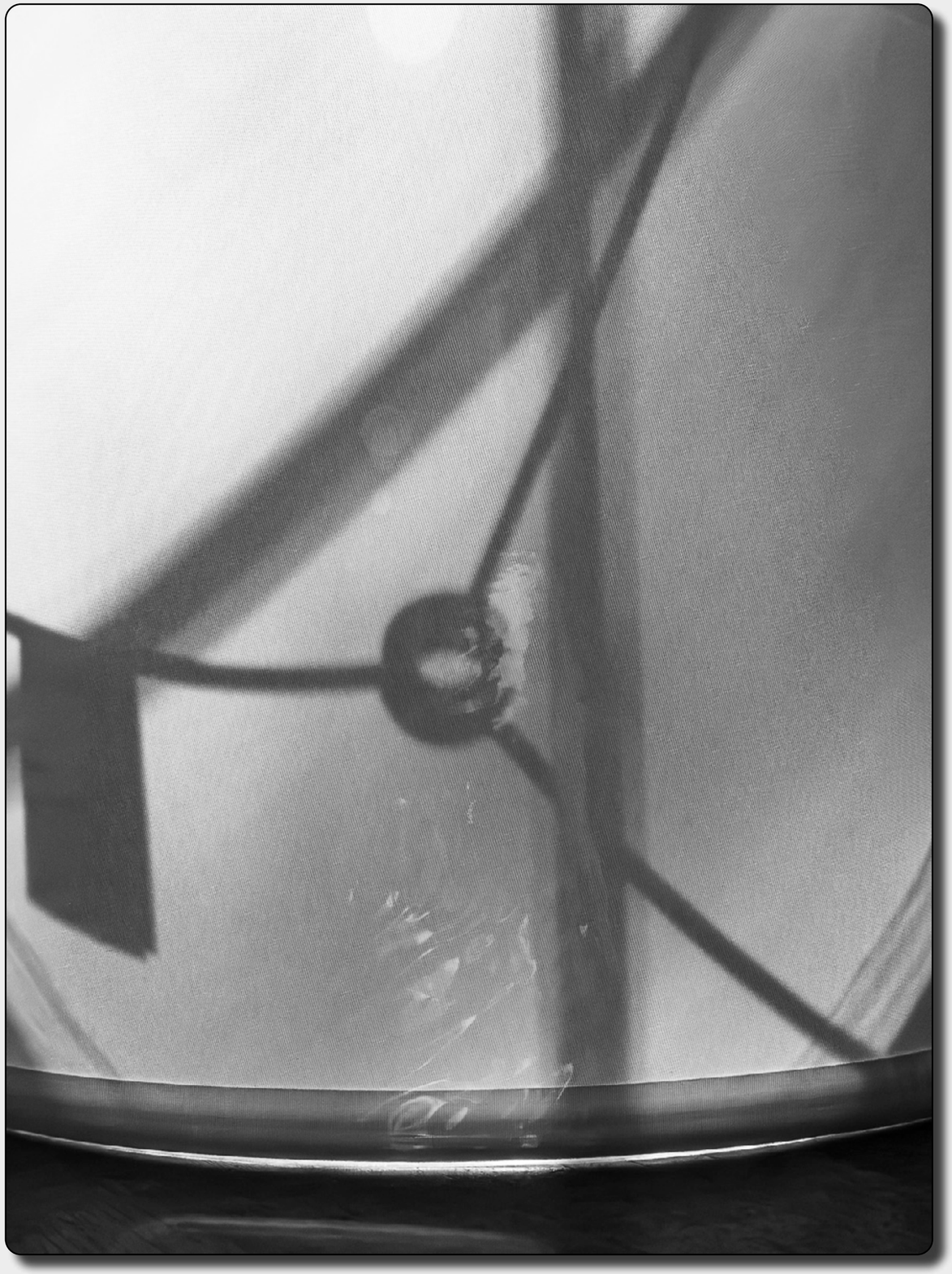
Shadow Boxing

Shadow Boxing

When a boxer doesn't have a sparring partner and wants to practice, he will work through his combinations and watch the shadows on the wall to evaluate his moves. It had been a while since I photographed, so some visual exercises were necessary, but didn't want to go through the effort of mounting a full scale photographic expedition to anywhere outside of the house.

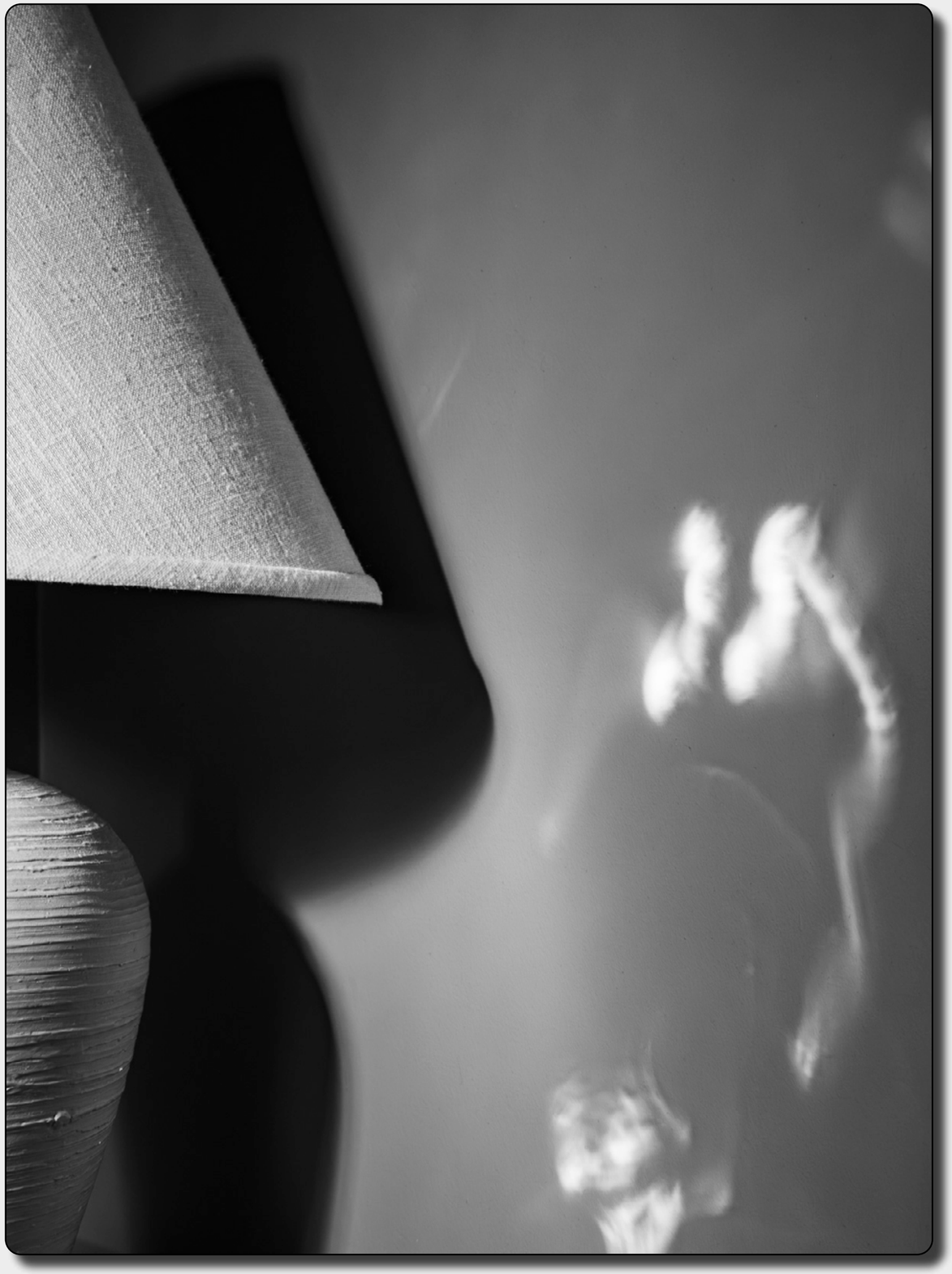
Sometimes, there is no great artistic project to be completed, just some visual exercises to keep the eye sharp.



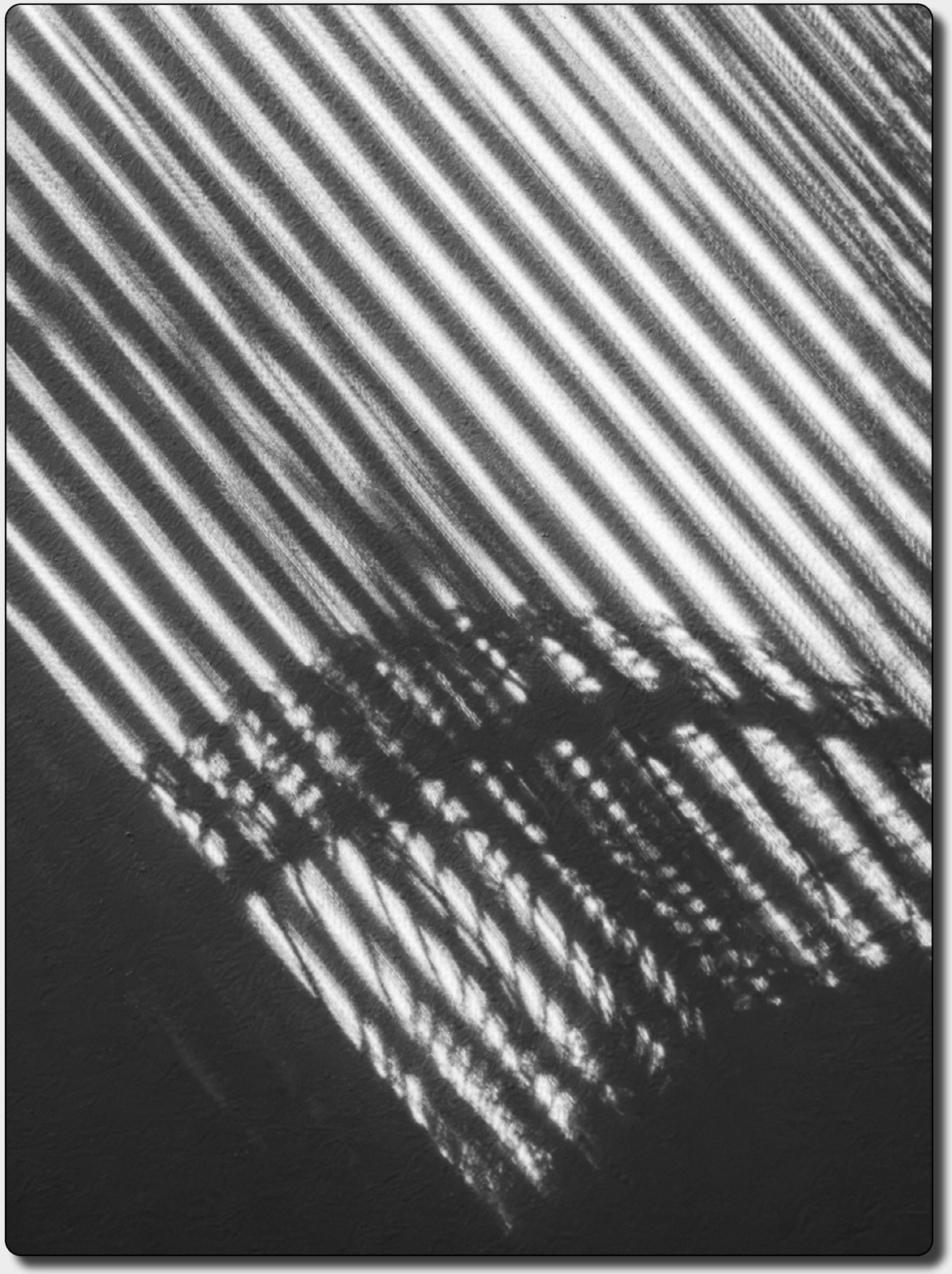






















Something was going to happen soon.

Prologue: A photo and six words.



Ordinary Places

Ordinary Places

These are landscapes of Ordinary Places. A country lane, a beach, a farmer's field. These are quiet images of Ordinary Places. They are a far cry from the dramatic landscapes of the American West I am used to sharing in the Lipka Journal. These Ordinary Places are different from each other, but I they share a common experience; a reverent silence. Soft footfalls and quiet conversation are the order of the day. There is no command to do so, it is something we feel when walking in these Ordinary Places.







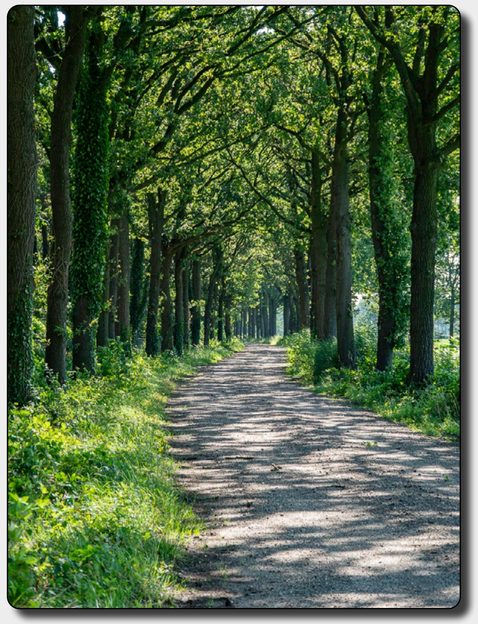




Ordinary Places



Omaha Beach, Normandy, France



Hell's Highway, Netherlands



An Entrance to Utah Beach, Normandy, France



Crossroads, Netherlands



Brecourt Manor, Normandy, France



Bois Jacque, Bastogne, Belgium



American Cemetery, Belgium

Ordinary Places

Buried here are some of the young men who gave their lives in France and Belgium to defeat a truly evil empire. They will remain away from home forever. They are the last men to die in la and that has been fought over for millennia. This is why today's Ordinary Places are far from ordinary

Postcards from the Creative Journey



Dear Tony,

Well, it happened again! Remember when I told you if an image just doesn't fit in a project, it goes "thunk," and the sequence of images grinds to a halt. When going through the visual exercises in "Shadow Boxing", I caused myself this little problem. Here is an image that is most engaging but does not fit into the shadows project at all because it's a subtle color image, not high contrast black and white.

Rather than "eliminate" the problem, I've found it a new home as part of this postcard and I hope you enjoy it.

JOE



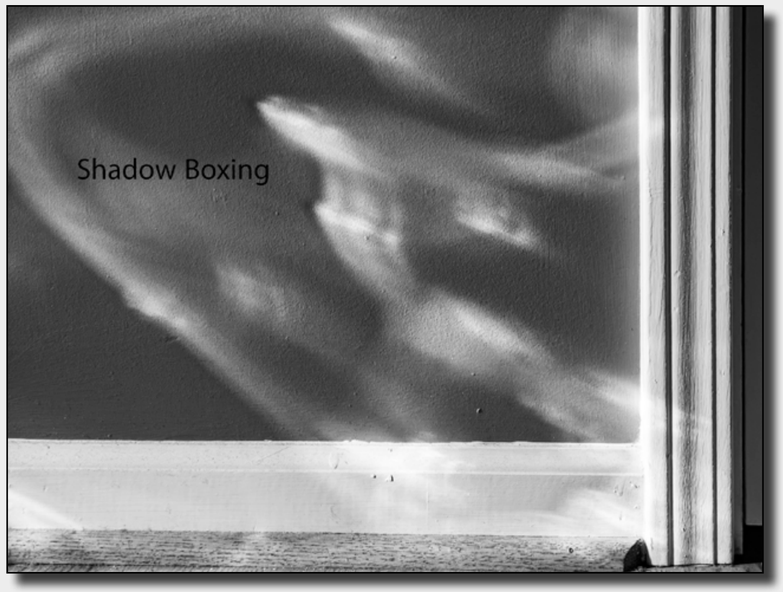
Tony Soprano

633 Stagtrail Rd

N. Caldwell, NJ

A Few Words At the End of the Journal







A Little Bit Short

Back in the 1980's "Quality" was the management Mantra. Quality was defined as meeting requirements. This Challenge was to find images that just didn't quite make it to the level of clean composition. It was a fun exercise trying to not quite hit the target.

If you train yourself to find "the best compositions" it's an exercise to find and accept something that's not quite the best.

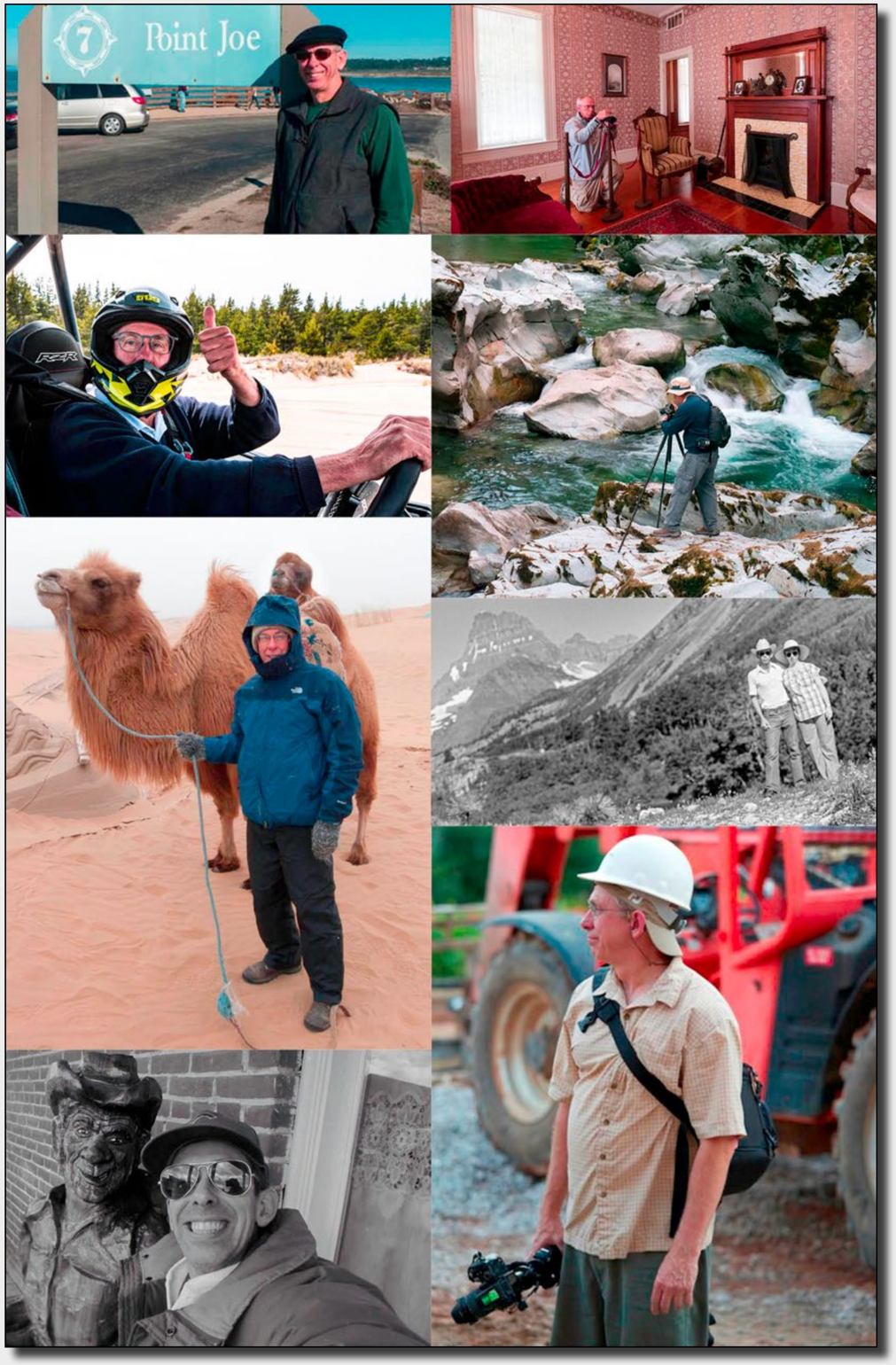
Shadow Boxing

Keeping in shape is a necessity in all physical skills, from sports to art. I felt the need to put together some images just to "keep my hand in" the world of photography. I've been spending so much time creating my PDF ezines that I felt I needed to get a camera in my hands and see how far my camera handling skills have faded. I hope they haven't fallen too far.

Ordinary Places

More photos from this Summer's Band of Brothers Tour sponsored by the WWII Museum. Men have battled in Normandy since the time of the Roman Legions. The land is soaked in history as well as the blood of warriors. For all the history made on this land it appears to be quite ordinary. But it not ordinary because we know its history and a measure of our respect is the silence we kept as we walked through these Ordinary Places.

Growing up, November 11 was Armistice Day and we bought paper Poppies from Veterans. I thought this would be a good project for the November issue of The Lipka Journal. .



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-five 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, is now part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, has migrated to Instagram. Don't forget to follow him on this new platform linked below.

The Lipka Journal, Number 080, November 2026

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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