



# WIDE WYOMING

PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHS

BY JOE LIPKA

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Art and Technology are the quarreling siblings of the photographic family. The argument takes many forms but it almost always reduces to whether the photographer captures “depth of field” or “depth of feeling”. These two camps place art or technology as the primary task for photography. Insults are hurled from one camp to another with participants rarely venturing forth from their ideological fortresses.

Thank goodness the rare middle ground where art and technology thrive is as sparsely populated as Wyoming. Those that ignore the scriptural dictates against serving two masters find that both masters must be served to create a photograph. A certain level of technology must be mastered to make art. But skills alone are not enough. Vision must accompany and match the technical prowess to achieve the balance of a good photograph. Out of balance results in either a technical exercise in densitometry that can only excite the scientifically inclined while the opposite result is the fuzzy photograph which excites the creator but mystifies the rest of us.

The art vs. technology question is decided when the photographer asks the questions, “What am I trying to communicate with this image?” Or, “What do I want the viewers to feel when they see this image?” Once he decisively answers the question, then he needs to decide how to accomplish this task. The “what” and “how” need to be addressed together, by art and technology together.



























## ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Wasn't that a bunch of highbrow talk about art and technology for these few landscape photographs? Because those were the thoughts I went through when making photographs in and around Hell's Half Acre. The vast sky and land contrasted with the abundance of detail and texture made it very difficult to capture the essence of this place in a single frame. My solution to this difficult visual problem was to attempt a series of panoramic photographs. In this fashion I was able to make larger images and can show both detail and scale. The answer to the aesthetic question is rooted in a technological response.

I experienced that tug of war between art and technology. The Art says show the scale and grandeur of the West and my Technology rushes to keep up. The results are encouraging for a first step in creating panoramic photographs.



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