



Made by Hand

Joe Lipka

At one time everything was hand made. The number and types of tools used to make the things we needed was limited to what a craftsman could carry.

For centuries, everything we needed was made by hand. The skills to perform these tasks have been passed down to today's craftsmen. Today, hand crafted goods have become artisanal rather than utilitarian, a hobby rather than a full time business and educational, showing today's population how chores were done, "back in the day."











Experience is valued in hand work because it is through repetition that perfection can be approached. The hands that make things are strong from the tasks they complete. Whether the work requires a firm yet delicate touch with a lot of dexterity, or is rough and requires brute strength, the hands that create are experienced in these tasks.







Simple things are not simple when everything is made by hand. Today, butter is purchased in nice, neat little packages clearly marked with servings sizes. Churning butter by hand is an intensive process both in terms of time and effort.

We have always had the same amount of time each day, but in the hand made world it took longer to accomplish tasks. Today we can do much more in the same time. We have gained the ability to create more at the expense of knowing we have created something with our own hands.







There comes a time when the craftsman can no longer create. The mind is capable, but aging has taken its toll. Eyesight has faded and the hands cannot create what the eyes can no longer see. It is time to lean on a pole and offer wisdom to the next generation.





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, is a collection of his photographs and thoughts on the creative process.

COLOPHON

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*This portfolio was photographed
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Hickory, North Carolina*

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Blog: <http://blog.joelipkaphoto.com/>

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