

A photograph of a white building facade. On the left is a dark door with a diamond-shaped pattern. To the right of the door is a small window and a mailbox. A black light fixture is mounted on the wall above the mailbox. A black bench is on the right. The ground is paved with cobblestones, and a path of colorful painted cobblestones leads to the door. Long shadows are cast across the wall from the right.

27  
Höllgasse

# The Way to Höllgasse

*Joe Lipka*



Finding your way in a narrow, cobblestoned street is a difficult task. The uneven surface of the cobbles makes each step an adventure. Life becomes a contest between watching your surroundings, paying attention to where you are going while looking down to make sure your next step will land on something approximating level.

Add making photographs to the walk and it becomes even more of a challenge.

The painted cobbles are curious. What do they mean? Where do they lead?

The only way to find out is to follow them down the Höllgasse.



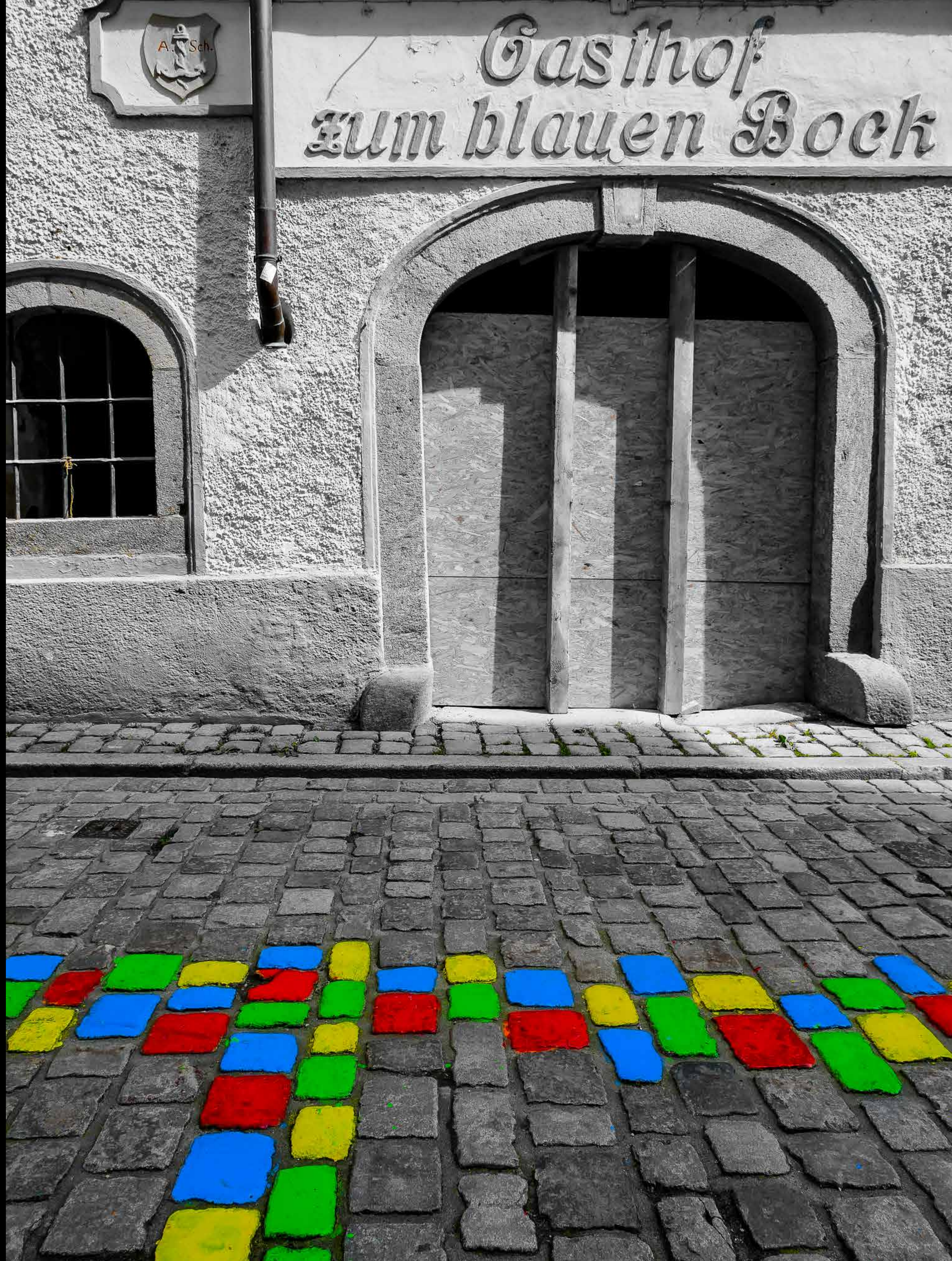




















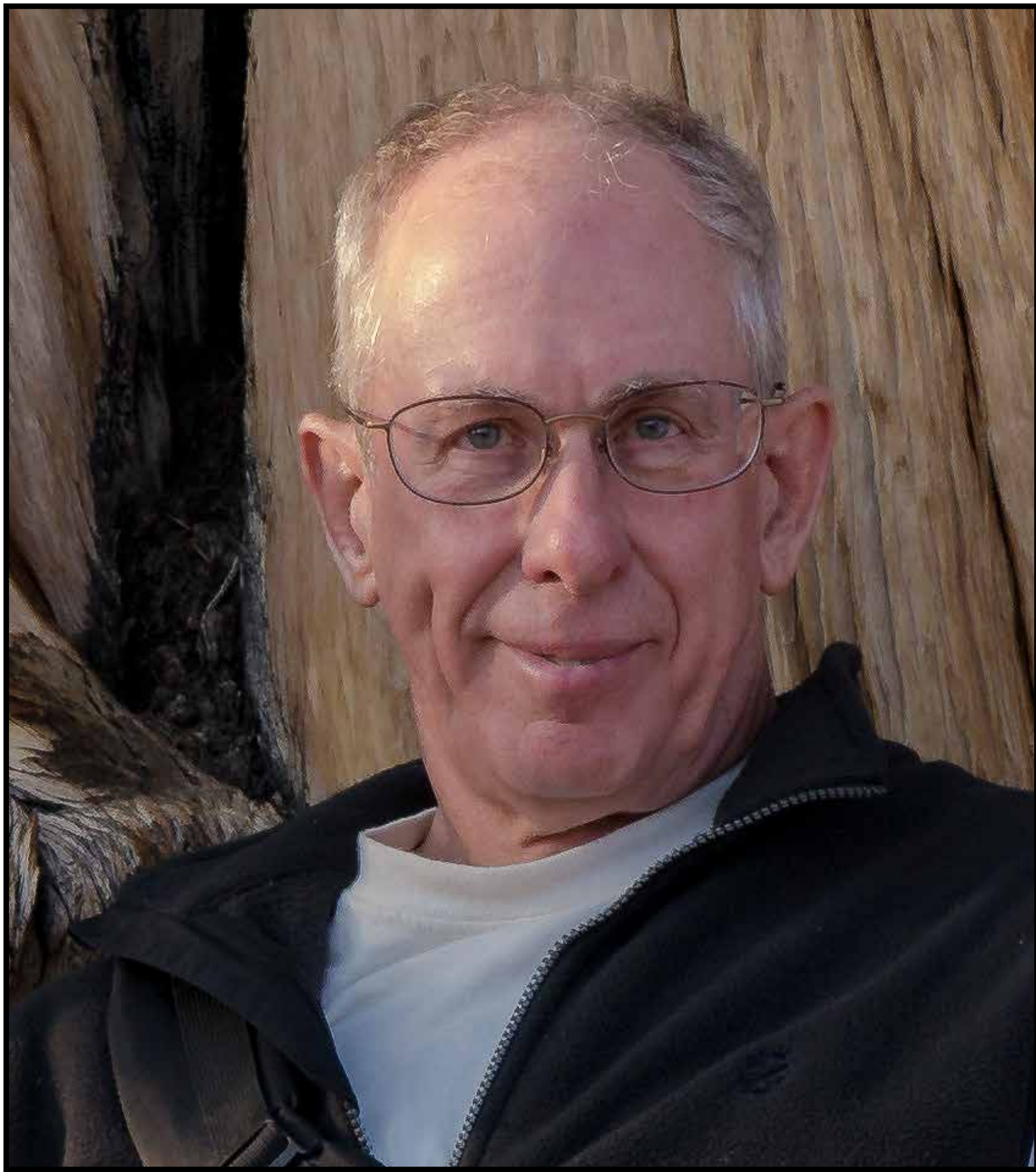


The buildings are only four stories high, but seemingly tower over the narrow, painted cobblestone street. It is a weekday, but there is no one to ask about the path we follow.

While not the yellow brick road to Oz, the painted cobbles guide you to Artist's studios instead of the Emerald City.







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](http://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

### The Way to Höllgasse

*Joe Lipka*

*The images in this portfolio  
were made in May, 2018  
in Passau, Germany.*

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Web site: [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com)  
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IF YOU SCROLL TO THE NEXT PAGE YOU  
CAN SEE HOW THIS PROJECT CAME TO BE  
JOE



## Making *The Way to Höllgasse*



Sometimes projects don't follow the path we originally conceive. The path to completion is bumpy and twisty, just like the Höllgasse. My original concept of tall skinny photographs did not work (left photograph). Converting to black and white was not much of an improvement. Bringing back the color of the painted cobbles seemed to help some, but did not significantly strengthen the image (middle photograph). Finally, cropping the vertical format to a horizontal or near square image achieved the result (right photograph).

Life is like this. Activities rarely happen exactly as planned. Keeping the goal in mind and willingness to experiment and change along the way made this little project work out.