

THE JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

MARCH 2021

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

MARCH 2021

This month it's two things we've seen before and something rarely seen.

The grand landscapes of the American West are a subject every American photographer will attempt to photograph. We all like to pretend we are the first to photograph these open spaces, but there is no doubt others have been here before. The challenge is to make our photographs different. But, isn't that what we're supposed to do anyway?

Durnstein is definitely a déjà vu experience. Only after we make our photographs and leave do we realize where we have been. We may not have the immediate awareness of what we saw or experienced, but at least we have the photographs to prove we've been there.

Wallace, Idaho is a Silver mining town. When the mines played out most of the people left. The facades of Main Street have been restored but little attention was not given to the alleys out back. The alleys are more interesting than buildings facing the street.

Last year's Hostas



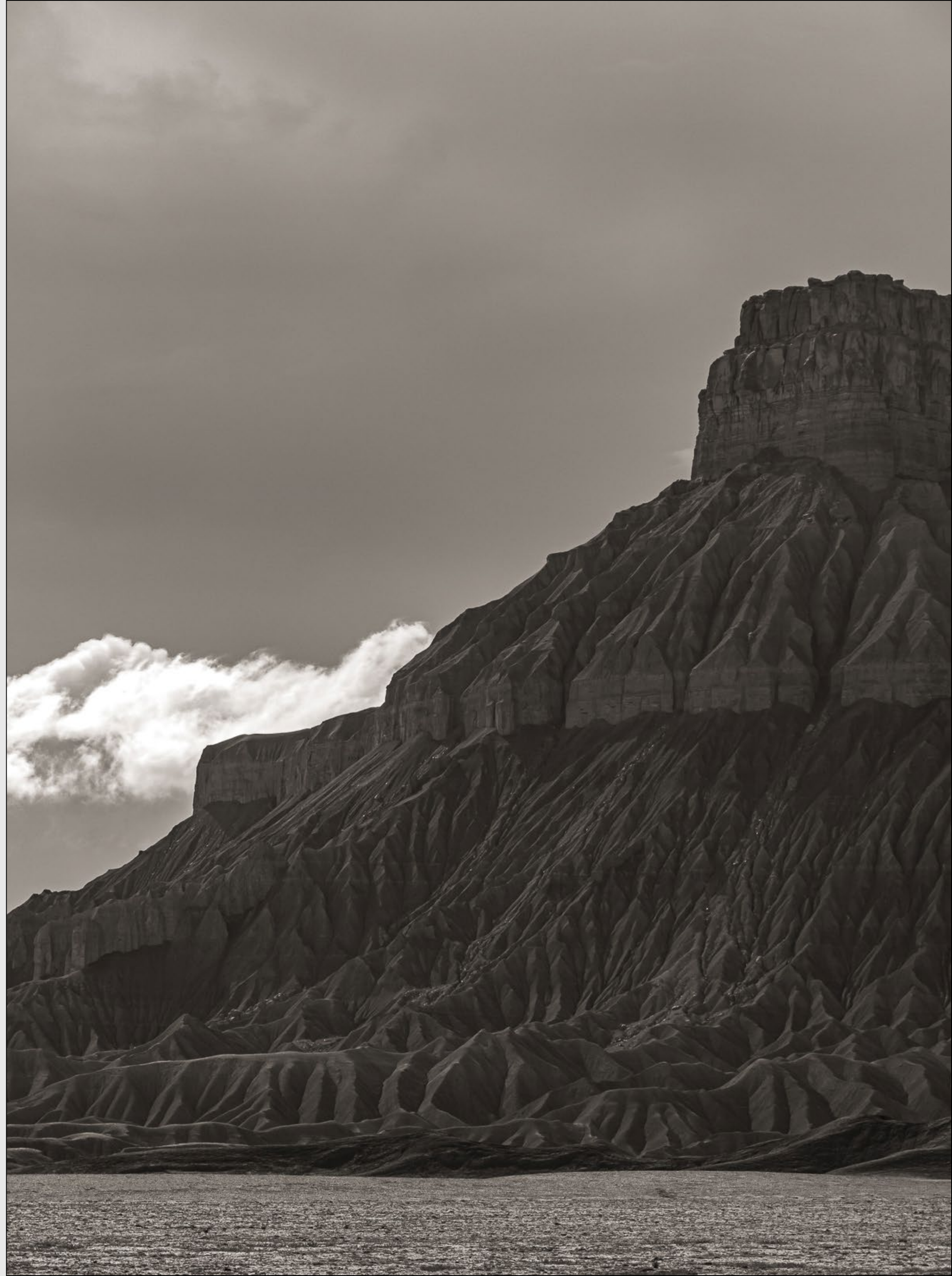
Ten Views of Factory Butte



Ten Views of Factory Butte

We think of the portrait as a definitive image of a person. It is the single, idealized portrayal of the person, most likely showing the subject at their best. The portrait is a single image made at a specific instant. But it is not a complete. A more revealing approach is to have multiple portraits showing many moods, looks and expressions.

Many years ago I saw a single photograph of Factory Butte and fell in love with that location. It was all I knew about that place until I spent a few days making many photographs of the place.



















Six Word Project

The carefully guarded memories escaped again.



Postcards from the Creative Journey

March 22, 2015

Advantage: Low Tech

A GPS gives you directions. The little red triangle keeps you focused on the road right in front of you making sure you do not stray from the computer calculated route to your destination. A calm, synthetic voice warns you well in advance of any turns you need to make. You will get to your destination precisely and exactly as calculated by the computer. Your attention does not need to move much beyond the dashboard and the little red triangle.

A map lets you dream of alternatives. That paper map forces you to look at your surroundings and become aware of the land and scenery around you. Lakes have real shapes, road types are different colors. You are looking for land marks outside of your vehicle to match with the marks on the map. Awareness of what is around you makes you concentrate on your surroundings, not a little red arrow on your dashboard. The land, not the road is the center of your attention.

The red triangle gives way to your imagination plotting alternate routes to where ever you might wish to go. You can take secondary roads, gravel roads and if you get far enough away from civilization, Forest Service Roads. Paying attention to what is around you is one of the joys of using a paper map. Technology takes away the possibility of serendipity. Getting lost is a great way to find things you were never looking for.



From "Dancing with Light: Objects in Mirror"

The Blue Church



The Blue Church

It was a déjà vu experience. As we docked I knew I've been here before. Without a conscious thought, I moved easily through the town and my feet took me to the Blue Church. I moved through the sanctuary to the tower and the overlook. It was all so familiar. I had memories of this place, but I cannot remember being here.

These are digital files proving I have been there recently. I have no other tangible proof I have seen this place before. I can't remember when, but I know I've been there.





DÜRNSTEIN
75











Six Word Project

Cheap whisky in a dirty glass.





The Alley Out Back

The Alley Out Back

The portrait the town wants to show the world is the nice façade on the Main Street of the town. It's putting that best face forward, showing the "good side" to make you want to visit and spend time with them. It's a town in its "Sunday going to Meeting" clothes, or "putting on their best Bib and Tucker" to impress the company. It's all prim, proper, nice and neat.

The complete portrait of the town also includes the alleys out back. The alleys are the informal look of the town, not the Sunday going to Meeting cloths, but the dungarees, denim jackets and flannel shirts that are worn when working. The alleys are not prim and proper, but they just nice enough and as neat as you can be when you're the place where the town works.

The Alley out Back is a lot more interesting.





609 BANK ST.









612







Factory Butte, Utah

A Few Closing Words

Ten Views of Factory Butte

Hokusai made One Hundred Views of Mount Fuji. I made ten views of Factory Butte. Hokusai is a much better artist than I am.

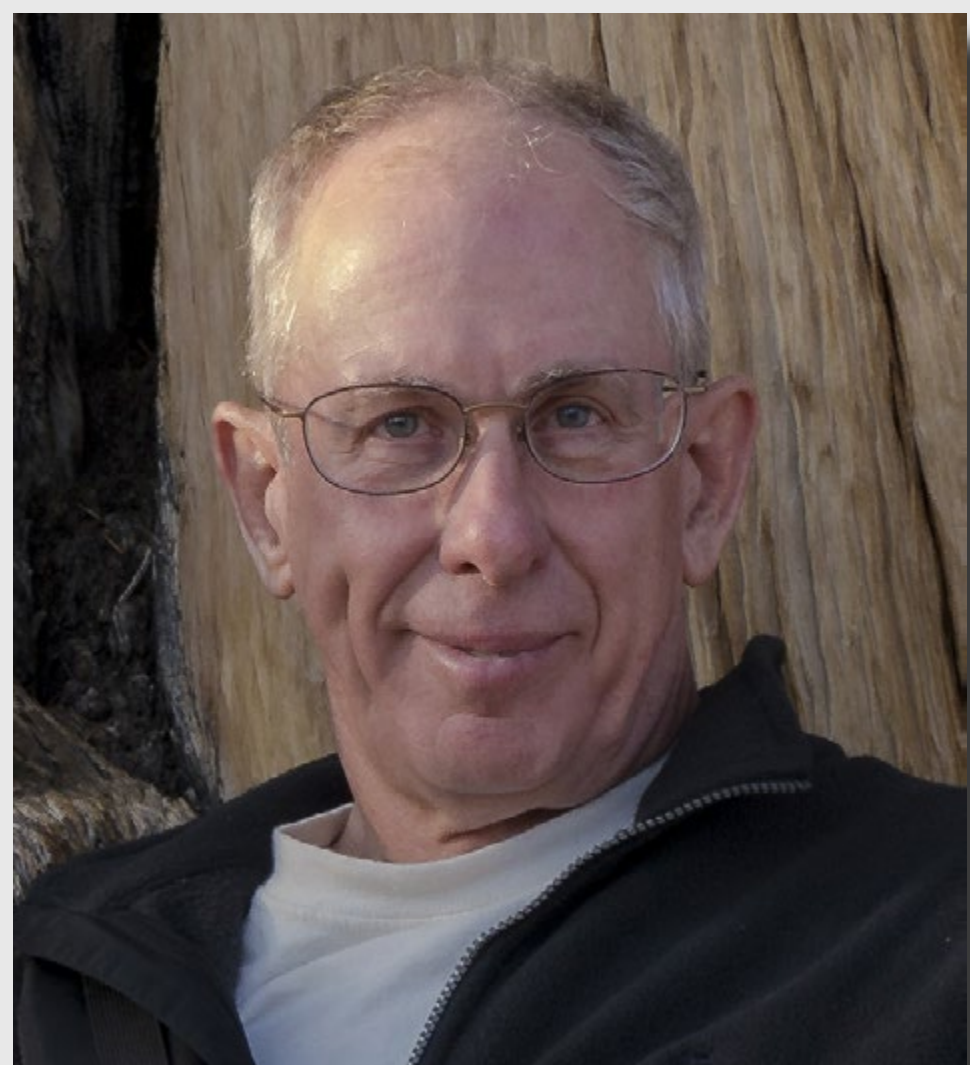
Factory Butte is one of those places in Southern Utah that most people will drive right by hurrying on their way between Zion and Arches. Last time I was in Utah, we spent almost two days exploring the area that most people just drive by. “[Luck of the Draw](#)” and these photographs were what we found at that location.

The Blue Church

Durnstein is a quaint little town on the banks of the Danube. You’ve seen it many times and didn’t even know it. Viking Cruise Line promotions on your local PBS station often shows their boats docking at Durnstein. I don’t think I got past “high grade tourist,” but gosh, sometimes I just want to make pretty pictures. There is enough ugly in the world.

The Alley Out Back

Wallace, Idaho is the Center of the Universe. It’s a long story about the City, the EPA and logic. You can Google the first sentence and read the whole story. The alleys out back are much more visually interesting than the main thoroughfares. And yes, the sign on the back of the Oasis is for real. You can Google that, too.



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*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and F-Stop 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, feature a photograph and a little bit of writing.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

COLOPHON

The Journal, March 2021

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

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

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