



# THE JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JANUARY 2021



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

## JANUARY 2021

One of the basics of photography is choosing where to stand. The vantage point can be close, near and very far away. Do you stand close enough to capture the detail conveying your thought, do you need a little bit more room or do you need a whole lot of space for your image? This month we're starting out close and then moving far away. From a few feet, to more than a few miles we chose the parts of the world we wish to share with our audience.

Tidal estuary, Low tide  
Long Beach Peninsula





# The Boatyard





## The Boatyard

I worked with a boilermaker many years ago. Whenever I brought him a big repair job, I would ask him how he planned to complete the job, he always had the same reply.

“Joe, I will cut it to fit and paint it to match.”

When walking through the boatyards I look at the ships in various stages of repair and I can still hear those words.

































8

6








## Six Word Project

Three generations passed through this door





A photograph of a pond with reflections of trees and a clump of reeds. The water is dark and still, reflecting the surrounding greenery. In the center, a clump of tall, dry, golden-brown reeds stands out. To the right, a piece of weathered, moss-covered driftwood is partially submerged. The overall scene is serene and natural.

# Passing Time

It was a perfect day. Sunny, warm and a gentle breeze rustled the pine needles. We stopped to photograph because sometimes you just can't resist the allure of perfectly still crystal clear water. We began to photograph without knowing if the photographs we made were going to have any deep artistic meaning. We photographed anyway.

I'm still not sure if there is any deep meaning in this little collection of photographs of Double Cabin Pond, but there was great enjoyment in the creative act.

























Our lives have these small moments of pure enjoyment and happiness when we are doing something we love in a wonderful place. This is my little reward for an afternoon at Double Cabin Pond.

Maybe my little moment of happiness will remind you of a similar place and time in your life.



# Postcards from the Creative Journey

February 12, 2012

## The Dutch Masters

I went to see the Rembrandt paintings at the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) a few weeks ago. Because Rembrandt was a portraitist, there wasn't much to inspire me beyond his great lighting technique (he was so influential, we talk about "Rembrandt lighting" to this day). Maybe painters could admire and learn from the brush stroke techniques or some other painterly things. For me, there wasn't that much to learn.

In contrast, a few years ago I went to the NCMA to see paintings by Monet. While the painting techniques were (again) lost to me because I don't paint, I did come away with two impressive pieces of knowledge. One, any man that can take his wife, children and mistress on a six month art safari is truly some kind of crazy.

Second, the man knew where to put his easel. Looking at his paintings I came to the conclusion that there was absolutely no way I could improve on any of the compositions by changing the point of view. Monet's command of light was also exquisite. He was in control of the two most important things any artist needs to control; where to stand and how to use light properly on his selected subject.

This experience reminds of one of Life's Lessons as documented by Brooks Jensen. "You will learn more about art from an artist than a photographer."







## It's About the Clouds

The Landscape Photograph is not much without a sky, or the hint of a sky. The sky provides a sense of scale. A clear blue sky or a fully overcast day are not interesting at all.

Wind moving broken clouds provides variety in the sky and light upon the land. It is an ever changing show.

Cartier Bresson talked about the Decisive Moment in street photography. The Decisive Moment also exists for landscape photography. The clouds determine when you experience that Decisive Moment.























## Six Word Project

Nana's old rocker held many memories







*The Labyrinth at Fort Worden*

## A Few Closing Words

### The Boatyard

The only thing I know about boats is that when they are out of their element they provide an absolutely great subject for closer inspection and photography. The boatyards of the Pacific Northwest have been very good subjects. There is a lot of art being created by skilled craftspeople and all I do is make sure the edges of the photograph are in the right place.

### Passing Time

It's a great day, the subject is enticing and we have the time. An afternoon at the Double Cabin Pond was just one of those times and places.

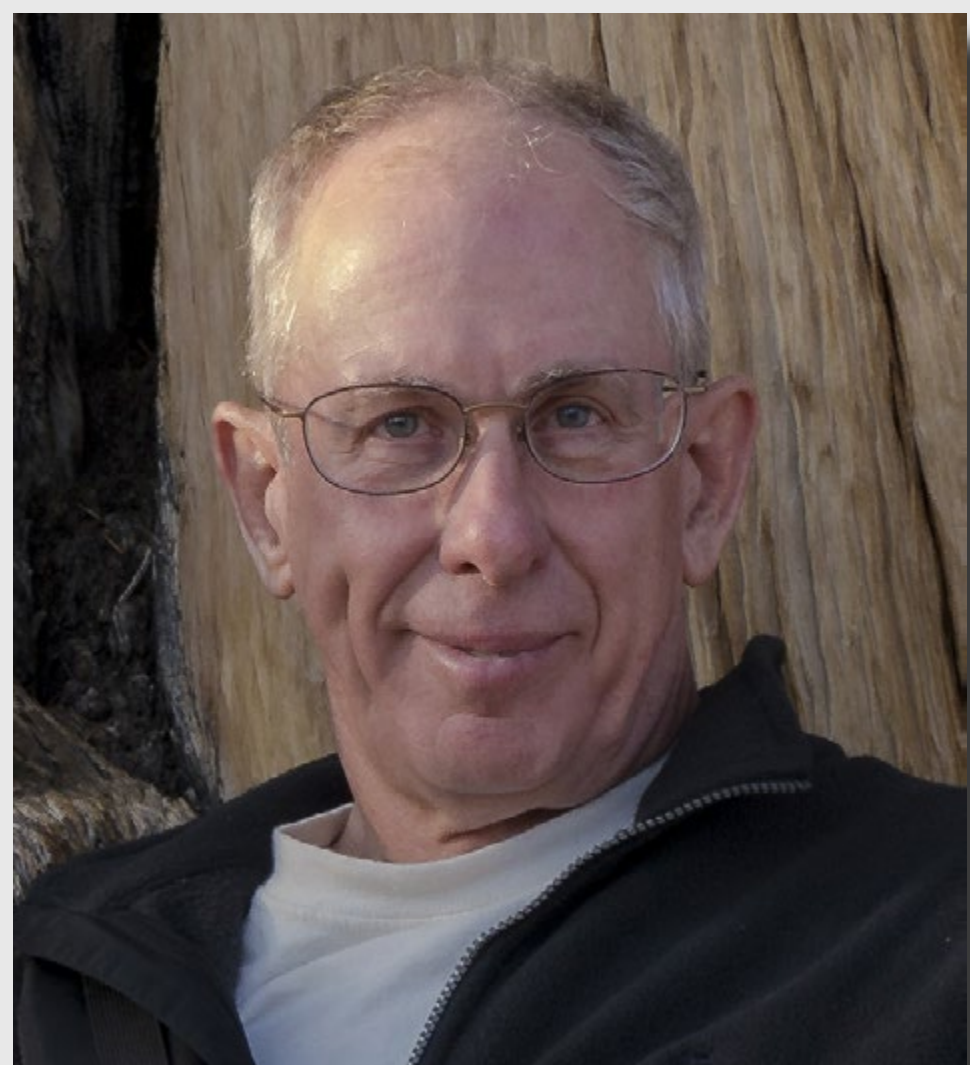
We always hope that our photographs will have some sort of cosmic significance in the world of art the moment we make them, or failing that we can make them part of something more meaningful.

I might have failed at the larger task. But I do have some nice photos and great memories of a wonderful afternoon. I could have done worse.

### It's About the Clouds

Bald skies are the bane of landscape photographers. No matter how nice the foreground is, you need an interesting sky to make the image work. We spent a week in the Palouse and were lucky to be out in the land when a front approached, came through and left. We had three or four days of great clouds above an incredibly beautiful foreground.





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](http://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, January 2021

*Joe Lipka*

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Web site: [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com)

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