



# THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

AUGUST 2023



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL AUGUST 2023



Harmony



After the Memories

Let's Call this "The Exhibition Issue." This issue will be a bit different than the normal set up of The Lipka Journal. This month there are only two projects.

Through some hard work and more than a little bit of luck, I have the honor of exhibiting two (!) groups of different photographs simultaneously (!) in August and September this year. These exhibits are extensions of completed work augmented by additional images, improved software, and skills. In *Harmony*, photographs of Portland Oregon's Japanese Garden juxtapose the man-made and natural to create a beautiful and tranquil space in the middle of a city. *After the Memories* overlays vintage images with current views from the same spot. The old and new exist in the same panoramic image.





# HARMONY

*Joe Lipka*



# Harmony

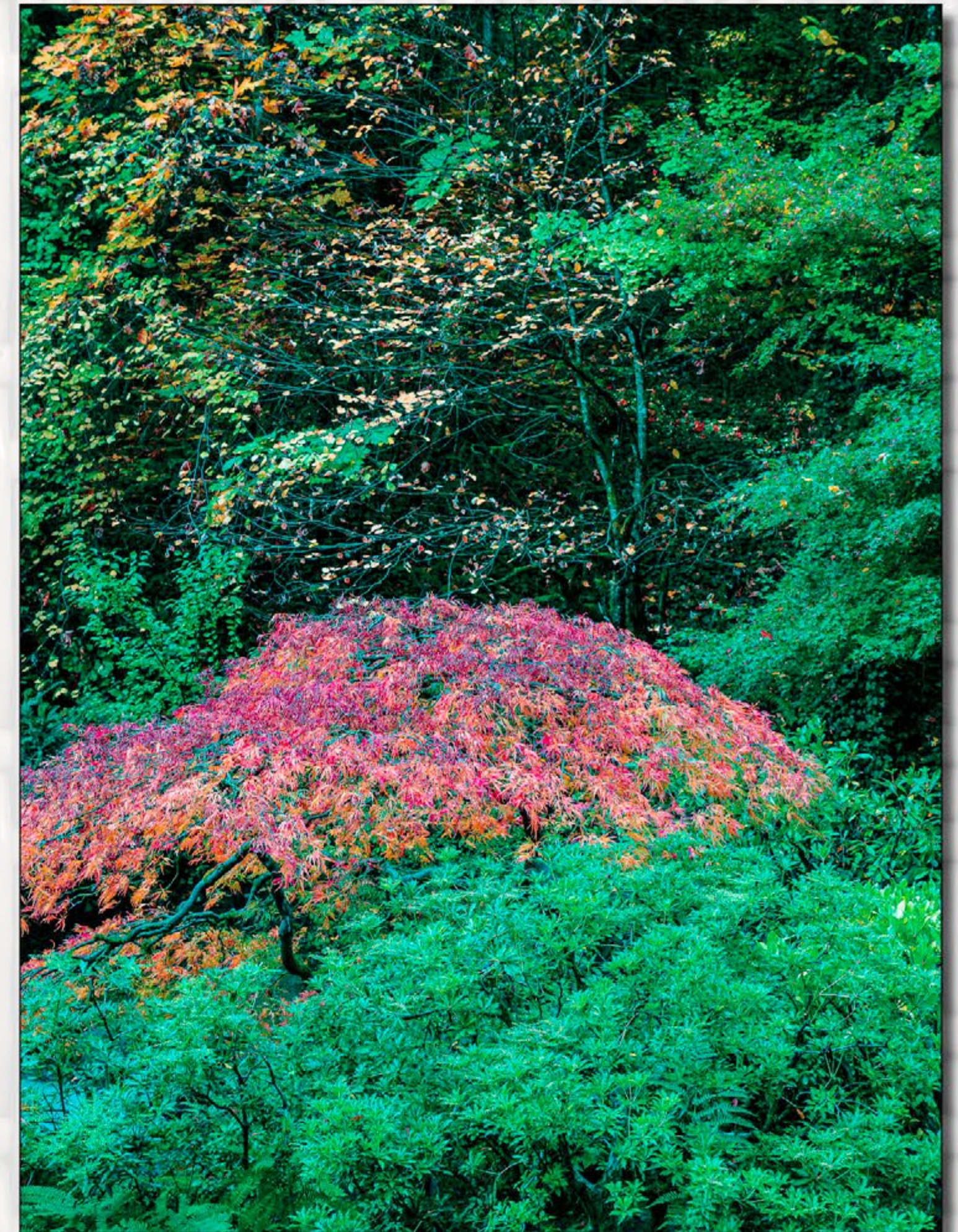
The objects are symbols existing together in harmony with the natural forms around them. The natural and man-made reflecting the shapes and forms in perfect harmony.



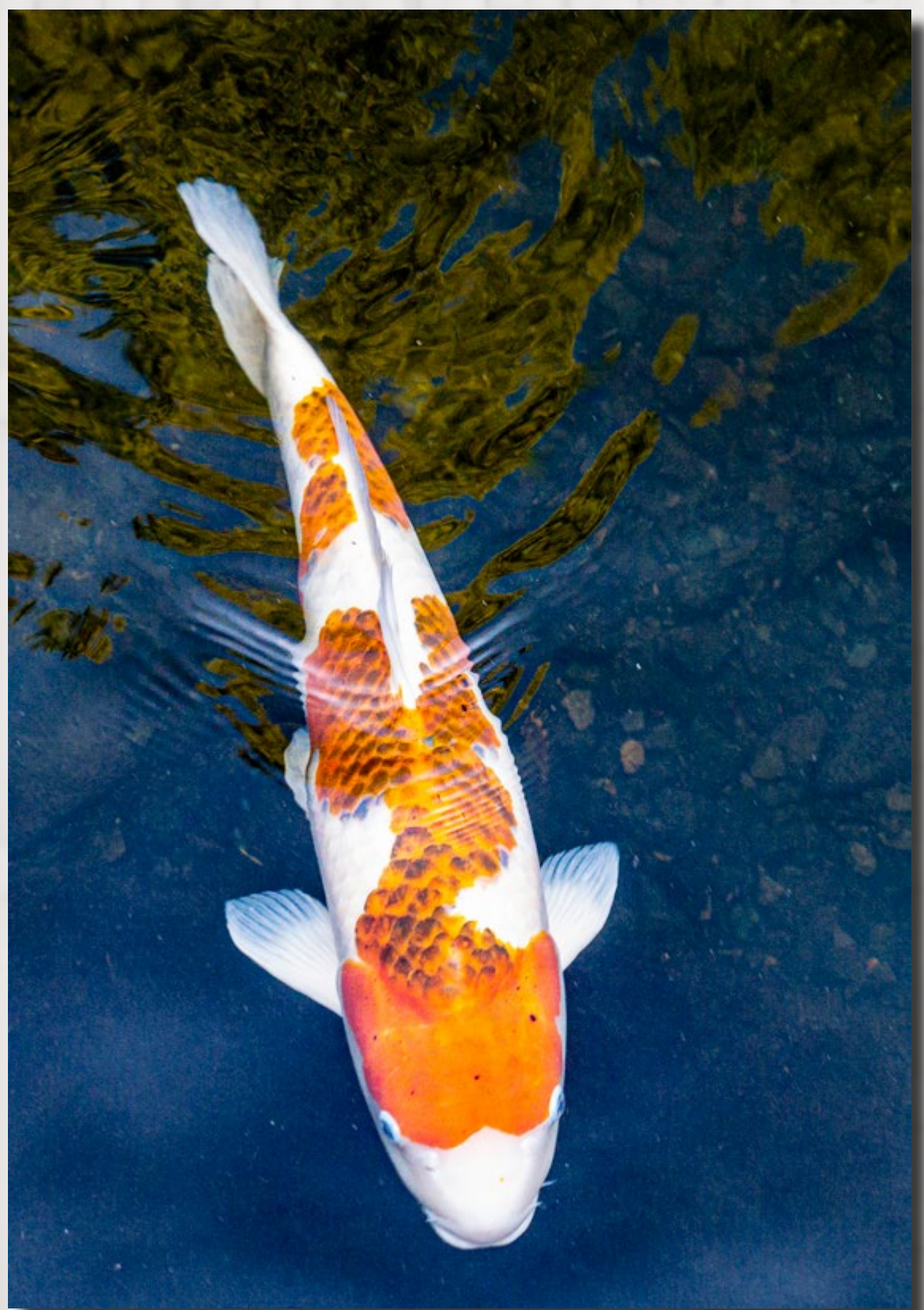




No one will understand a Japanese garden until you've walked through one, and you hear the crunch underfoot, and you smell it, and you experience it over time. Now there's no photograph or any movie that can give you that experience.  
– J. Carter Brown







いち ichi  
(one)



に ni  
(two)



さん san  
(three)





taking turns  
down the little waterfall...  
red leaves

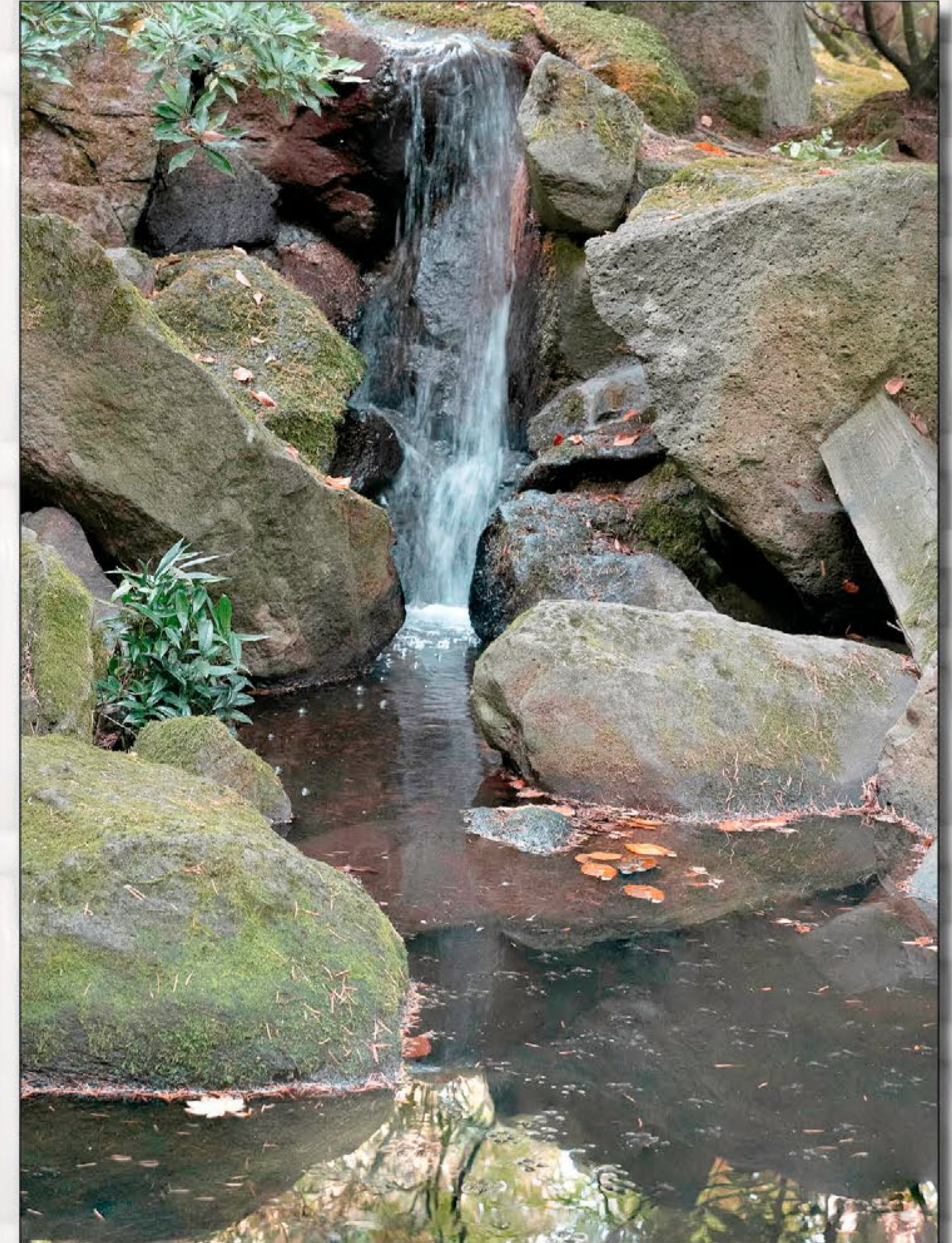
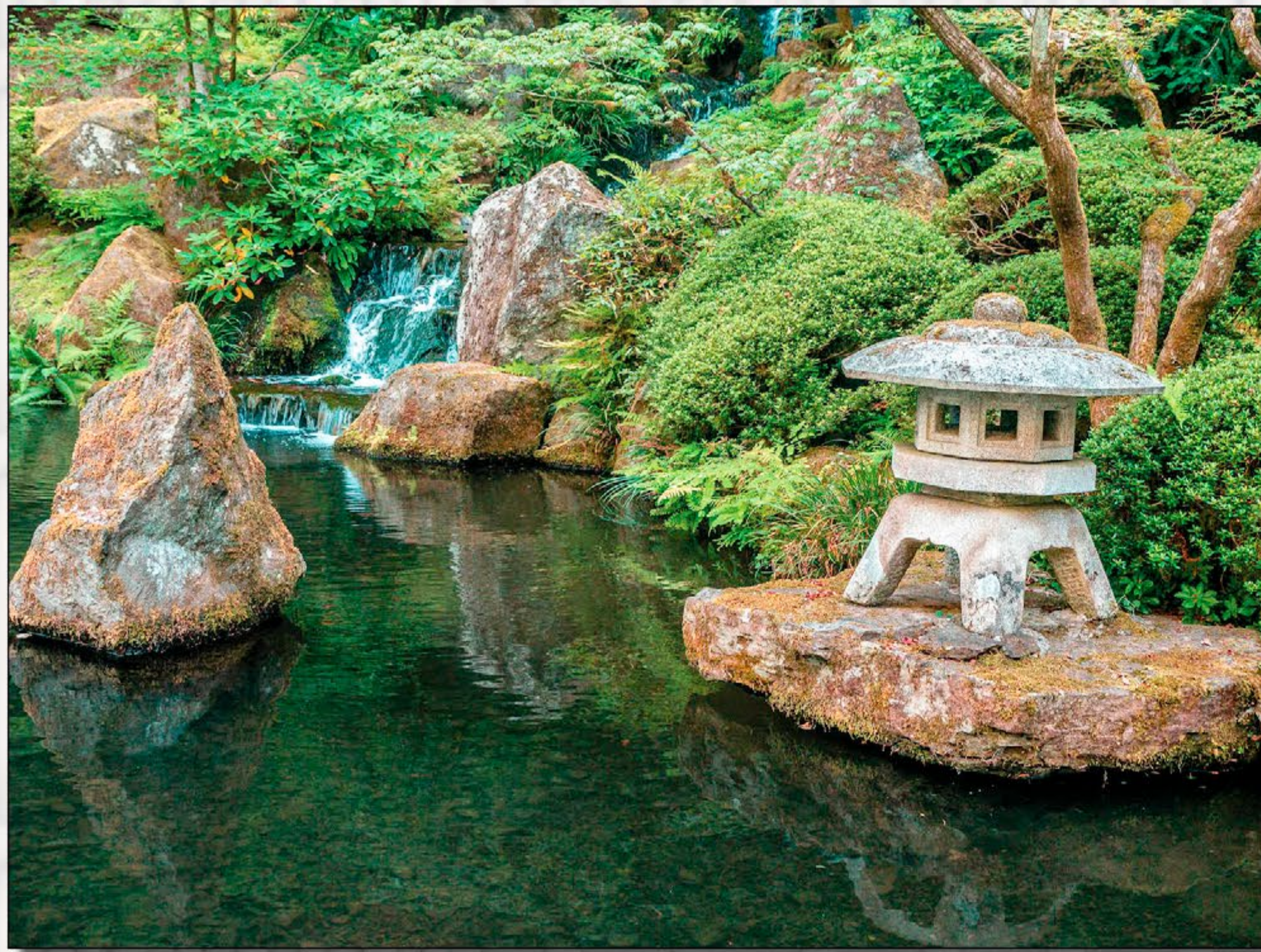
– Issa







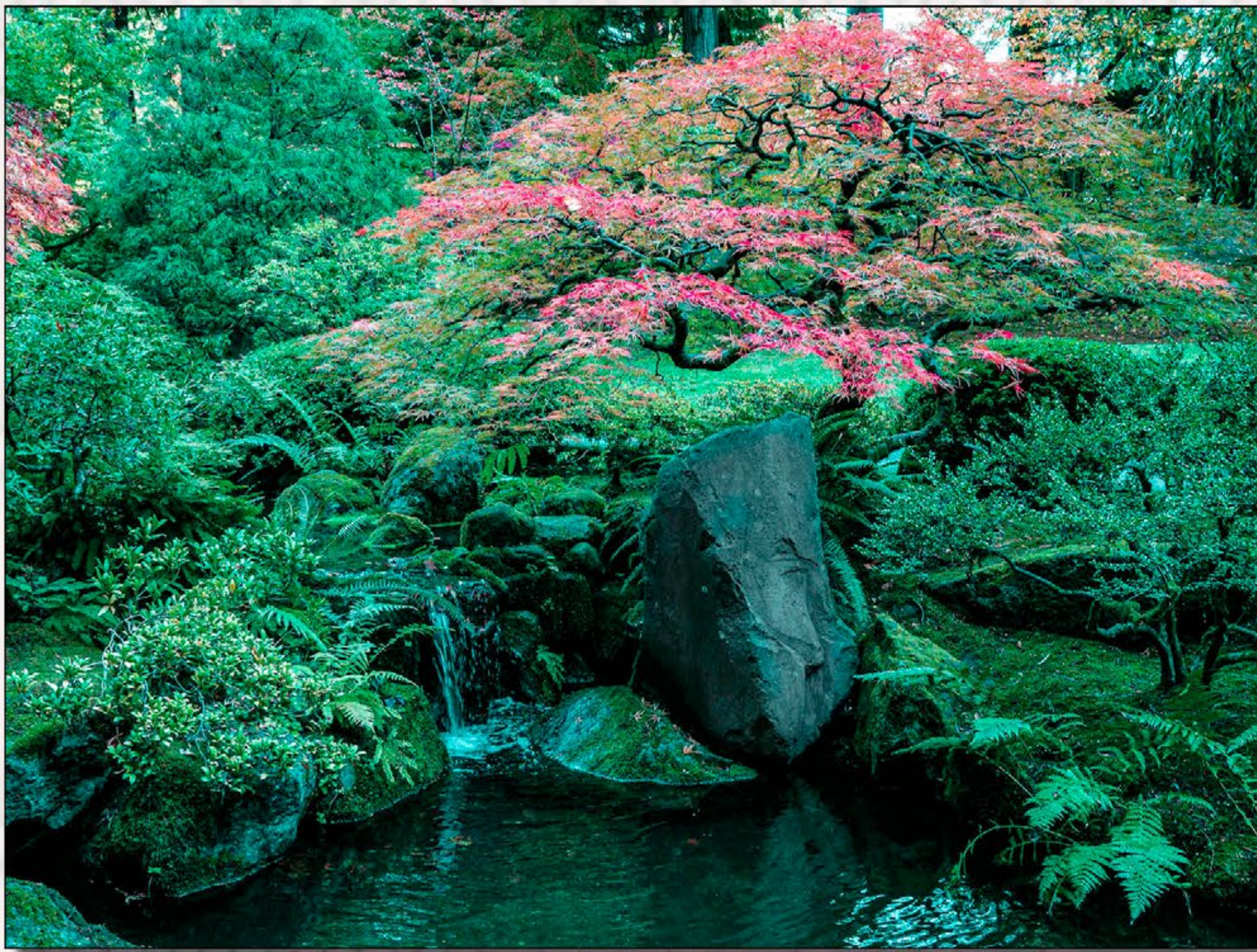




A haiku poem summarizes a natural landscape, season and feeling. (The Japanese) garden summarizes the surrounding nature.

– Asako Hashimoto, landscape architect





"As my grandmother discovered long ago, the Japanese excel in cultivating nature. Their gardens come in numerous styles, including paradise gardens, dry-landscape gardens, stroll gardens, and tea gardens. Although each type has its own goal, they all share the same principle: nature is manipulated to create a miniature symbolic landscape

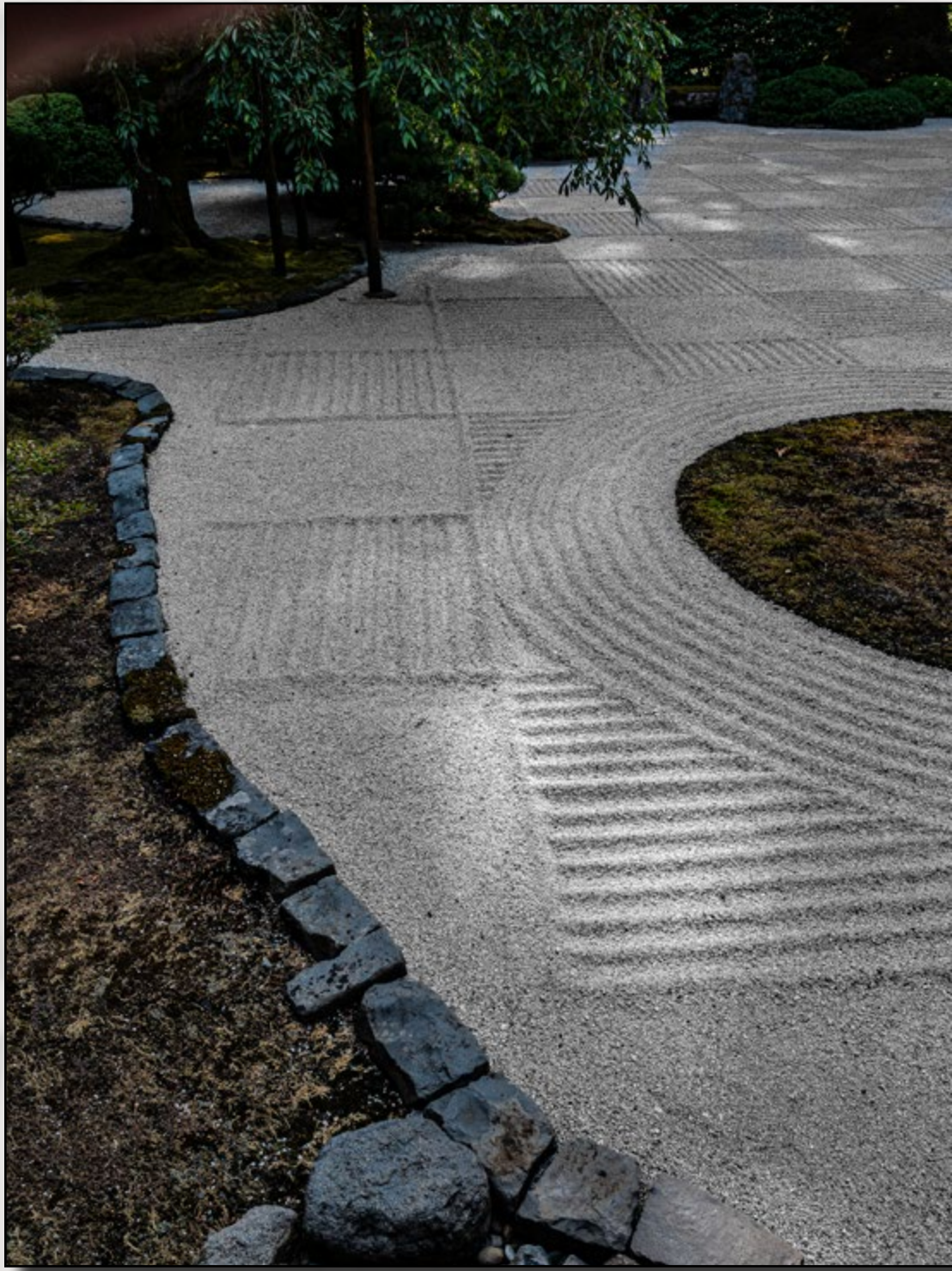
– Victoria Abbott Riccardi, *Untangling My Chopsticks: A Culinary Sojourn in Kyoto*



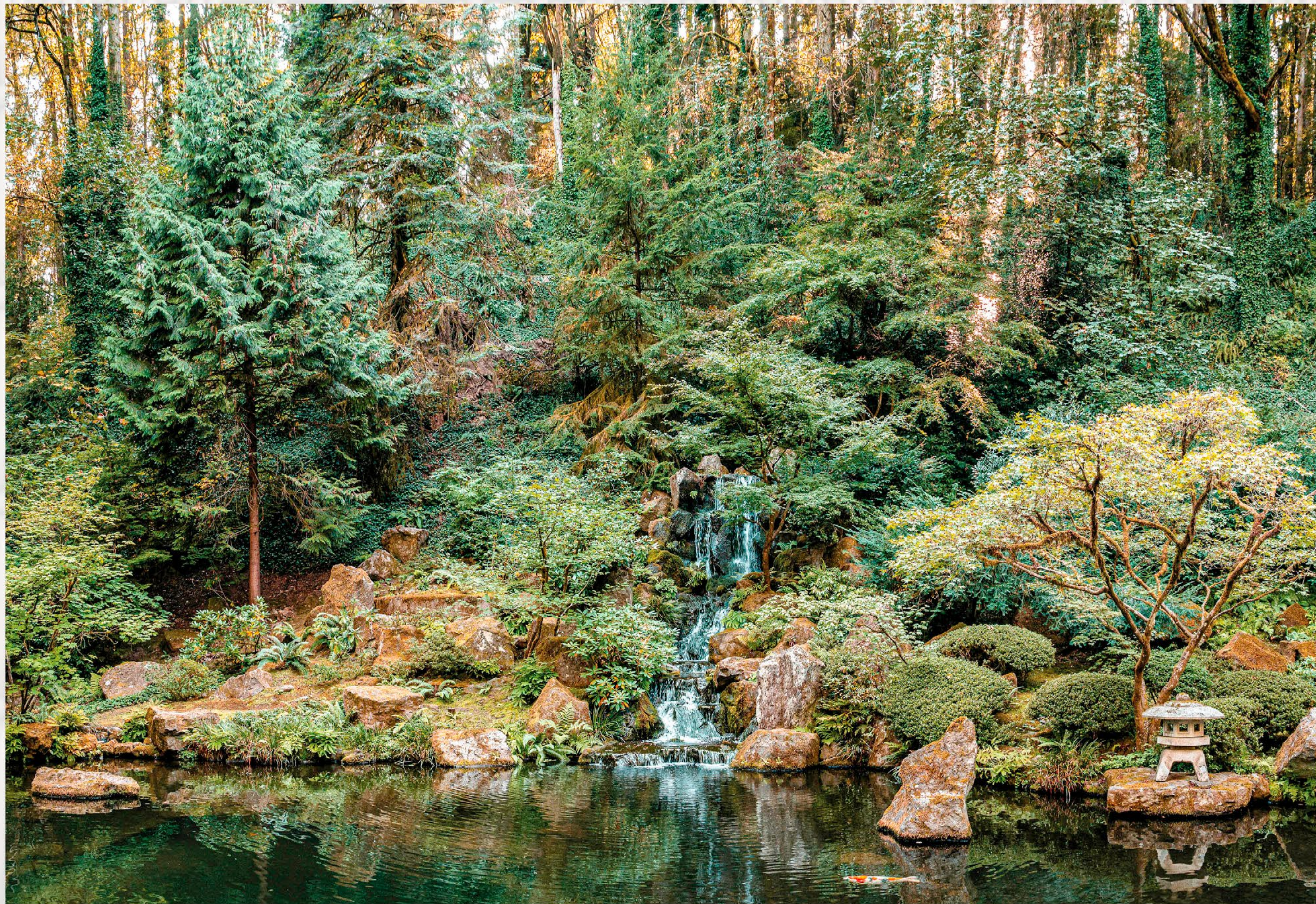




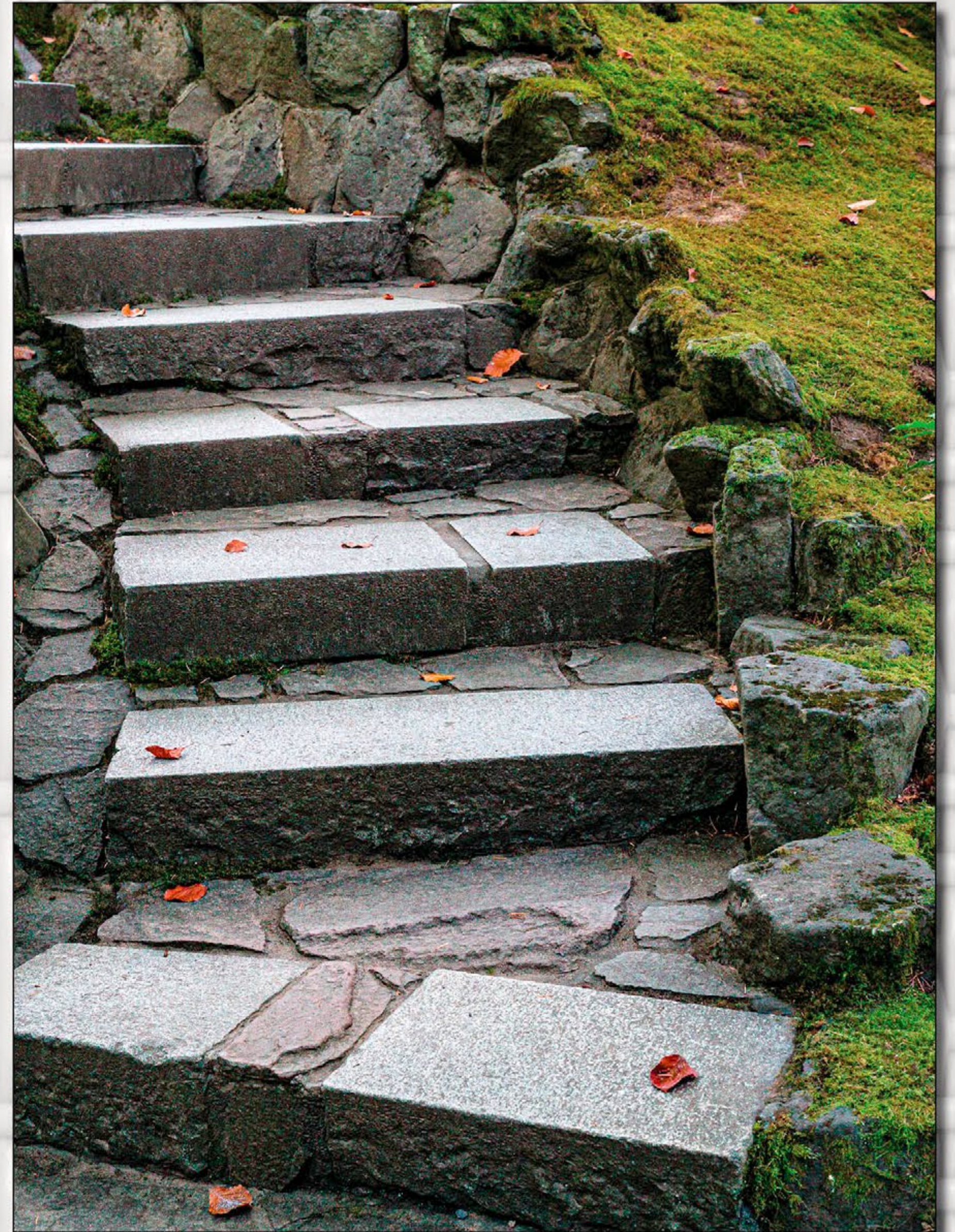








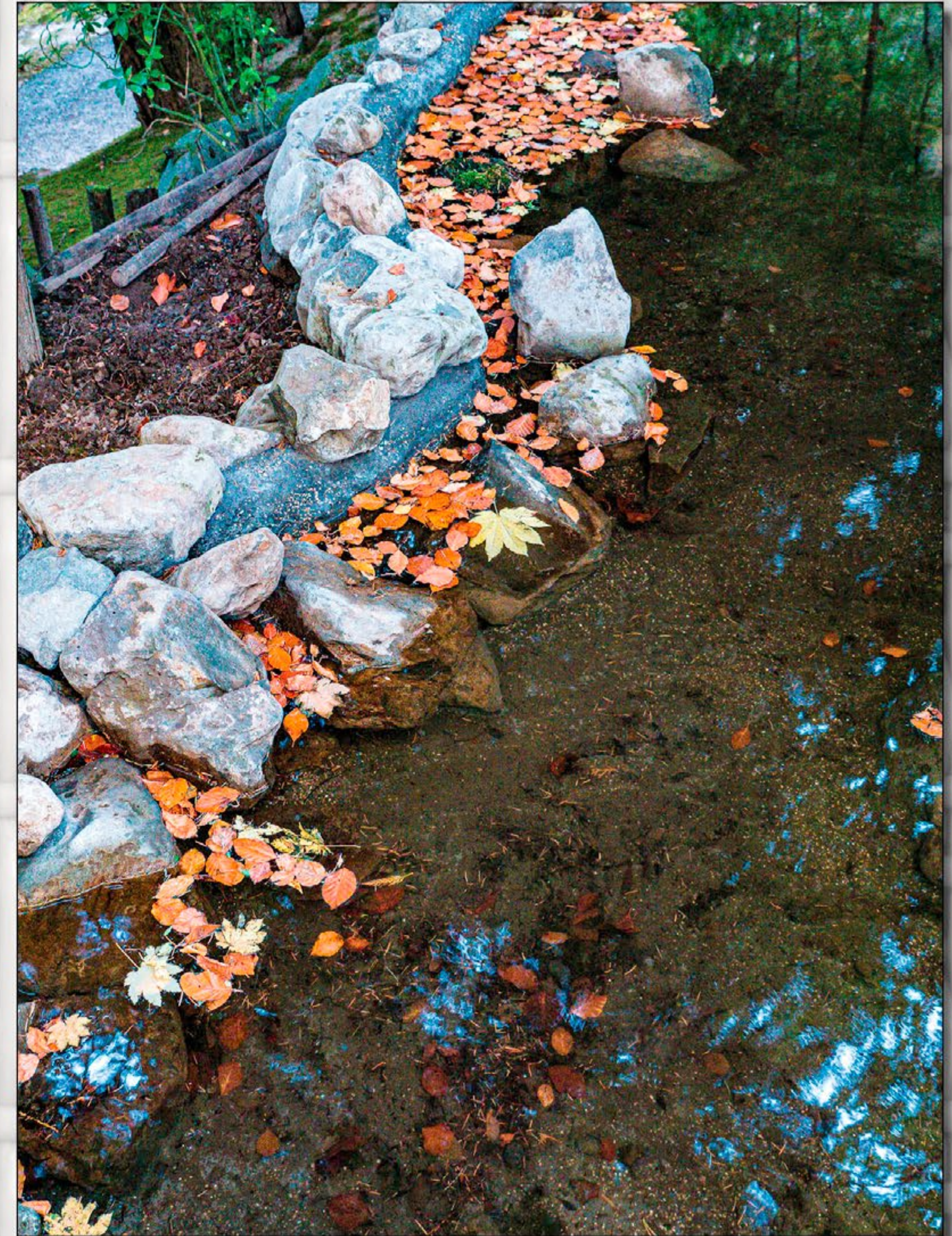




"Gardens are poems where you stroll with your hands in your pockets."

– Pierre Albert-Birot





In order to comprehend the beauty of a Japanese garden, it is necessary to understand - or at least to learn to understand - the beauty of stone.

– Lafcadio Hearn









“If only I could stay here long enough, I would learn to see too. And after minutely watching the surface of things I would learn to see below the surface. I would see the essence of a thing.”

— Anne Morrow Lindbergh, *North to the Orient*







"...the Japanese garden is both aesthetic and reflective. The most basic element of any Japanese garden design comes from the realization that every detail has a significant value."

– E. J. W. Barber







## Single Image Project



### Did you Bring Your Pony Along?

I'm setting up my wooden view camera on a huge tripod and the lady asks, "Did you bring your pony along?" I was taken aback by her comment and then she continued, "The last time I had my picture taken with a camera like that, the photographer had me sit on a pony."



# *After the Memories*







# *After the Memories*

*People go away.*

*Buildings are demolished.*

*Memories are forgotten.*

*After the memories are forgotten.*

*All we have left are the photographs.*





























# CARY ARTS CENTER

CARY HIGH SCHOOL  
BAND  
ORCHESTRA

































## Six Word Project

Not exactly a pot of gold.



# Postcards from the Creative Journey

March 18, 2012

## Boundaries and Restrictions

Large Format Fine Art Photographers make photographs of traditional subjects with traditional films, developers, and paper. I spent thirty years under a dark cloth with a view camera so you can trust me on this. Very few Large Format Fine Art Photographers deviate from this formula simply because of the limitations of the hardware and film. And that is just fine. The challenge of Large Format Photography is to make art fresh and original when faced with restrictions imposed by the process of large format analog photography.

I loved the challenge imposed by the world of large format photography. Getting your story told with the various constraints imposed by the equipment and film required a considerable amount of creativity. Photographers are not alone by being limited to specific restrictions. There are many other forms of artistic expression that require adherence to a specific restrictive artistic formula. Consider haiku. Seventeen syllables to convey a thought. There is a vast reservoir of bad haiku. But great haiku is a joy. Poetry, in its many forms has restrictions with rhyme and length. Musical arts also have specific structure as evidenced by such musical forms as fugues, minuets, and an eight-bar blues.

All these forms have restrictions and I do not view them as an infringement, but as structure and foundation required to build a great piece of art.





# A FEW CLOSING WORDS



## Harmony

The Harmony Project is a series of photographs created in one place over a short period of time. The location was Portland Oregon's Japanese Garden. I had never been there before and just followed my eyes and started making compositions. A few years later I was asked to exhibit these photographs. Shortly after accepting the show, I returned to Portland and was add more images to the project.

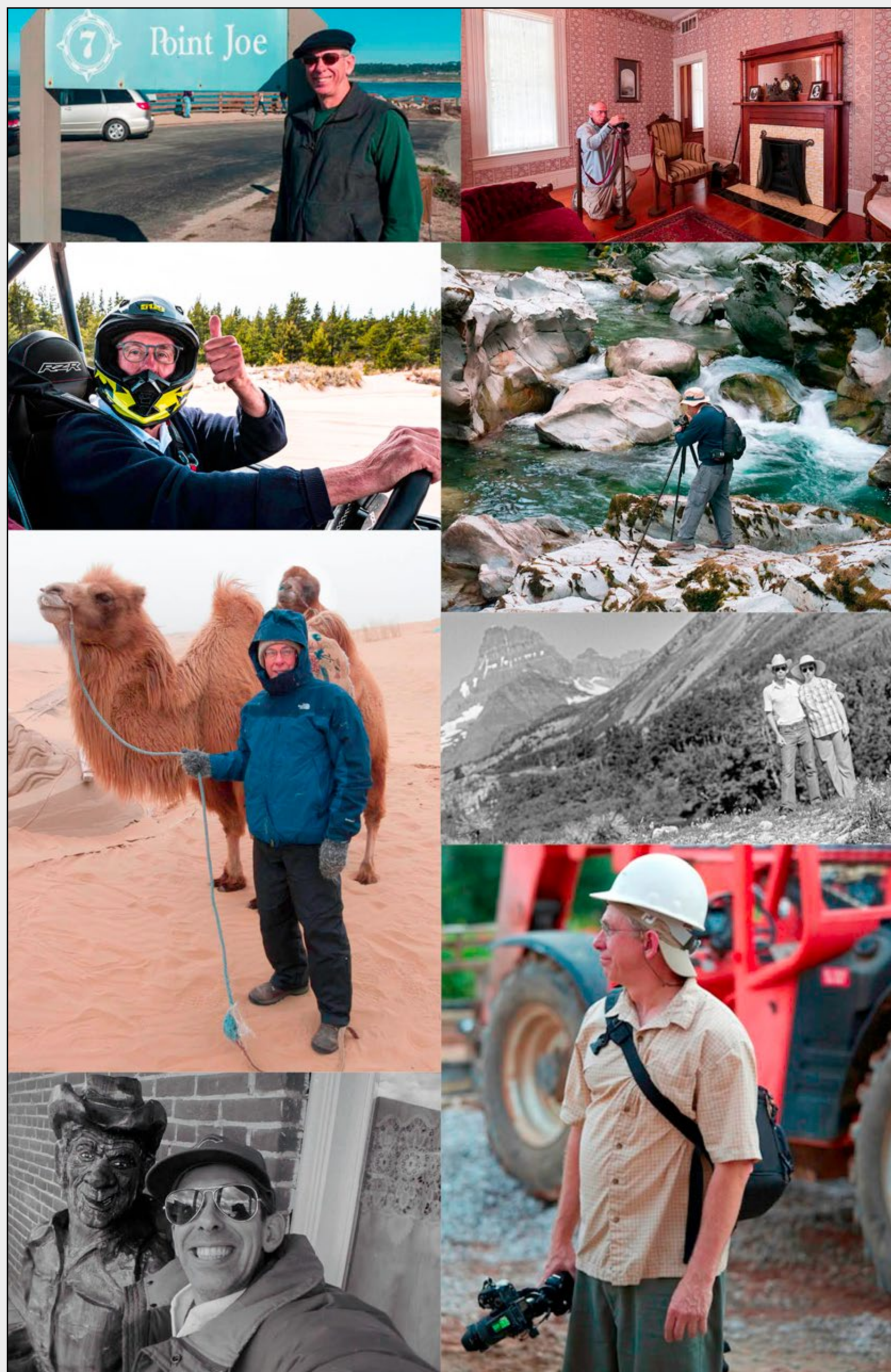


## After the Memories

I began photographing Academy Street in 1987. The Academy Street projects came as a reaction to my change from a "West Coast Aesthetic" and a personal challenge to "see how many photographs I could make on Academy Street." With that idea, I began a long-term relationship with Cary's most historic street. This version of After the Memories is the ninth project completed on Academy Street.

The overlay of vintage images atop a contemporary panorama was the best way to show what Cary, North Carolina looked like before the town quadrupled its population in thirty years.





Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred twenty juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and his images have been published in *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.

## The Lipka Journal, August, 2023

*Joe Lipka*

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

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

Blog: [https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the\\_daily\\_photograph/](https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/)

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