

# THE LIPKA JOURNAL

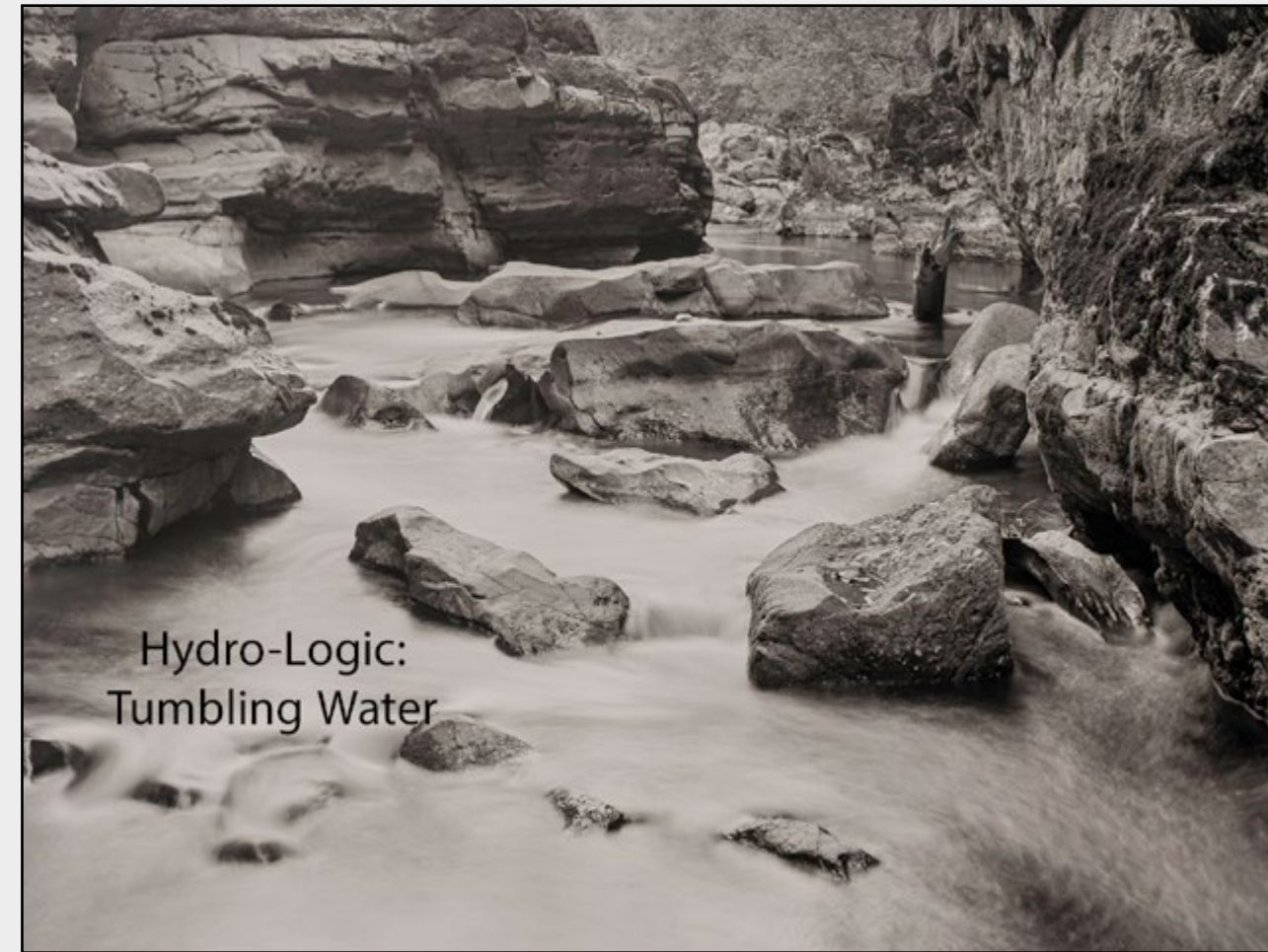
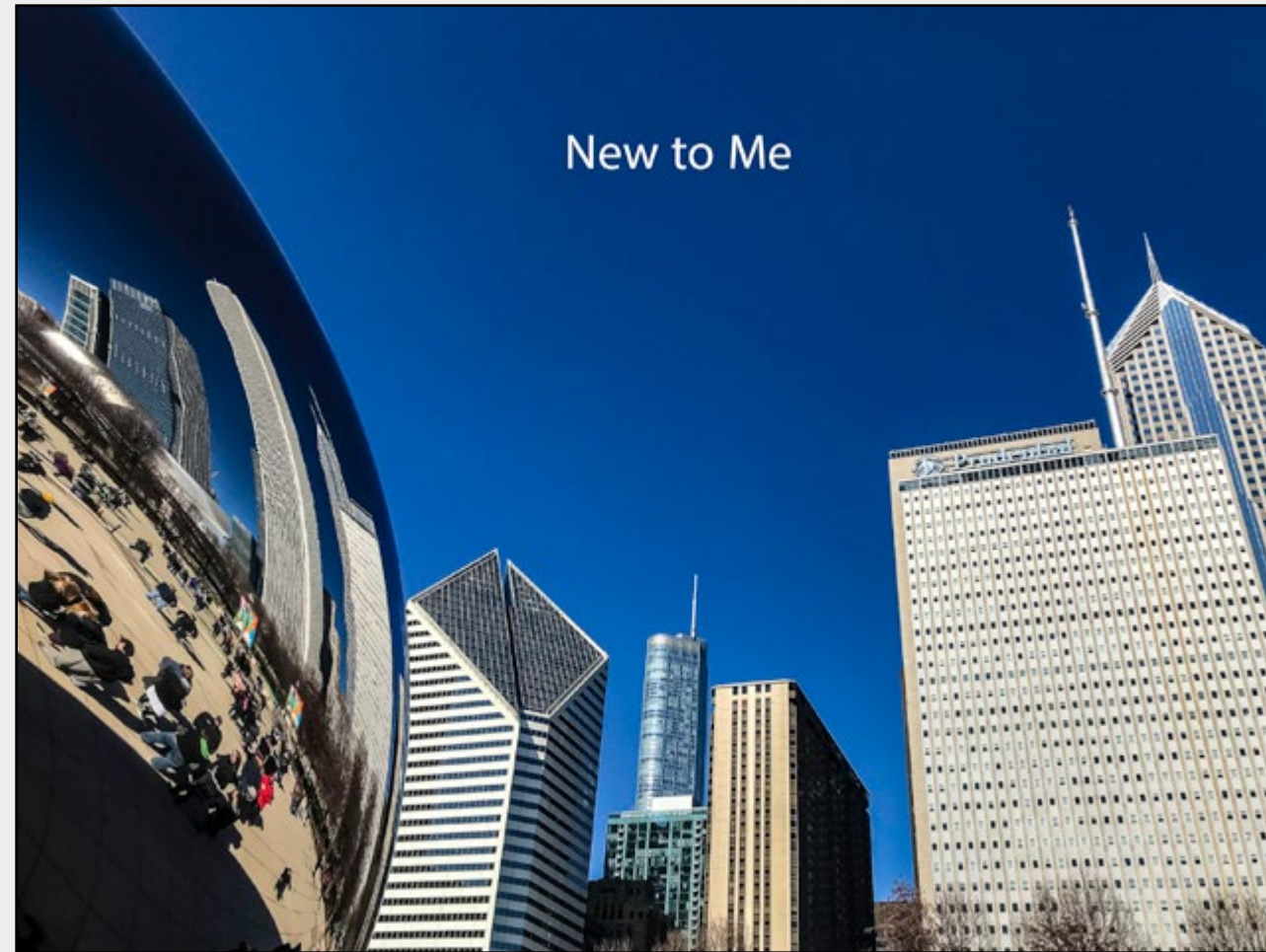
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JUNE 2025



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL JUNE 2025



We're all over the place again, proving one may find photographic subjects at any location. We're in the city with big shoulders to start the journey by looking up at the big buildings. We continue the newly named "Water Project," henceforth and forever to be known as "Hydro-Logic" and we end the trip by looking down at the shop floor and finding all the things needed for a job.



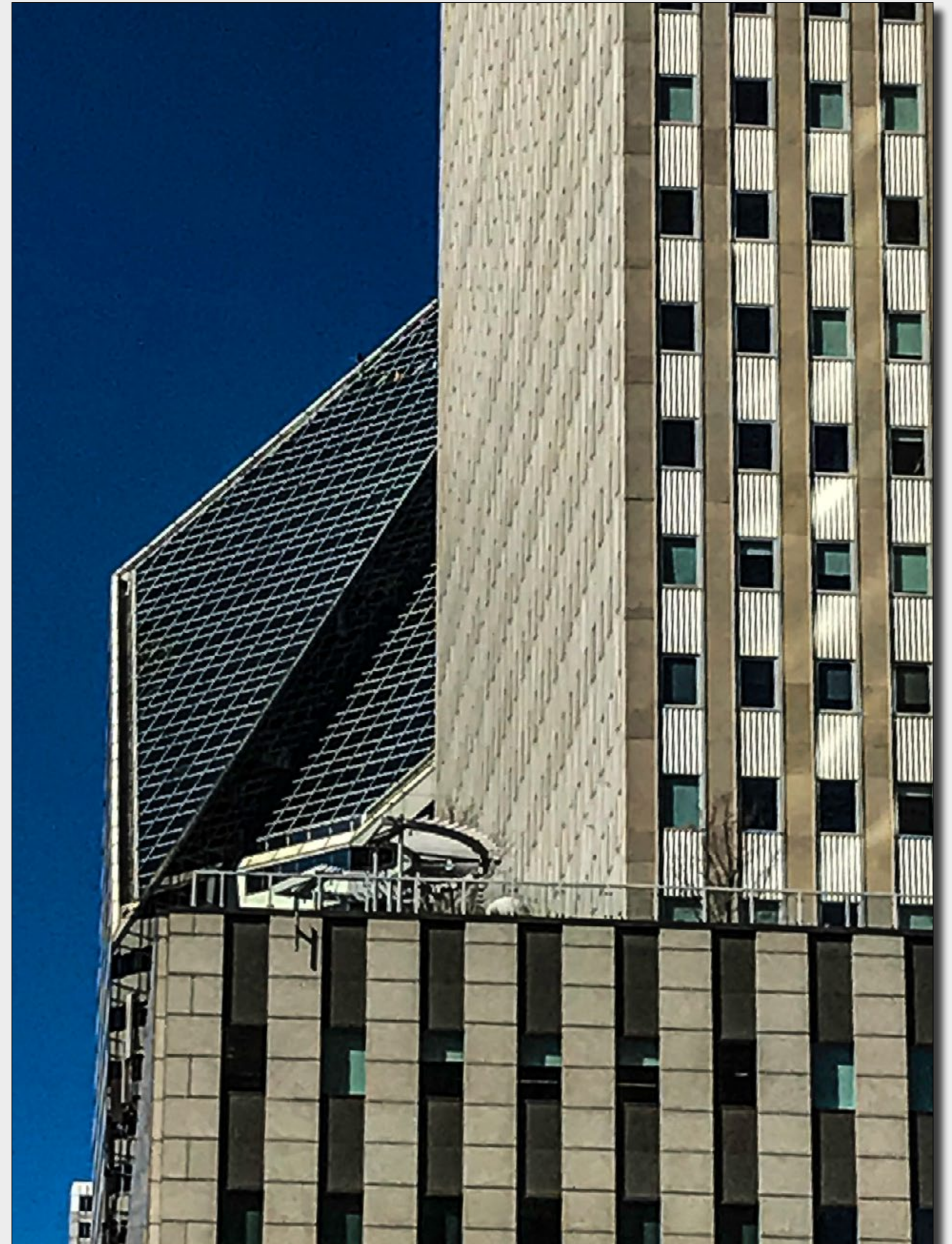
New to Me





## New to Me

We live in our “own town” and that is what is normal to us and we think nothing of it. Until we go to someone else’s “own town” and are amazed and enthralled by the vast difference between the two. Of course, we reflexively begin to record our astonishment and delight of this new place seeing many new things because this other town is New to Me. After a few exposures we stop photographing because we wonder to ourselves, “Why can’t I see my town as if it was New to Me?”

















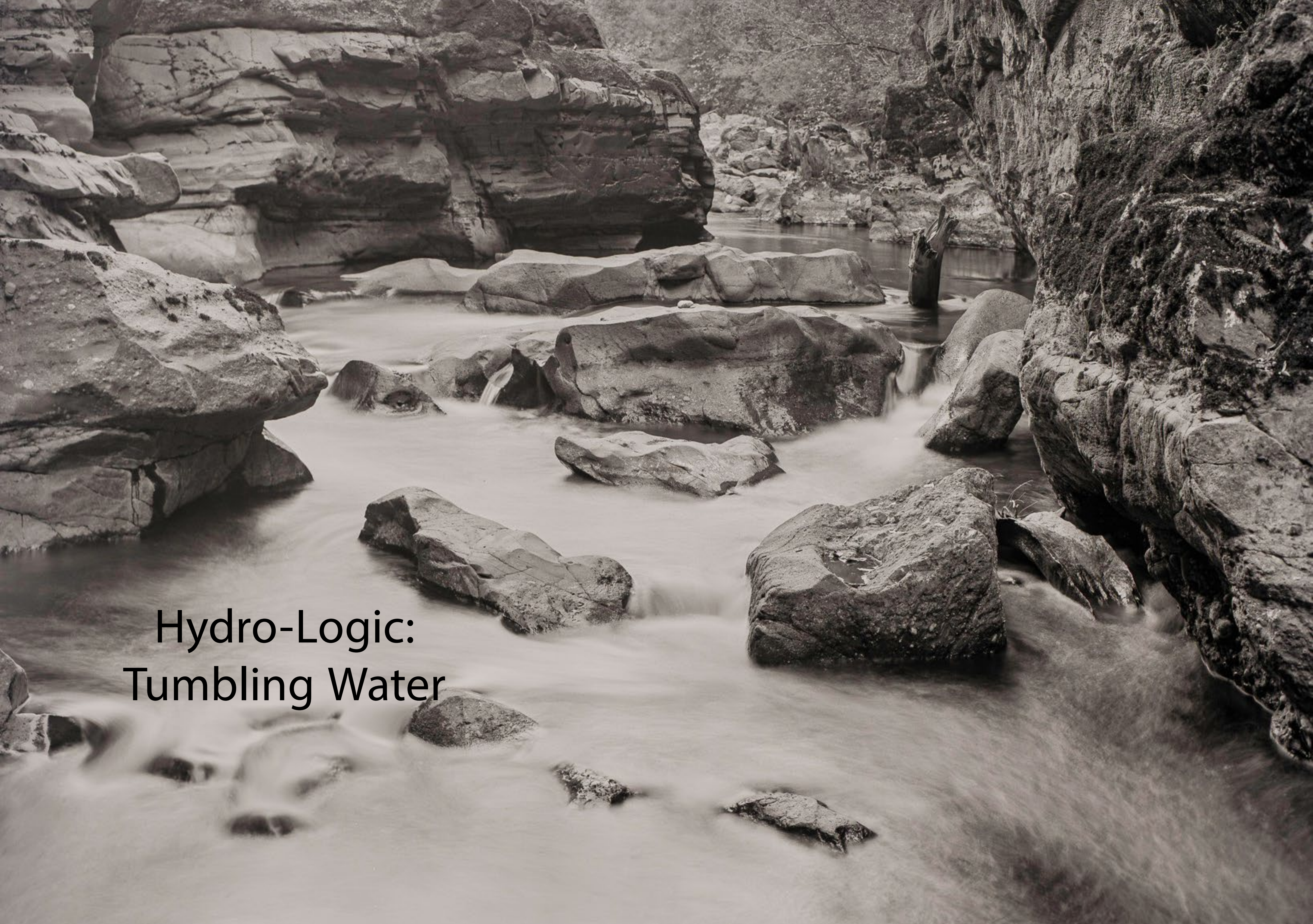
## A Mostly True Story

The deer hunters de-camped with a lot of noise in the pre-dawn hours and woke us. We ate breakfast while waiting for first light to start our photographic hunting. We found an isolated house with a large workshop. The owner granted us permission to photograph. I began to photograph the workshop. I didn't stay very long after I found out the owner told us he used to shop to refine cinnabar into pure mercury. Without any safety gear in place, I didn't think it was prudent to hang around very long.

This photograph was the first ever photograph to win "Best in Show" at the 1991 Raleigh Fine Arts Society annual juried exhibit. At the opening, a society matron walked by me and sniffed, "Photography isn't art." The check for the First Place Award didn't bounce.







Hydro-Logic:  
Tumbling Water



## Hydro-Logic: Tumbling Water

I stop and meditate on the scene in front of me. The water rushes and rumbles and tumbles noisily in its headlong rush to the Pacific Ocean. I can smell the water and the scent of the trees overhanging the canyon. The sound of the stream is soothing, and the stresses of my life are washed downstream. My whole universe is contained in the stream in front of me.

I am at peace.

I put down my coffee, hit CTRL+Tab and go back to work.







































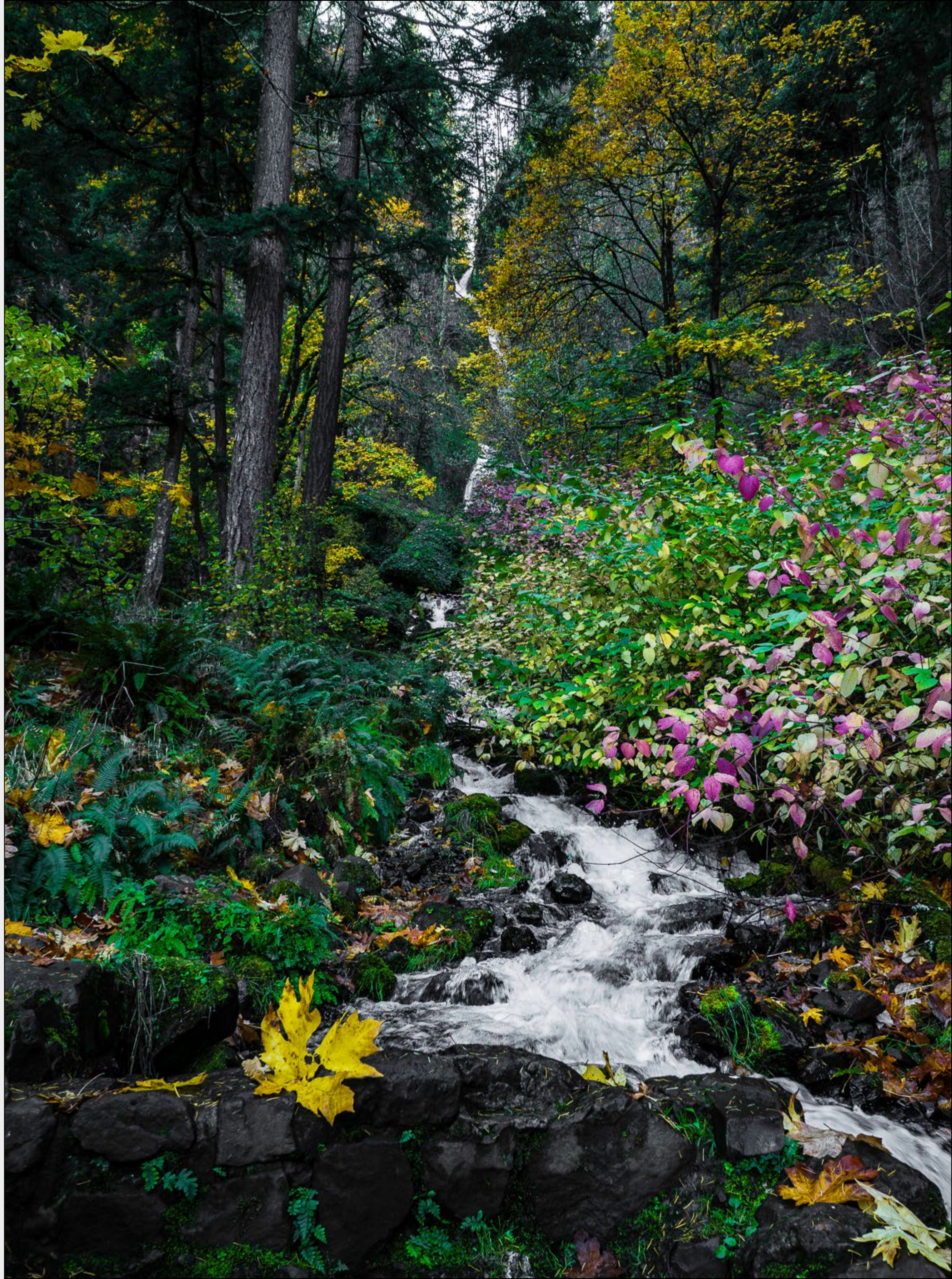




















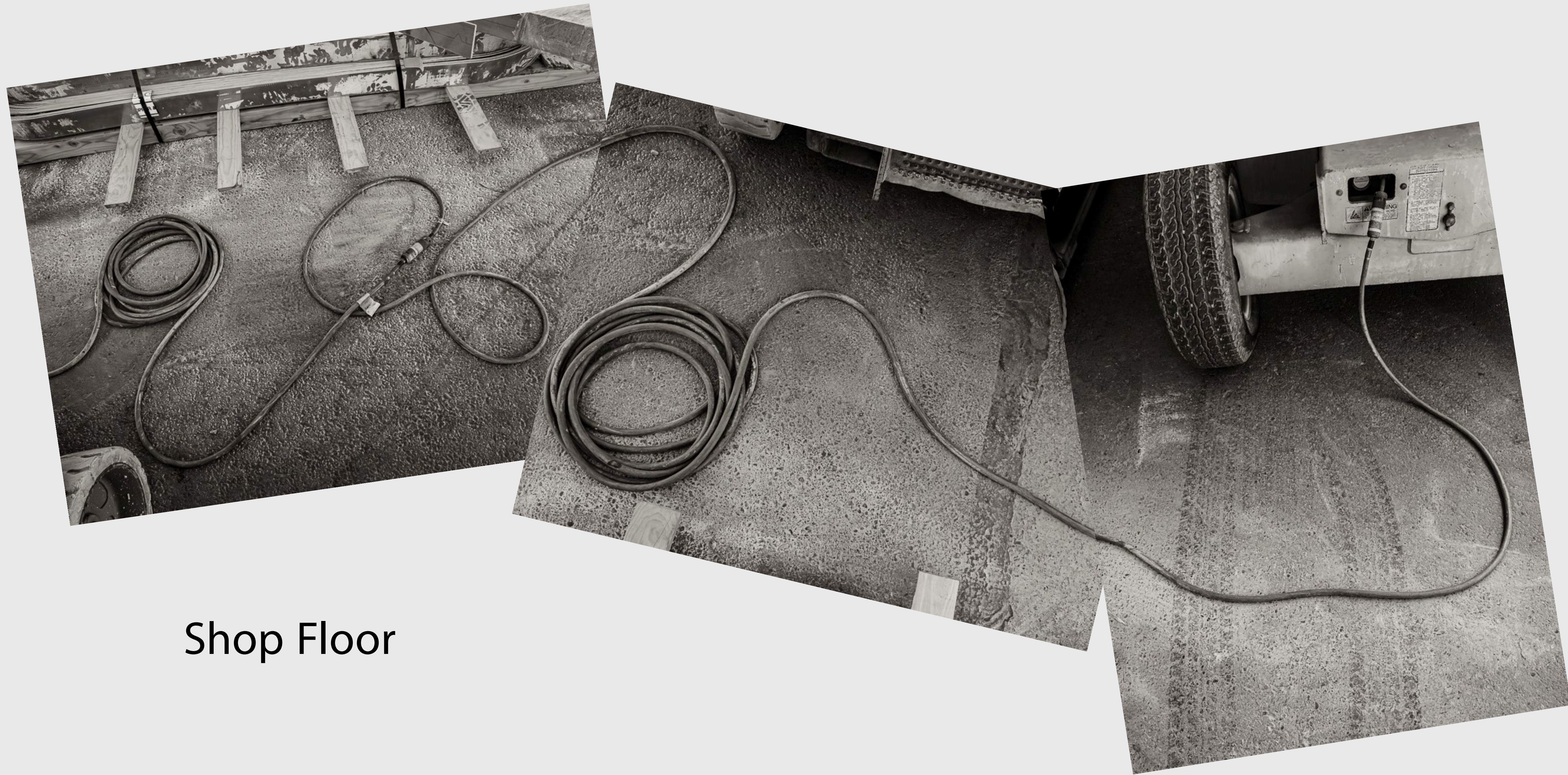




The only thing left is memories.

Prologue: A photo and six words.





Shop Floor



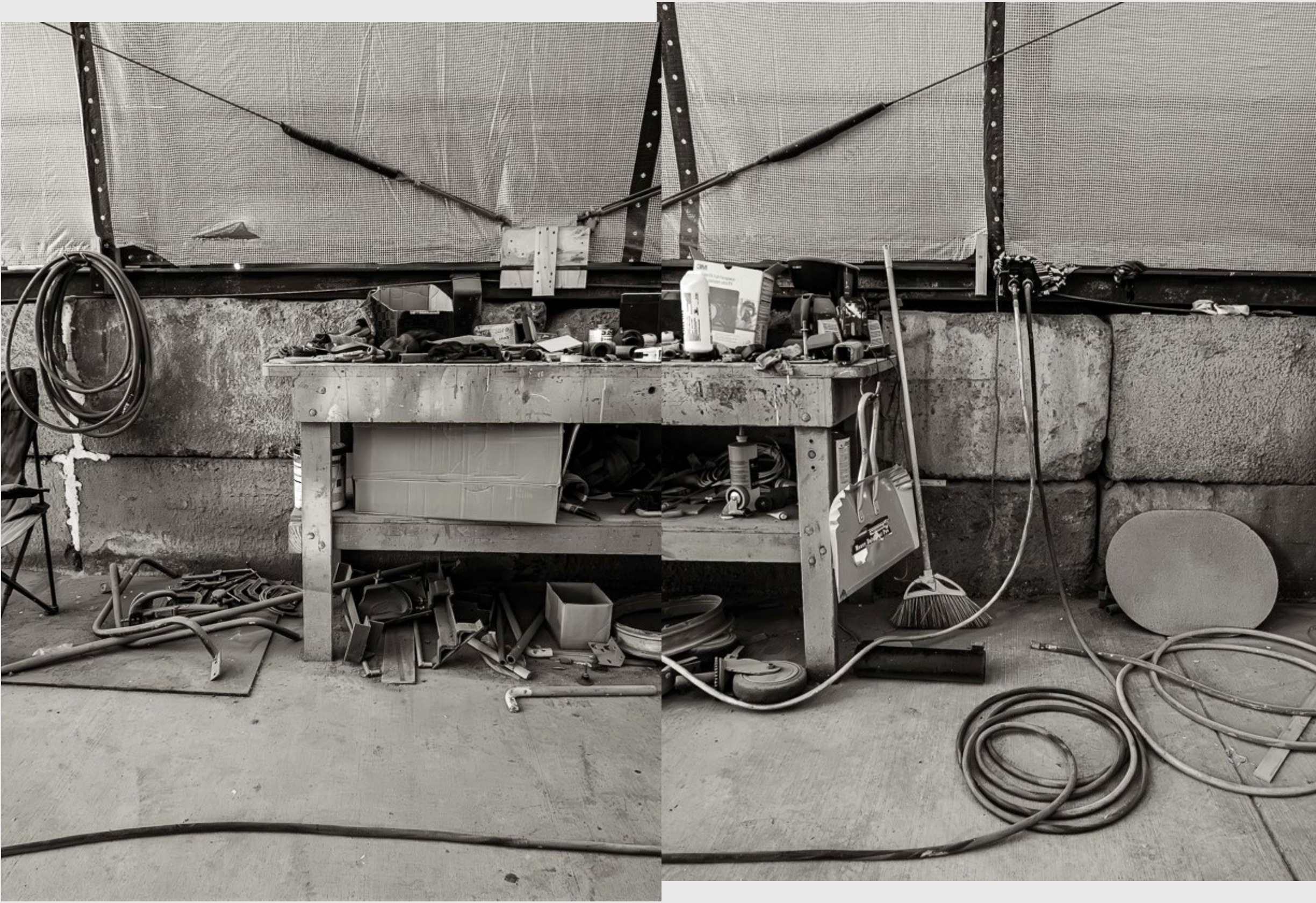


## Shop Floor

Hoses, cables, extension cords are all things that create a mess underfoot. One had to be careful not to trip over something when on the job. When I was working as an engineer in a chemical plant, I would see two pipefitters walking down the road, one with his eye cast upward tracing the route of a particular pipe through the plant. (The other fellow made sure the tracker didn't trip while not looking where he was going.)

Fabrication shops are difficult to photograph because tools are spread out all over the place and rarely fits into a nice rectangle. I fight my inner engineer's desire for order and rectangularity (is that even a word?) and honor the chaos by using whatever shape is needed.





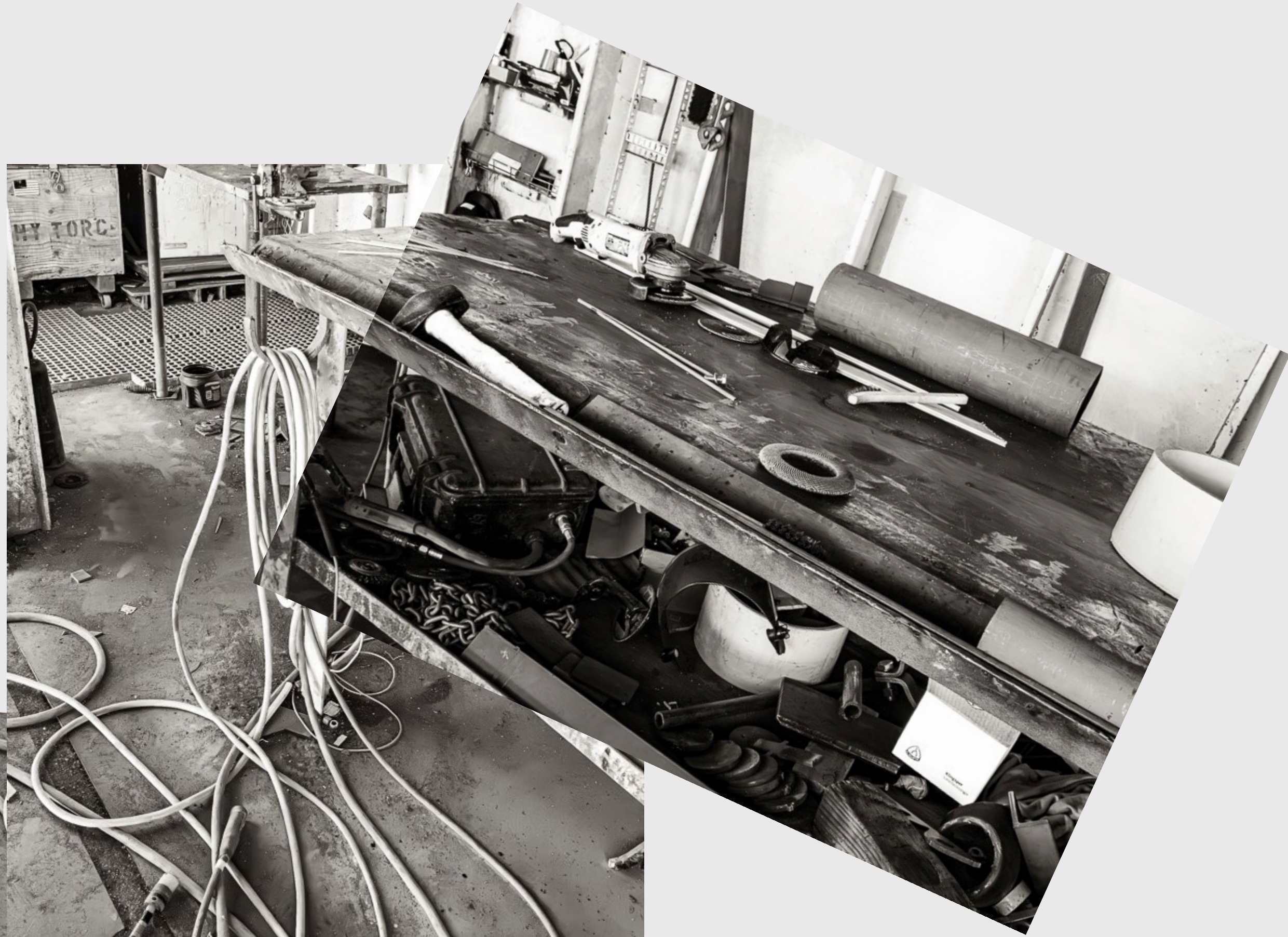








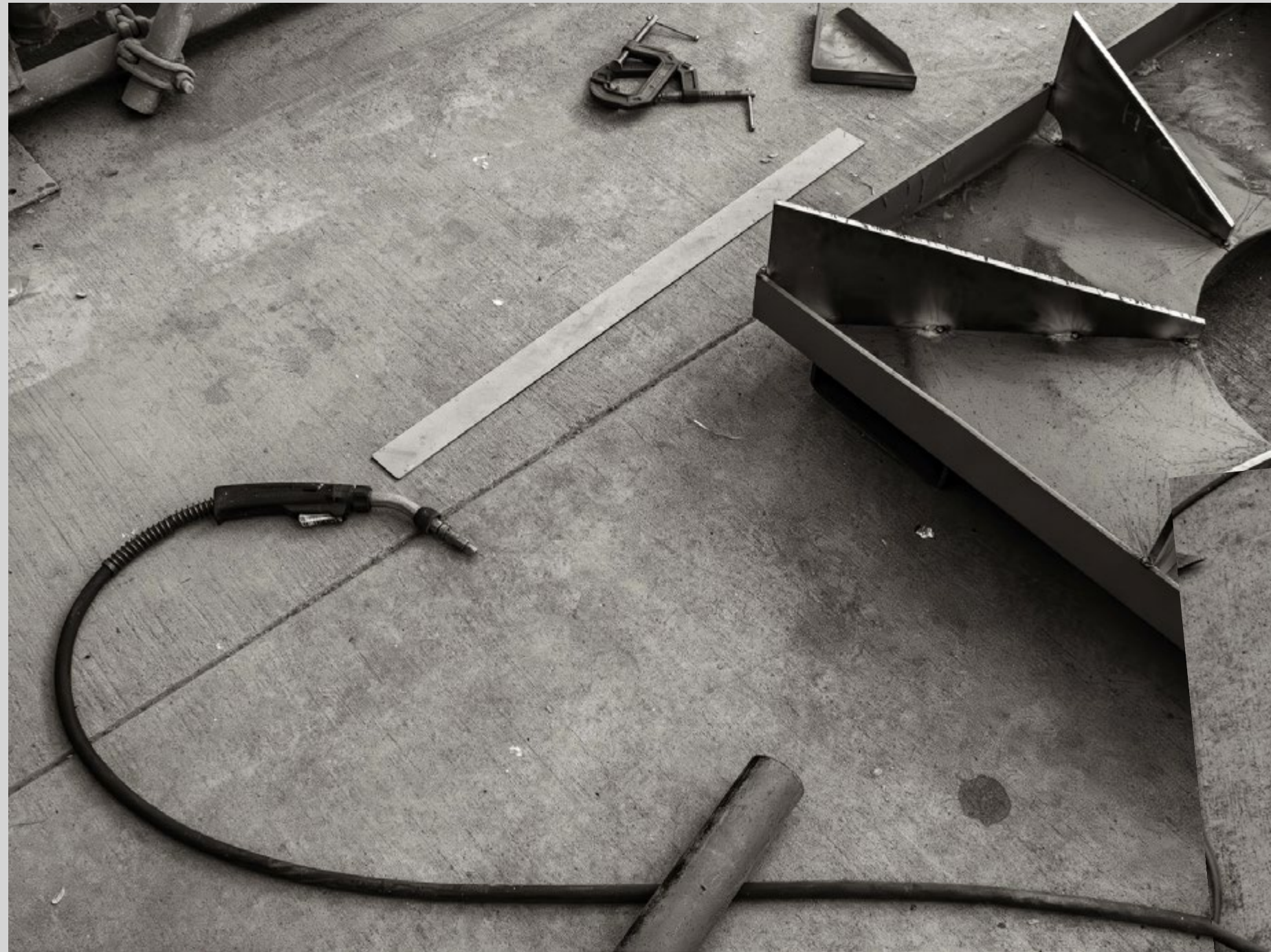














## Postcards from the Creative Journey



Dave,

One of the big questions we need to answer in life is just who we really are and, well, for some of us, that means who we are photographically.

Do we float along with popular photographic trends, or are we anchored to a single identity? Both carry their own dangers. Current trends leave you with a scattershot portfolio with no real depth. The anchored identity can be just that; an anchor to keep you from real growth.

Determining your identity (artistic or not) is the key to growth as a person and an artist. With that discovery made, one can move on to a fulfilling life.

**JOE**



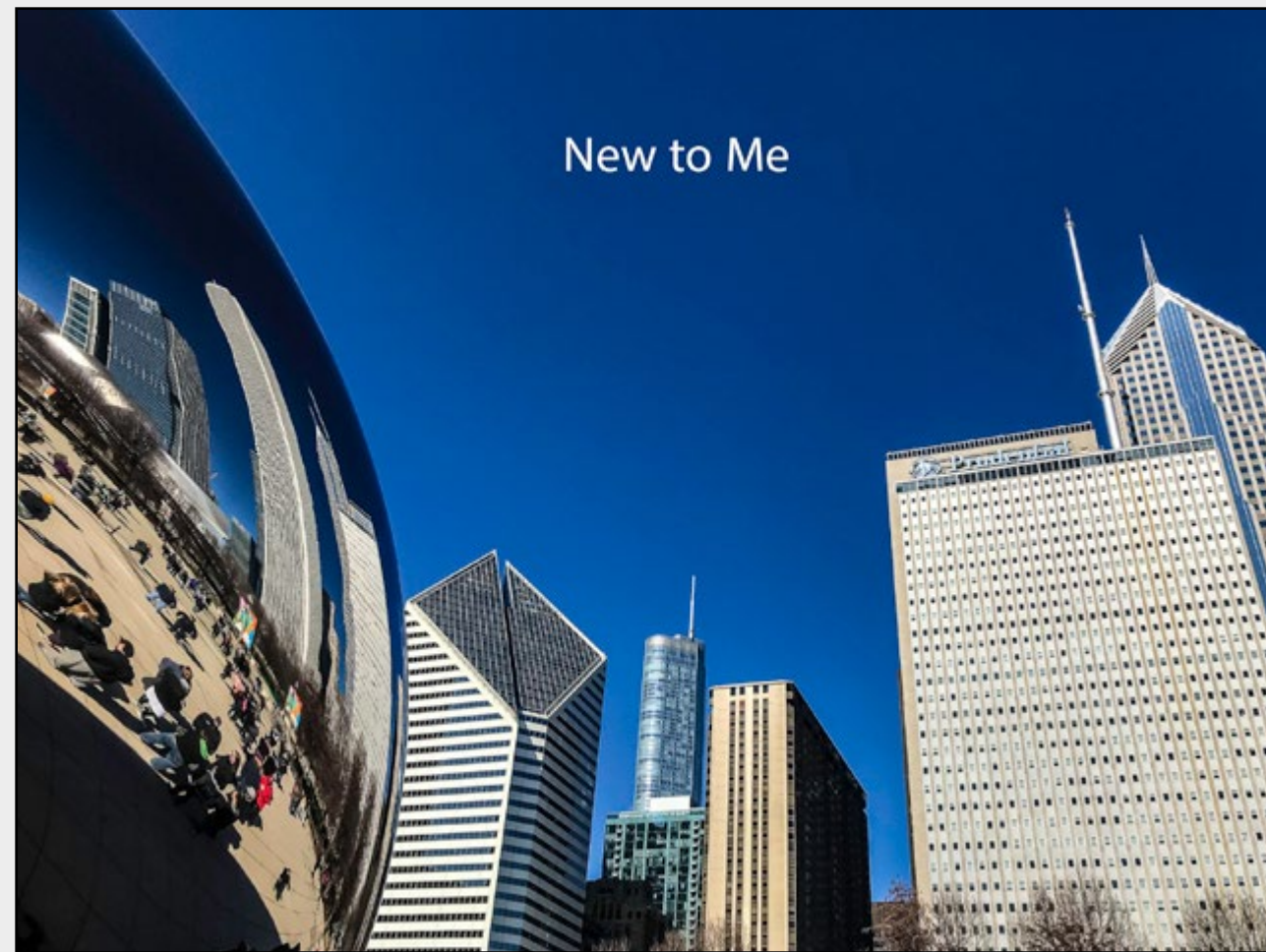
David Webb

415 East 71st St

New York

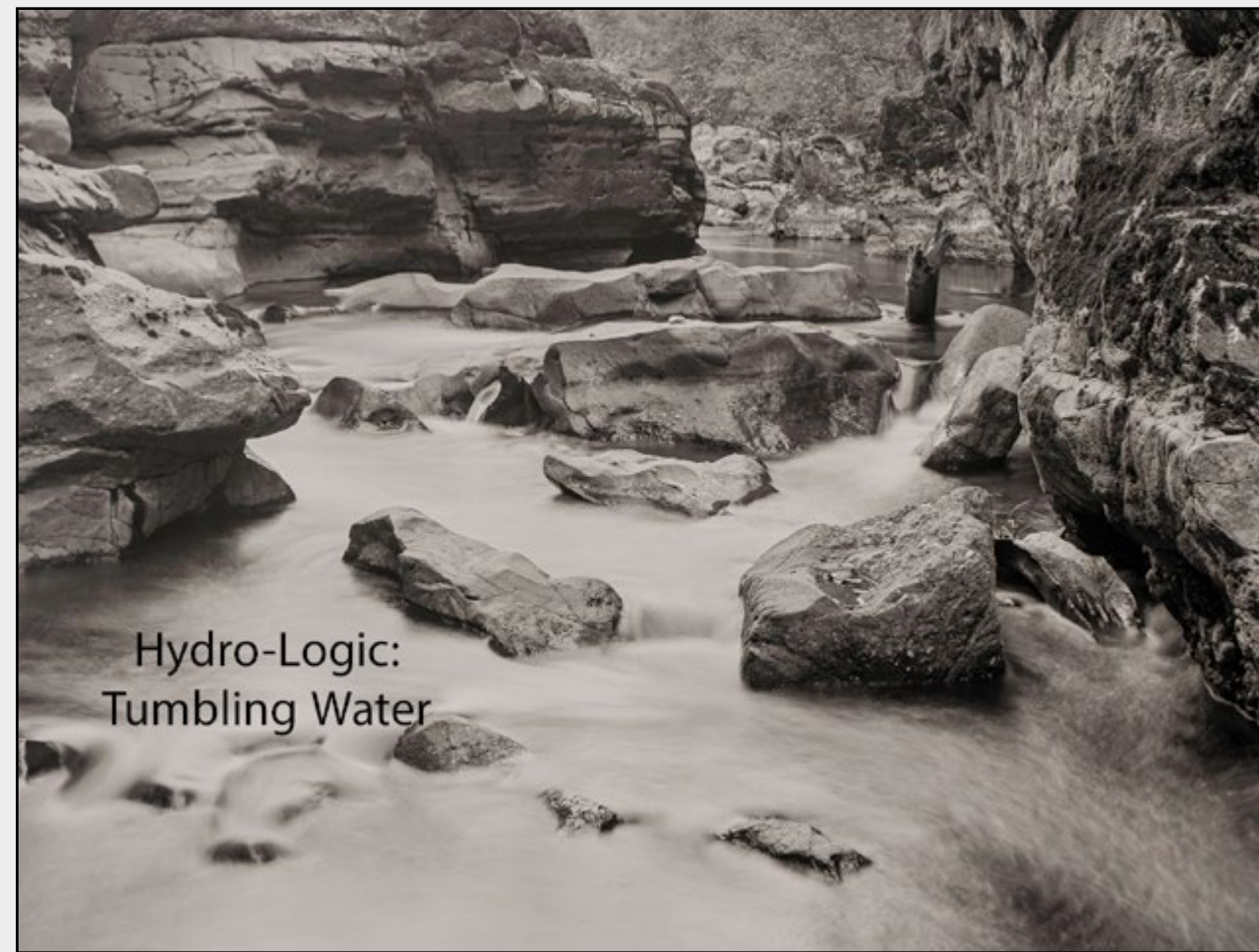


# A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



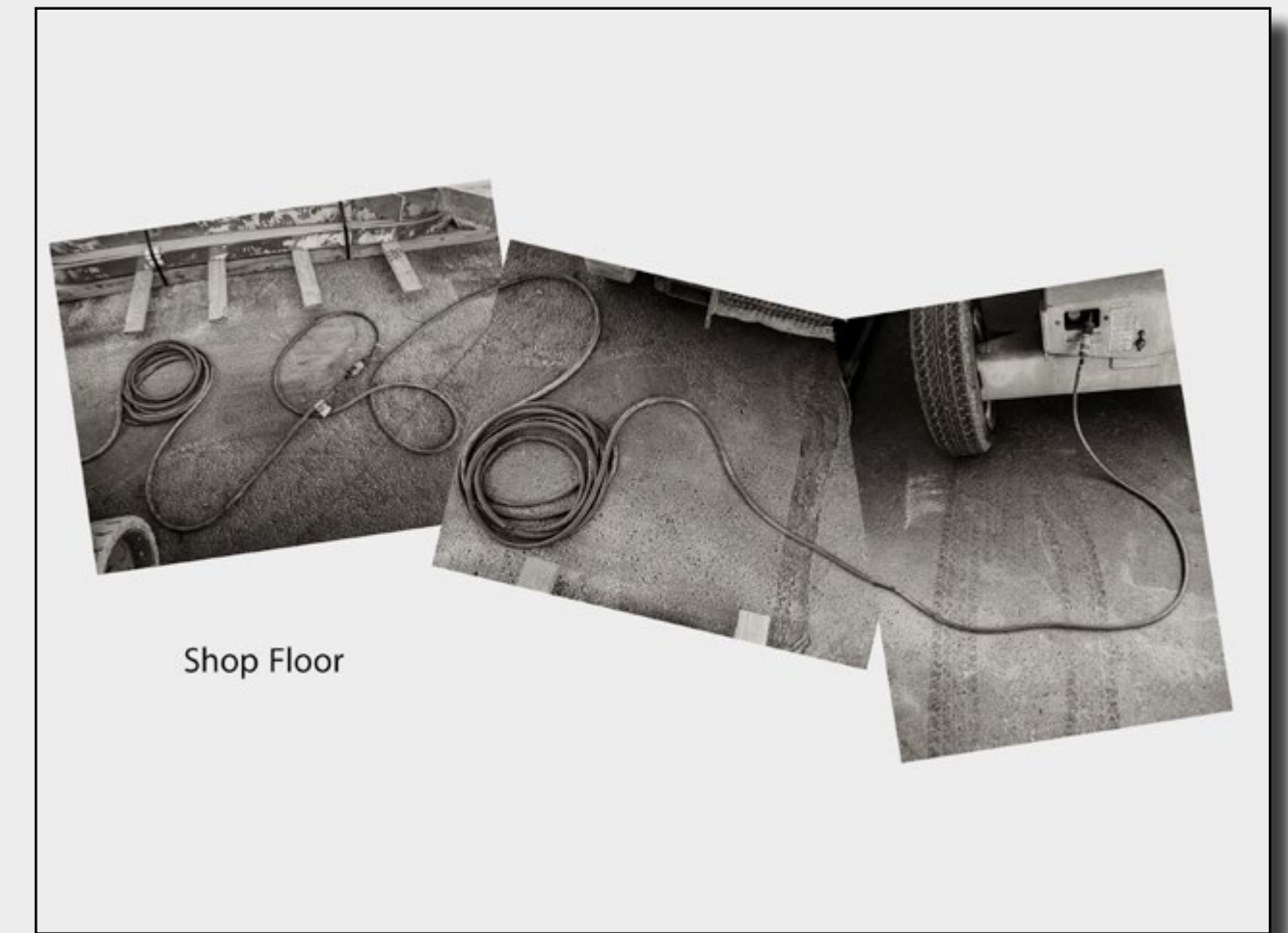
## New to Me

I visited Chicago to attend a wedding. We had a few short hours before we needed to get ready and so we explored the waterfront. I saw Chicago through a tourist's eyes and wondered why I couldn't see Cary as a tourist would see it.



## Hydro-Logic: Tumbling Water

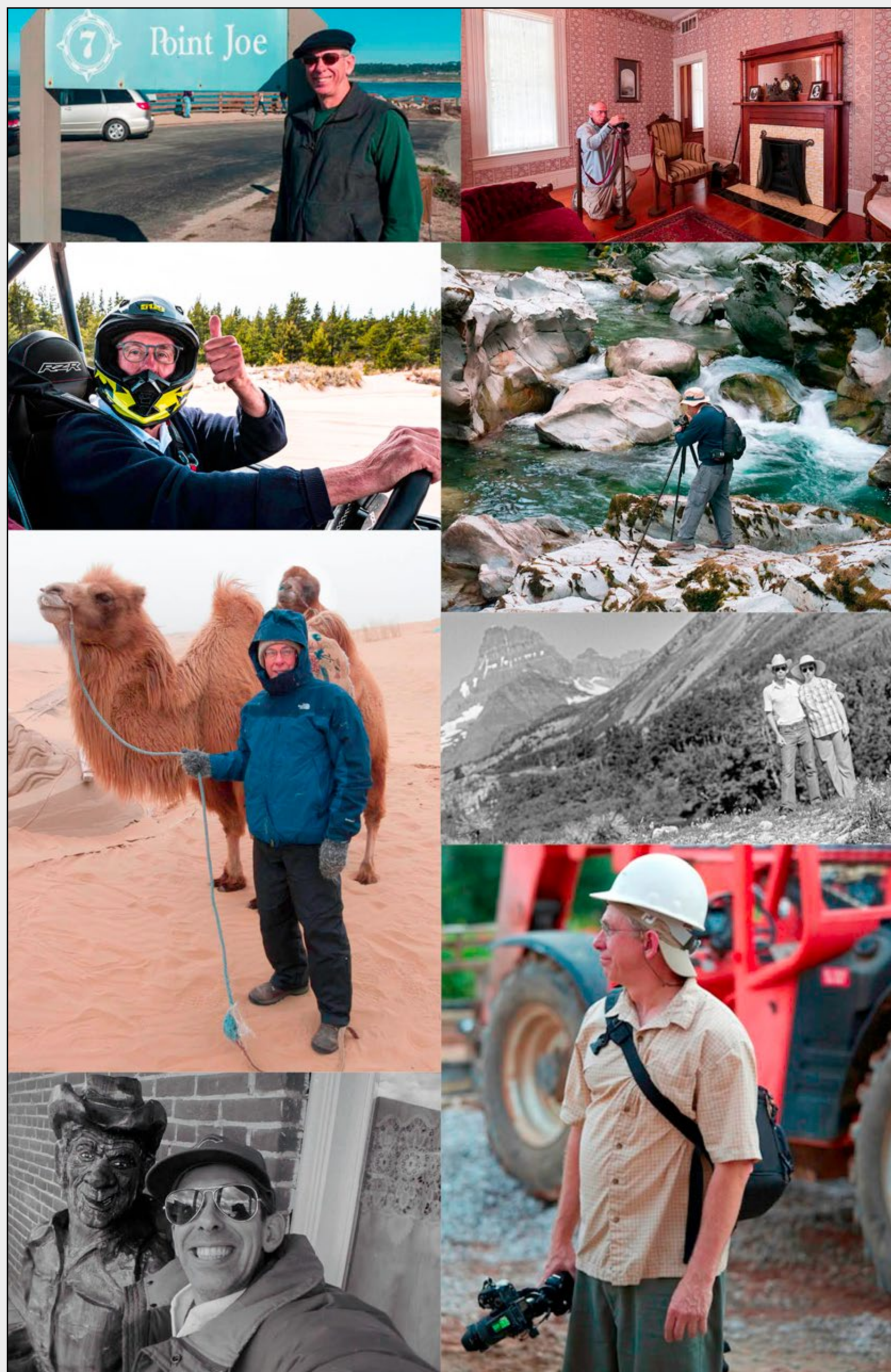
Hydro-Logic: Tumbling Water – Yay! A name for the project. It's taken months for me to figure out what I'm going to call this group of water photographs. All the while it was staring me in the face, because the study of water is hydrology, and the adjectival form of the word is hydrologic. I modified hydrologic by adding a hyphen to break the word up, then added a colon so I could distinguish the variations of the theme. Adding colons to titles allows me the ability to lead with something abstract and then particularize the abstraction. I think that's artsy. (He says with tongue firmly planted in cheek.)



## Shop Floor

I love making multiple image panoramic photographs. What happens when the images don't exactly line up, or the line you're following isn't straight and level with the edges of the adjacent frames? It still works, because it's how your vision works. Perpendicular and square are not unbreakable rules. Have some fun and follow the cables across the floor.





Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

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, now publishes new content as part of *The Lipka Journal*.

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

## The Lipka Journal, June, 2025

*Joe Lipka*

© 2025 Joe Lipka Photography

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

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

***The contents of this computer media are copyrighted materials***

*Please note that this computer file has been provided as a consumer product for the private and non-commercial use of the purchaser only. Its' contents are copyrighted in its entirety and may not be duplicated by any means without the consent of Joe Lipka or his heirs. Each article, portfolio and photographic image is copyrighted by the author and may not be duplicated for any purpose or by any means without his consent*

*All Rights Reserved.*