



# THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

SEPTEMBER 2021



# WELCOME TO MY JOURNAL

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Autumn is my favorite time to photograph, and this issue begins a celebration of my favorite season. I like autumn because the summer heat has broken, the sun is getting lower in the sky and the summer vacation crowds have disappeared. Autumn is the passage between the heat of summer and the cold of winter. It is time to head out for some undisturbed photography.

After the Harvest is over, the crops are in, land shows the effects of the recent harvest and hints of the next planting. We head to the California Coast and catch the early evening light of the golden hour illuminating the House on the Hill. Not only is the light golden but so is the House. As Autumn is the passage between seasons, we stay indoors to consider the passages and portals in and out of buildings.

A View from the House on the Hill

(More on this place later.)





# After the Harvest







## After the Harvest

The Palouse is a popular place to “trophy hunt” for photographs. At certain times of the year photography workshops motor over the landscape all competing to make “the shot” from the exact same spot to demonstrate their photographic prowess. But once the harvest (of photographs and wheat) is complete, the land is pretty much deserted.

This is the time we chose to head out to the Palouse. The land has been worked after the harvest, the fields are covered with stubble and the land is waiting for the next season’s planting.



































火烟禁严

連年才余喜發財

言和如意事事順

He understood the meaning of illiteracy.





# The House on the Hill





## The House on the Hill

It is the Golden Hour, the Golden Castle, and beautiful art appropriated and assembled in a beautiful setting. It's an absolute overload of visual beauty that can barely be absorbed in several trips. It's like you're being beaten into submission with beauty. Only after you leave do you think about how obsessive was the acquisition of an astounding number of art and architectural elements in one place.































Asnot was abandoned on the planet.



# Postcards from the Creative Journey

March 20, 2016

## Shared Visual Literacy

"You know the photograph of the guy on a bed with a gun?"

This sentence came up in an email exchange with a fellow photographer. I knew immediately which photograph he was talking about and the photographer who made it. This happens when there is a shared visual literacy resulting from knowing photographs, photographers and how they fit into the history of photography.

In the world of formal photographic education, I fear art photography educators seem to have forgotten the people that made it possible to earn a degree in art photography. Informal photographic education in the aesthetics of photography is being left to images on flickr, snapchat, instagram and miscellaneous internet fora.

I don't know which is worse for the future of photographic aesthetics.

To share the common history of photographs with you, the "guy on the bed with the gun" is the cover image on the book, "Tulsa," by Larry Clark.





## Passages and Portals





## Passages and Portals

Doors do many things. Doors connect two spaces, allowing people to enter or leave a space. Doors offer protection by blocking the entry of people or by separating us from dangerous people. Doors protect against the elements and keep warmth in during the winter and an open door allows summer breezes to cool us and refresh us with the aromas of flowers and cut grass. Doors regulate the amount of light to enter a room from the outside. The light in a room can spill out of the open door and be a beacon of welcome to those outside.



























Passages and Portals abound in the Labyrinth of Fort Worden

[Link to the Labyrinth Folio](#)

## A Few Closing Words

### After the Harvest

Avoiding what other photographers do is a pretty good way to separate yourself from everyone else. Be it a more obscure place to photograph or photographing at a different time of year are two good ways to create separation. The migrating flocks of photographers have left the Palouse and the land is resting. It is a great time to be out there all alone. No one photographs after the crops are gone. We were happy for that.

### The House on the Hill

The Hearst Castle is an amazing collection of disparate architectural and cultural elements cobbled together into a fantasy palace for someone with not much taste but a whole bunch of money. If you get the chance to see it, do so. We went in late November. The light was golden and wonderful for photography. The Castle interior was decorated for Christmas with multiple Christmas Trees. We never found a Rosebud sled.

### Passages and Portals

My daughter once said I was the best door photographer in the world. I don't know if it's true but I never considered it until she mentioned it. Wow, I found a lot of door photographs in my files. Here are some door photographs that didn't make it into the project on my web site.

If you want to see more door photographs the [Passages and Portals](#) project is on the link.





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 Lipka Journal, September 2021

*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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