

THE LIPKA JOURNAL PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS JOE LIPKA

GEPTEMBER 2022

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL GEPTEMBER 2022

Many of my photographic projects occur when I am traveling. Sometimes there is a destination in mind, a goal to reach and a specific place to make photographs. Such goals not uncommon because I am a born and bred engineer and goal path clarity is my life. The problem arising from that outlook is to pass by wonderful things to photograph because we are locked on to a specific goal.

Fighting the urge to stick to a schedule and reaching a goal is a constant struggle when on the road. The ability to recognize a required deviation from the daily goals is a worthy talent to cultivate. Through the years many great opportunities have arisen and provided wonderful, unexpected subjects for my photographs.

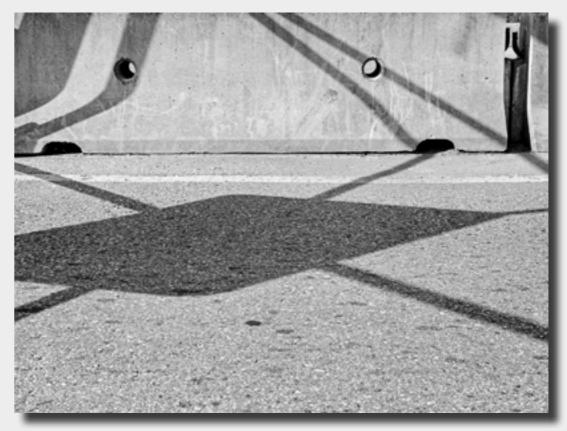
This month the photographs come from wandering around a French village fighting jet lag, a detour in Arizona to photograph graffiti and waiting for the next Ferry in Vancouver, BC. All interruptions to a journey or a plan and all unexpected places for great images.



Off the Route



The Eyes Have It



Waiting for the Ferry

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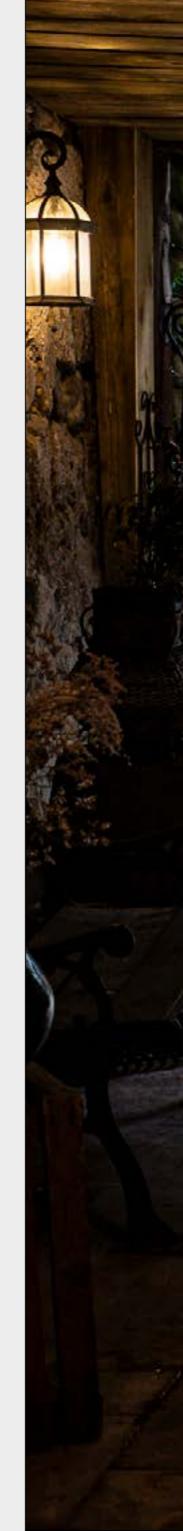
Off the Route



Off the Route

The very essence of a guided tour is just that. You are guided, led, shepherded in a group to visit certain places at certain times and see specified things. There are even specific times to not be guided.

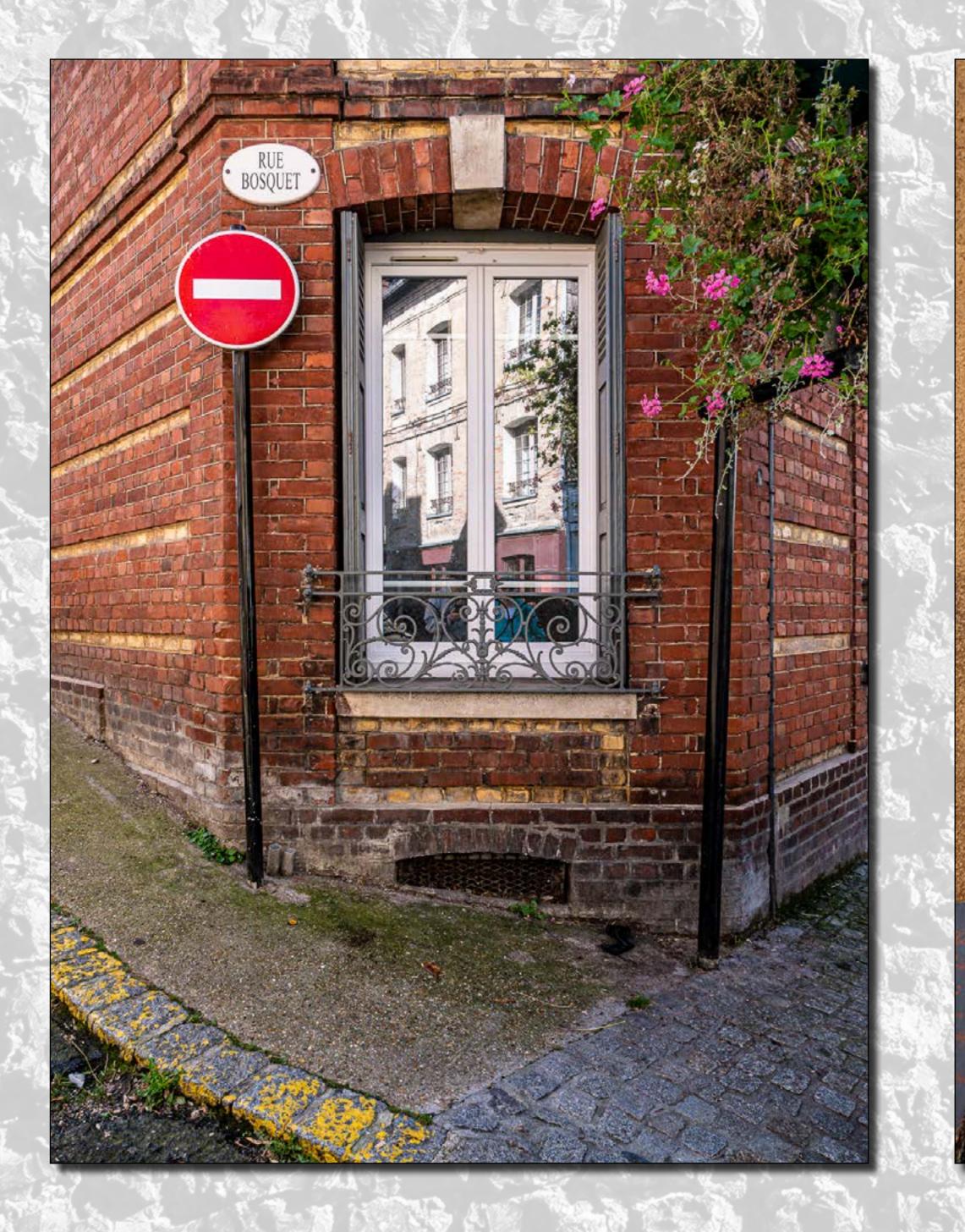
Before the touring begins is time to explore and look around while letting your body adjust to the new time zone and letting your eyes adjust to the new place. One sees the familiar, the foreign, the new and the old. It is time for the inquisitive eye to take over and break away from the usual vision.

















Six Word Project

Wind blew.

Windows rattled.

Then silence.



(III)

Mr-





The Eyes Have It



The Eyes Have It

The Grand Canyon. A must see for every American, a must photograph place for every American Landscape Photographer. It was our goal for the day. We set out in the morning and never made it. Paint the Desert hotel near Grey Mountain, Arizona stopped us. A kaleidoscope of color setting atop the brown dirt of the Arizona Desert. The eyes looked out at us and the desert on the other side of Route 89. We stopped and a decision had to be made.

The big gift of life is time. We all have a choice on how to spend the time we have on earth, and we make choices on what to do with our time. That morning we voted to postpone a planned highlight to enjoy something unexpected.

The vote was two ayes to none and the Eyes Had It that morning.



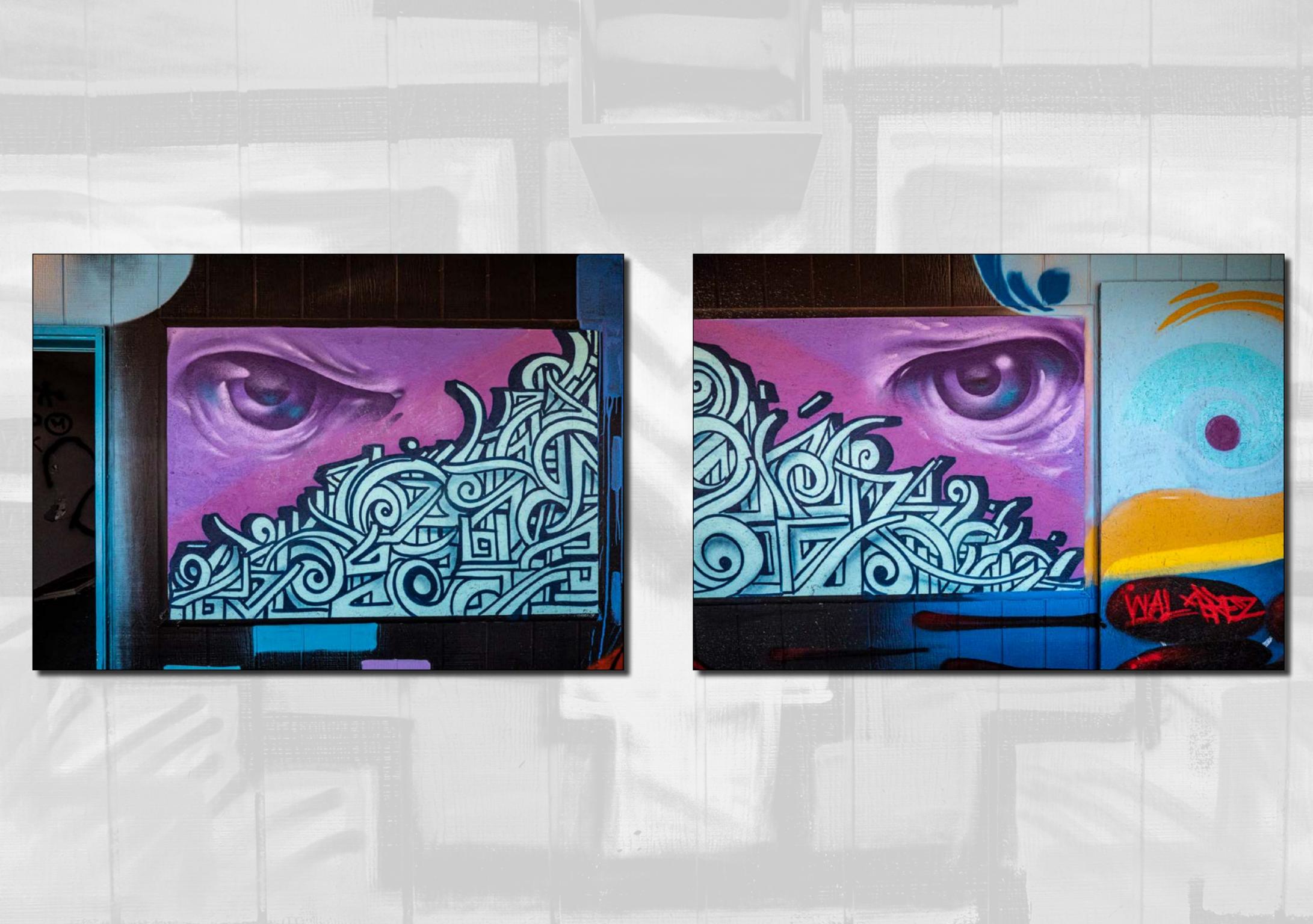






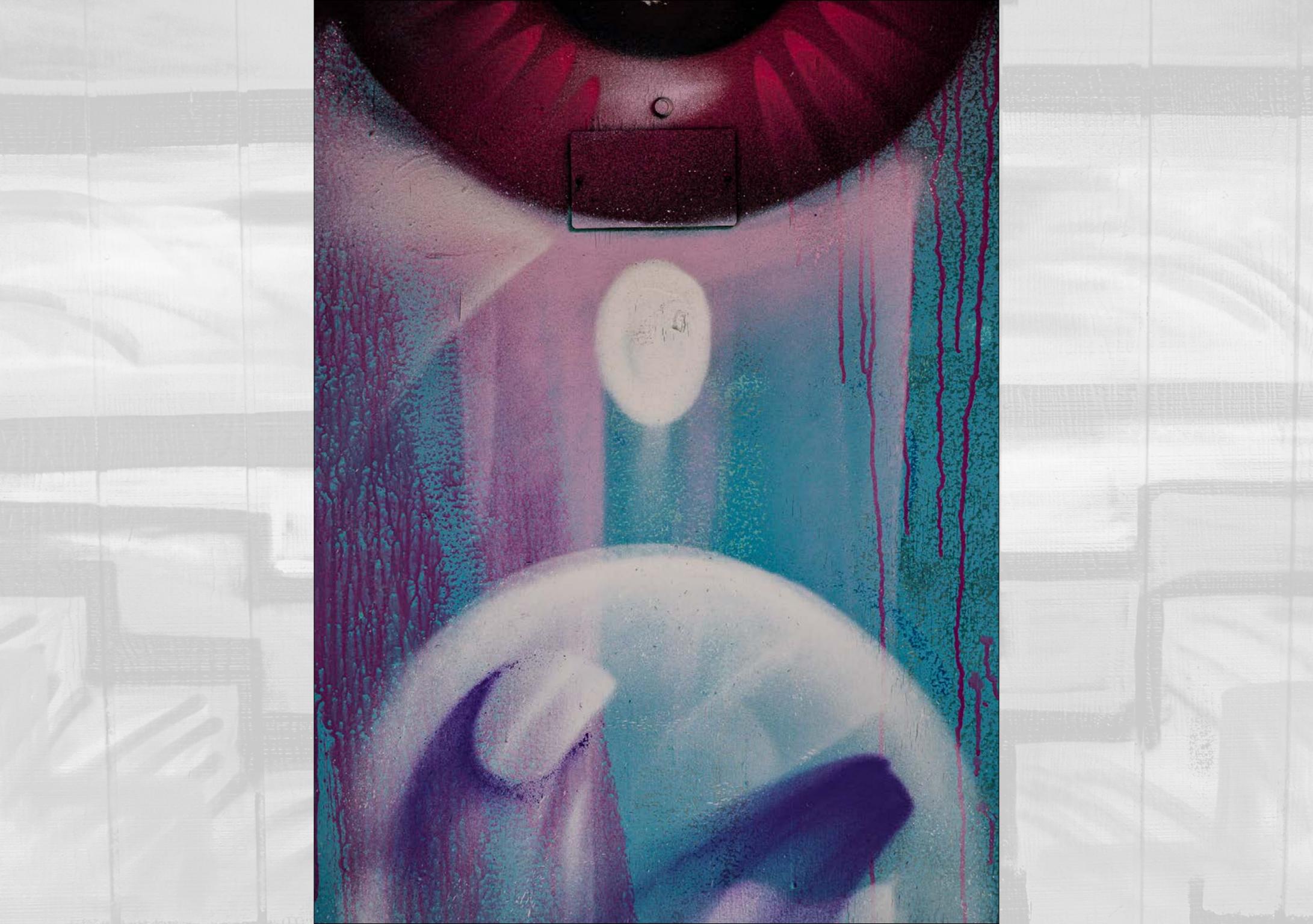












The Trail

He knew the bromides about the first step of every journey, but this step was his first test of wilderness backpacking alone. The route was meticulously planned and charted from the comfort of his sofa. Supplies, water, camp gear were precisely packed on his back.

His feet would not move. The trail was in front of him but disappeared quickly.

The car engine started. He turned to see a goodbye wave and hear the words, "See you Tuesday at the pick-up point."

As the car pulled away, he took the first step





Waiting For the Ferry

Photographic Projects are just like all projects: they have a beginning, a middle and an end. The time frame for the project can be centuries (think of the Gothic Cathedrals of Europe) or about the time between Ferry departures.

The challenge was a simple one; Before the next Ferry departure create a series of photographs from one roll of film. There is no great life affirming meaning to the photographs; it was a simple exercise in artistic creation based on a time and geographic location. The goal was to respond creatively to a situation with a given set of constraints. It is assignment photography, similar to those completed every day by commercial photographers or photo journalists.

This group of photographs was completed in 2002 and is another part of the More Memories than Dreams Project.

















Postcards from the Creative Journey September 6, 2015

A Half Hour for Five Dollars?

You can't photograph all the time, can you? During our safari in Wallace, Idaho we were photographing the back of a building and saw a sign so brazen we had to take some time out and visit the Oasis Bordello. Five dollars for a half hour was quite a bargain. Imagine our astonishment that the admission fee was for a tour of Wallace's most famous (notorious?) bordello.

It was by far the most bizarre non photographic activity during a photo safari that we have experienced.

I could say more, but just google "The Oasis, Wallace Idaho" and you can learn about all we saw.

This is the back entrance to the Oasis. It was probably used by the town's leading citizens.



A FEW CLOSING WORDS





Off the Route

After traveling all night the proper response is to go out for a walk to stretch your legs and try to acclimate to new time zones, climate and culture.

We walked around the small town of Honfleur, France and while working through the fog of jet lag I began photographing whatever struck my eye.

Yes, there is a preponderance of vertical compositions in this suite of images. The roads in Honfleur are very narrow and lend themselves to vertical compositions. Quite odd for a dedicated landscape photographer.

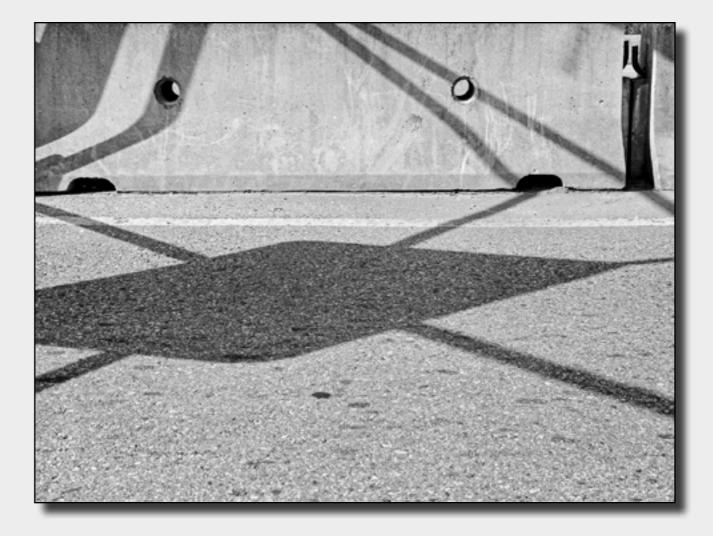
The Eyes Have It

Paint the Desert is a huge art project in Arizona. Buildings of all sizes become the canvas for painters, graffiti artists and photographers. You can't not stop when you see a building such as one shown above.

We stopped twice and spent a lot of time photographing this artwork. I have a few more projects from these art projects in the Arizona Desert that will make it onto the pages of future Journals.

Here is a link to website about the entire project.

https://jetsonorama.net/the-painted-desert-project/

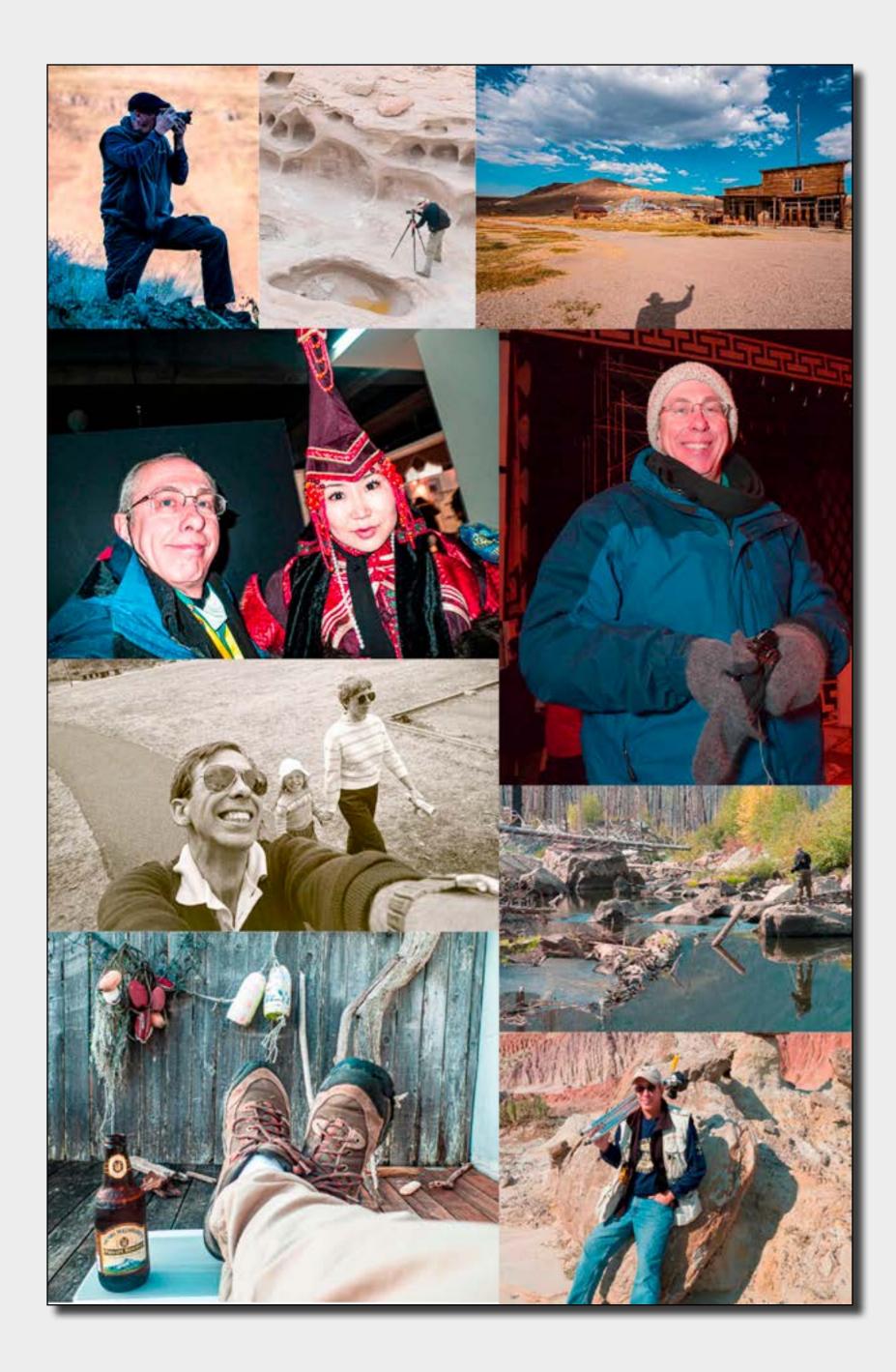


Waiting for the Ferry

Ferries have their own schedules which never seem to agree with our schedules. Waiting for Ferries is a passtime in the Pacific Northwest. Coming back from Vancouver, BC, we had about an hour to wait before our departure.

Brooks Jensen handed me a medium format camera, said he was going to take nap and told me I was going to take pictures until we had to drive on to the Ferry.

This image suite is another one of the More Memories than Dreams Project.



In the last thirty 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 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.

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Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

COLOPHON

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Joe Lipka

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