

The Inevitability of NUMBERS

Joe Lipka

8M

8

6

4

2

7M

8

6

4

2

6M

8



*“Everything around you is numbers”
Shakuntala Devi*

When I was young, my Grandmother Lipka asked if I could “cipher.” Her generation learned reading, writing and ciphering. It took a while for my young mind to figure out that ciphering was actually arithmetic and working with numbers. When reading and writing skills were neither required nor possessed for daily living, the ability to cipher approached sorcery.

488

33
07
07

UP
33
07
07

3875

3875


UP
33
07
07

UP
33
07
07

UP
33
07
07

3875

UP
33
07
07

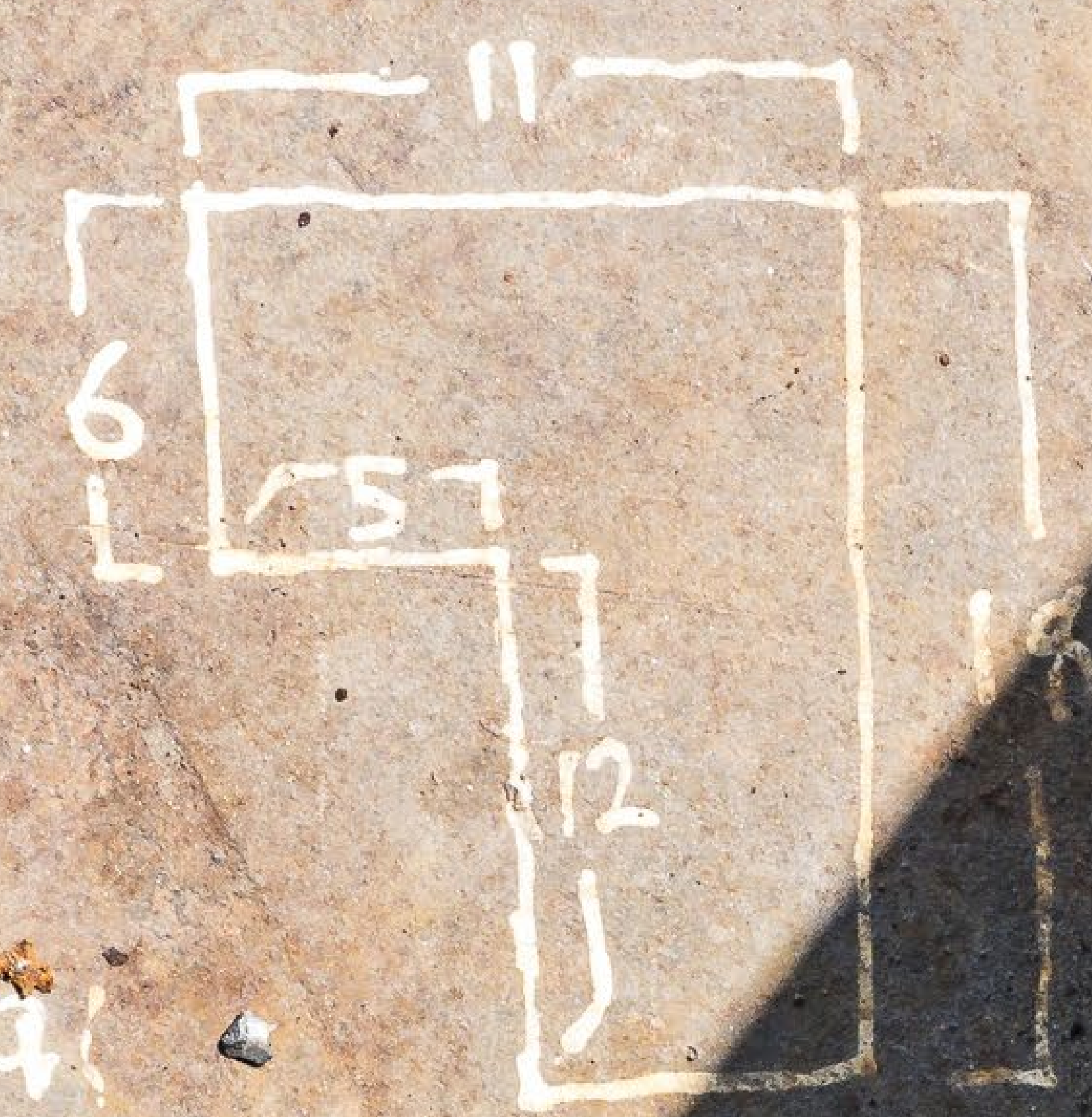


When the world embraced standardized products and mass production, numbers became the language of the designers and builders of machines.

As I began photographing in the boatyard everything I saw was numbered. I thought about trying to work around the numbers but the sorcery of ciphering cast its spell and inevitably I photographed numbers.

50
yellow 16

\$ total



\$ total





“To the Egyptians these numbers were the secret harmonies of the cosmos and they incorporated them as rhythms and proportions in the construction of their pyramids and temples.”

Jonathan Black

As an engineer, I know numbered parts were needed to assemble grand machines. None the less, I thought it amazing that machines were assembled by the numbers. That the assembled parts functioned as one is magic.

Even after assembly of the numbered parts, more numbers were placed on the exteriors of the machines. Those that needed to know the meaning of these numbers had the knowledge. It was all part of the sorcery of ciphering.



280

4

2

80

8

6

4

2

70

8



8

6

4

2

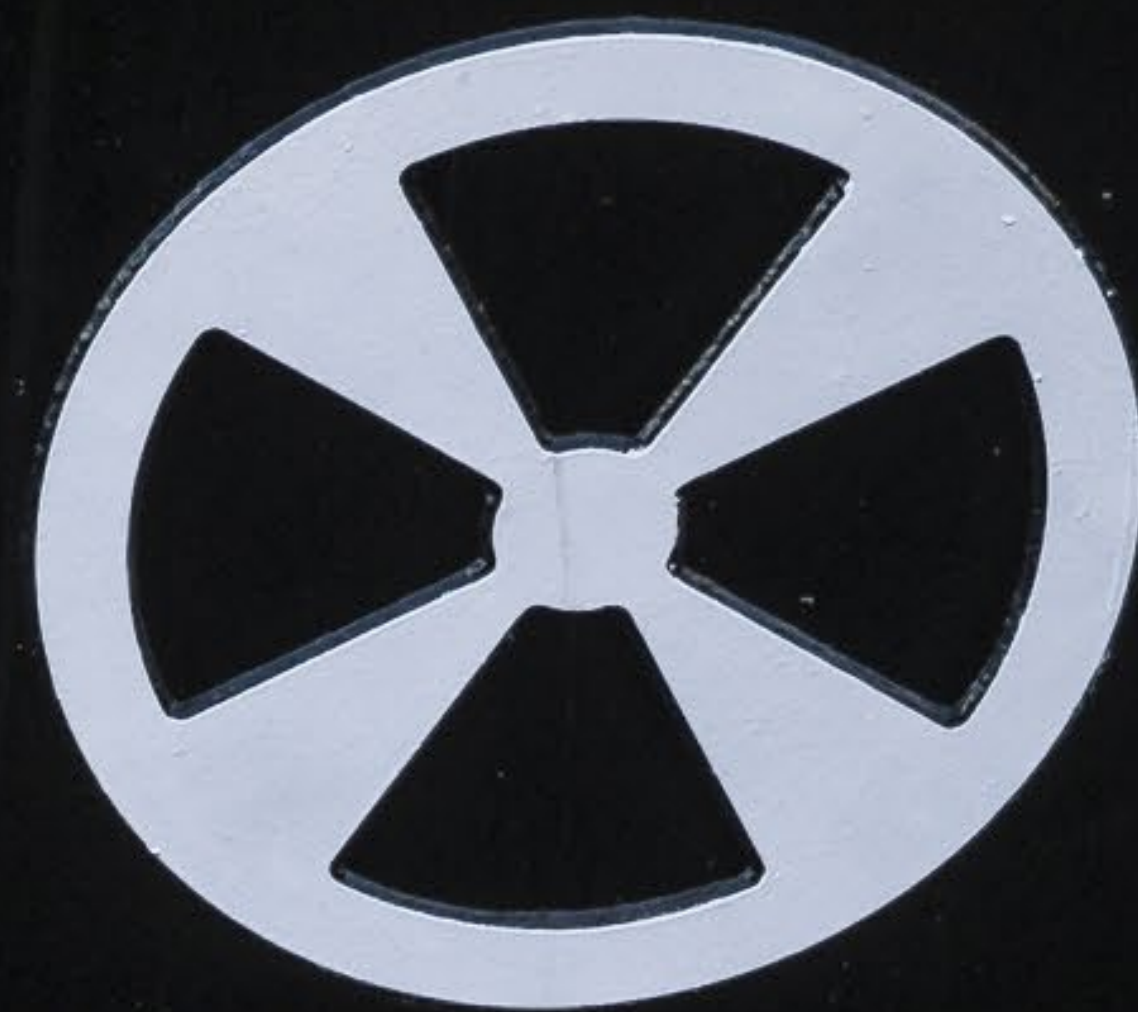
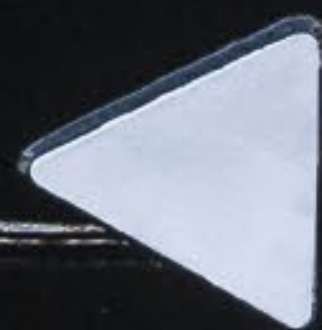
60

115



8

6



110



51P LO



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* and *Black & White Photography* (UK) 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, is a collection of his photographs and thoughts on the creative process.

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*The images in this portfolio were made September, 2017
in the Dakota Creek Shipyard, Anacortes, Washington*

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