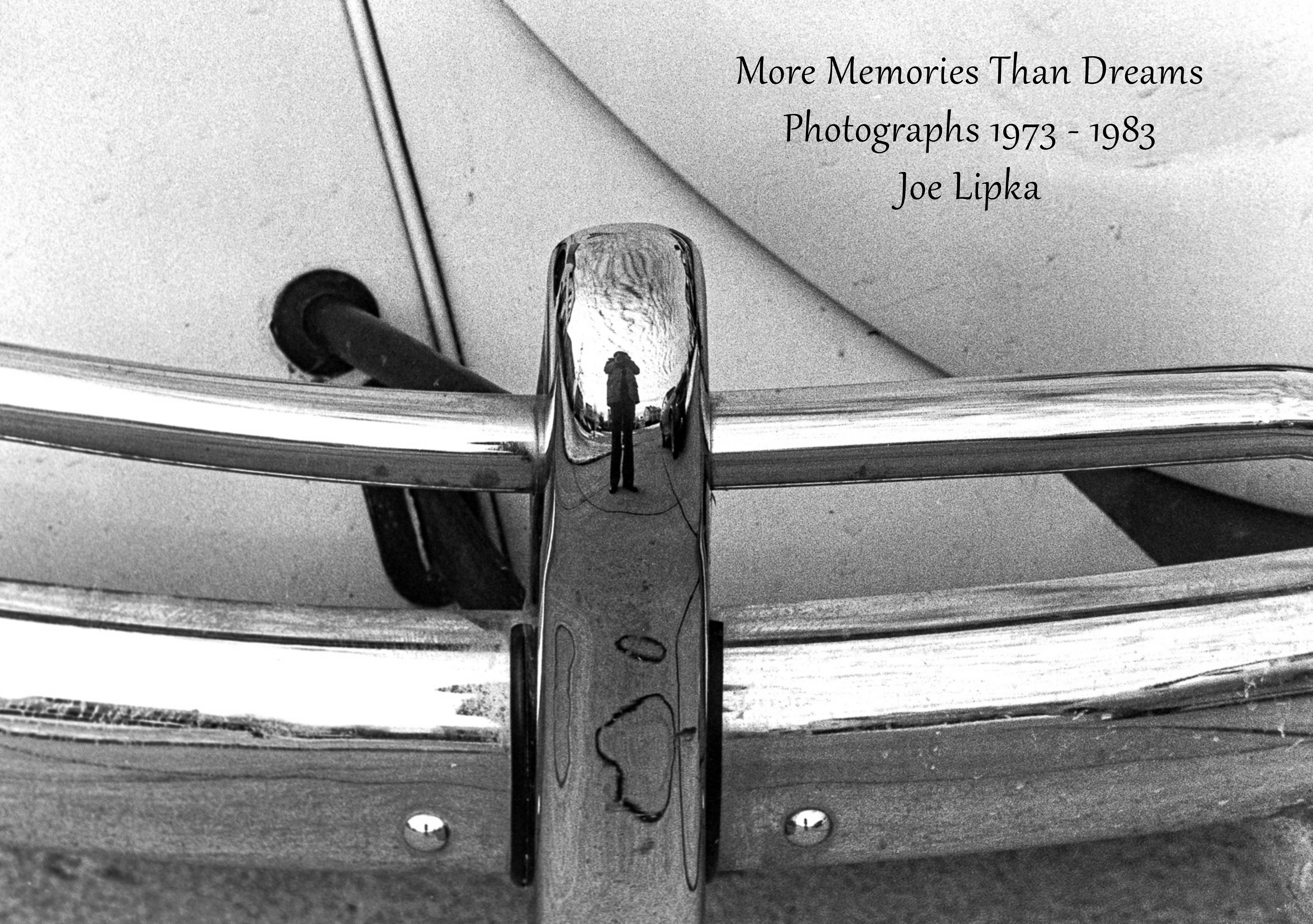


More Memories Than Dreams
Photographs 1973 - 1983
Joe Lipka



More Memories Than Dreams

It started as a brain storming session on how to describe the “mature volunteers” at a local museum. One of my (rejected) suggestions was “People with More Memories than Dreams.” When you are young you have a lot of dreams and few memories. When you reach a certain age, the balance changes and you have more memories than dreams. I’m beyond that point right now. It’s time to look back and take joy in the memories of a photographic life.

A few years back I created the “[Fifty Project](#),” fifty photographs to celebrate my Fiftieth birthday (Link above). As I continued to age, I considered adding my contribution to the “Fifty Years of Photography” shelf of books. A quick Google search revealed 193 MILLION results based on that search term. I saw no reason to add to the congestion.

More Memories than Dreams became a semi-regular feature in my monthly magazine, *The Lipka Journal*. I mined the Lipka Photographic Archives in search of images. I found a lot of memories and a surprising number of passable images. Rather than publishing a book, these early images began to appear in *The Lipka Journal*.

After a few years of adding this feature to *The Lipka Journal*, a siren song lured me onto the rocks of the Magnum Opus. So, here we are, a collection of image suites from *The Lipka Journal* and a few of those “square pegs” that are worthy, but had no home among the image suites.



Projects from the First Ten Years:

<u>Reflections on a First Love</u>	1974
<u>The Fieldhouse Project</u>	1973
<u>Geometry Games</u>	1975
<u>Familiar Ground</u>	1976
<u>La Bahia</u>	1977
<u>The First</u>	1978
<u>A Place to Fish</u>	1982
<u>Square Pegs</u> — Single Images	1973 - 1983

Reflections on a First Love



Reflections on a First Love

We never forget our first; first car that is. Americans love our cars and my first was a Volkswagen Beetle that was mostly a 1963 model, with some 1964 fenders and bumpers that seemed to fit. Her arrival coincided with another first love, photography. This coincidence of first time loves inspired me to use the car as a model. I explored the lines, forms shapes and reflections of our world.













The Fieldhouse Project

The Fieldhouse Project

Without becoming aware the dance began with me caught right in the middle. Sometimes ballet, sometimes jazz, springing, soaring, caught in mid-flight, sometimes standing in repose, hips canted, shoulders tilted in the opposite direction. They danced, without stopping, the camera recording the thrill, the exhilaration, the angles, attitudes and interplay of the dancers whirling across the court. I was caught up in the performance, with camera in hand, I joined the celebration and began photographing my dancing partners.

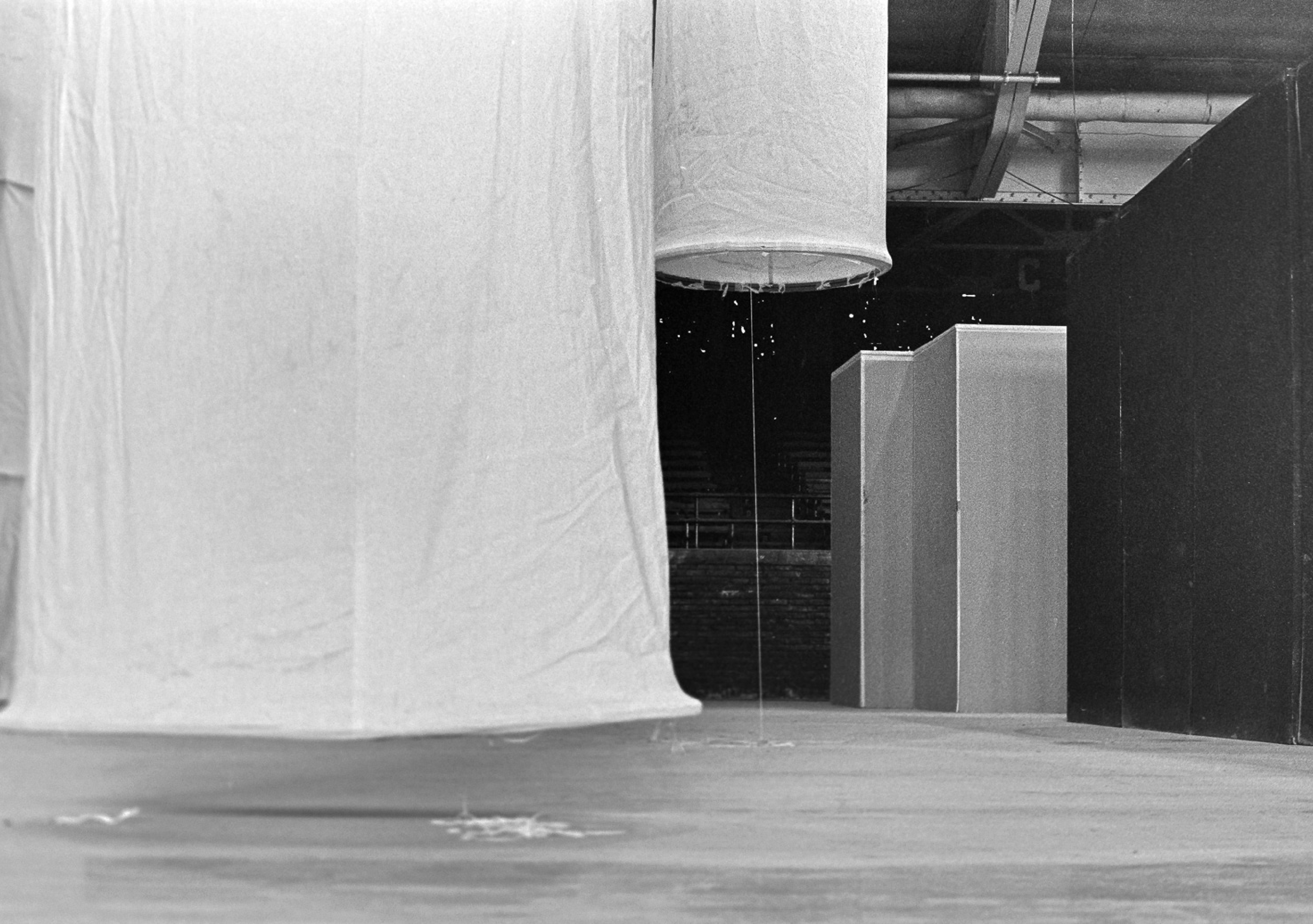


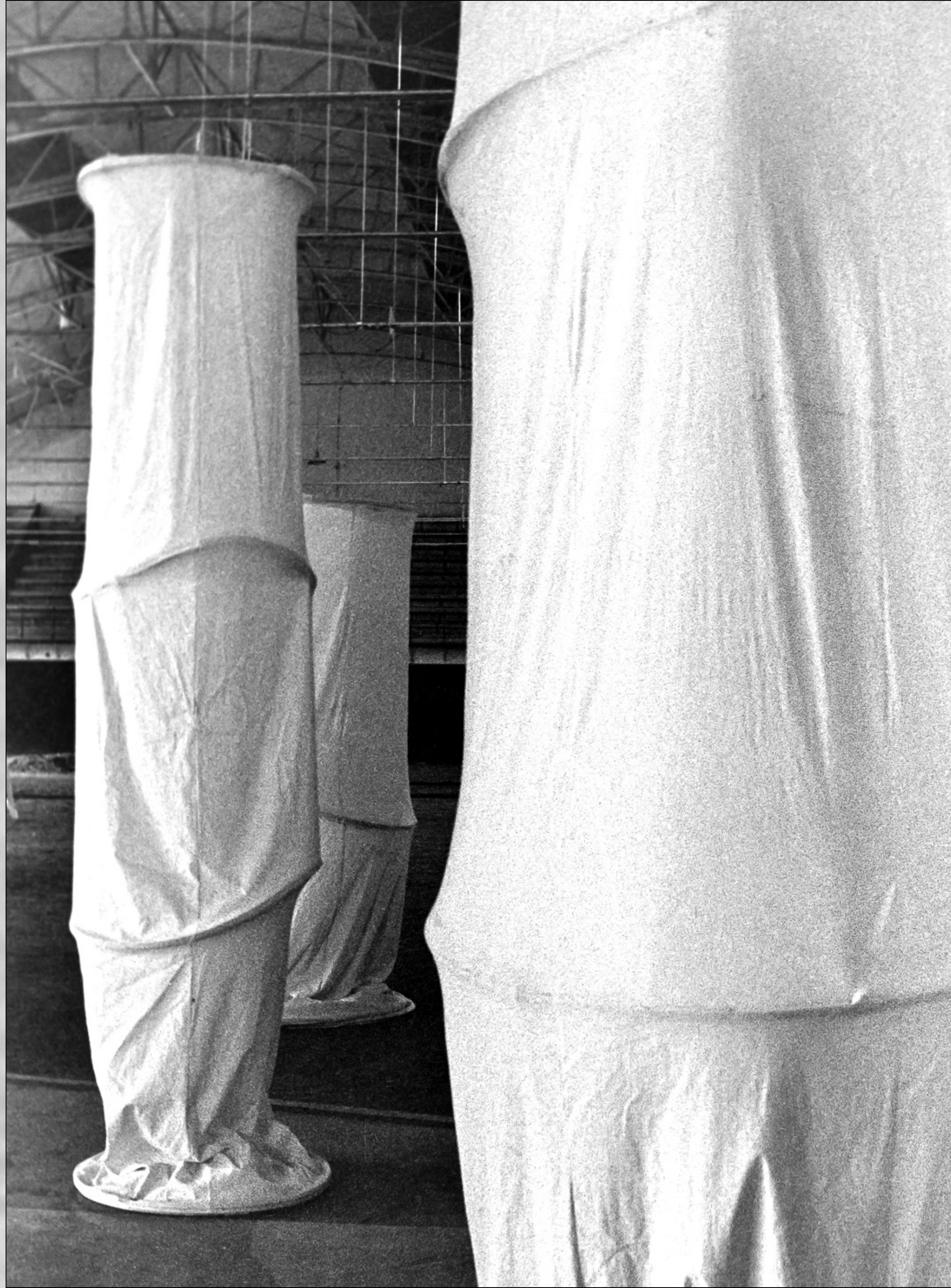














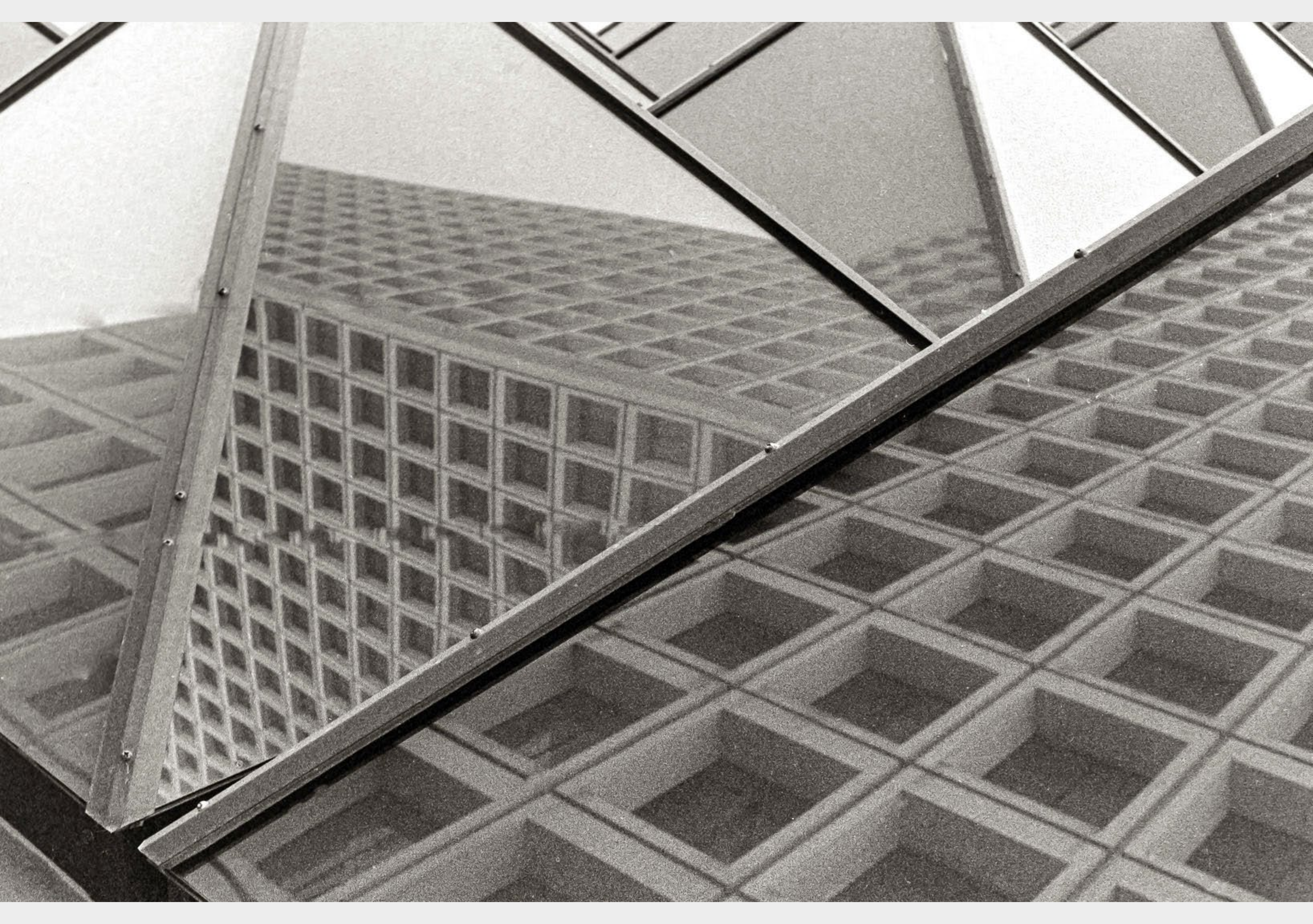
Geometry Games

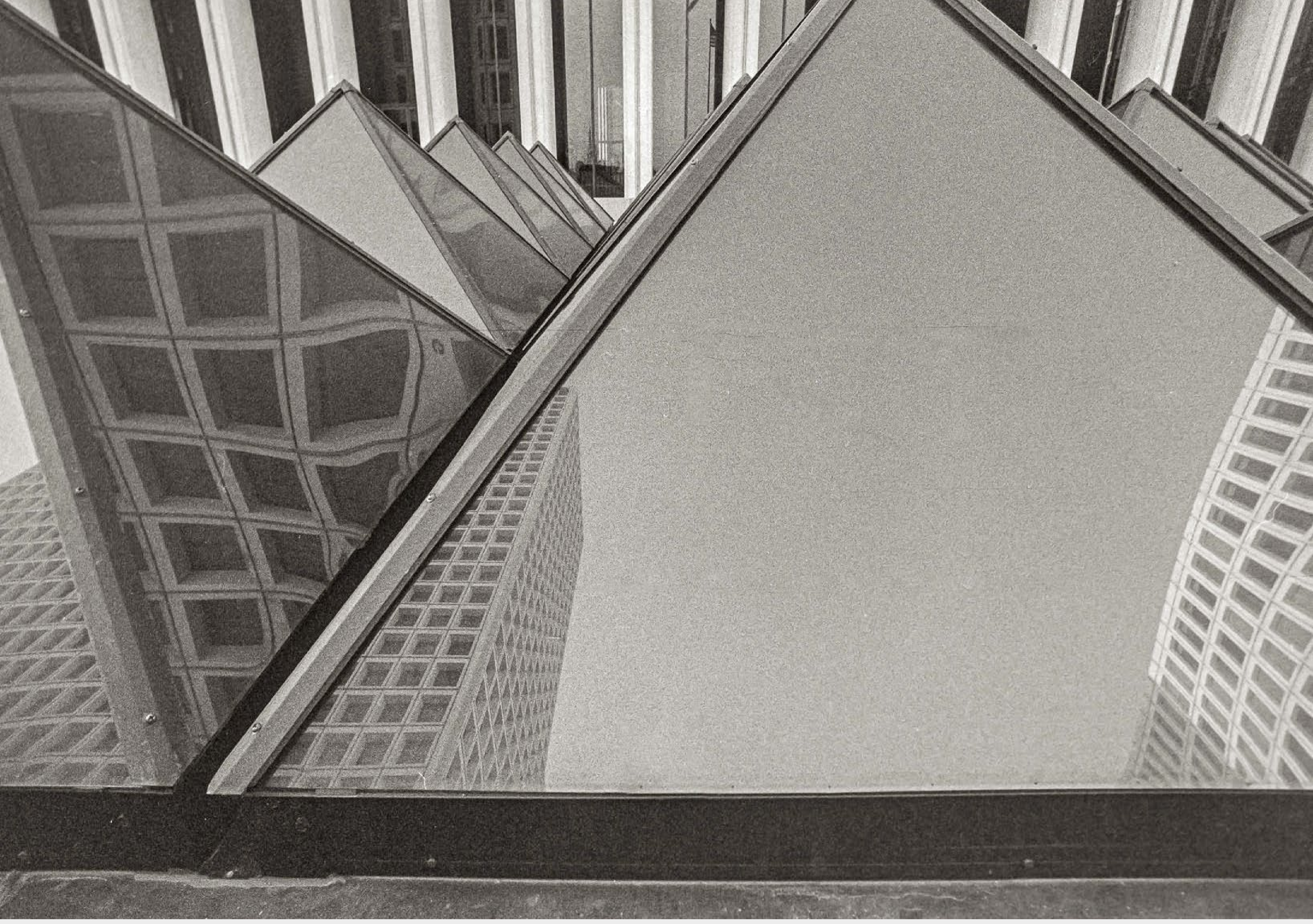
Geometry Games

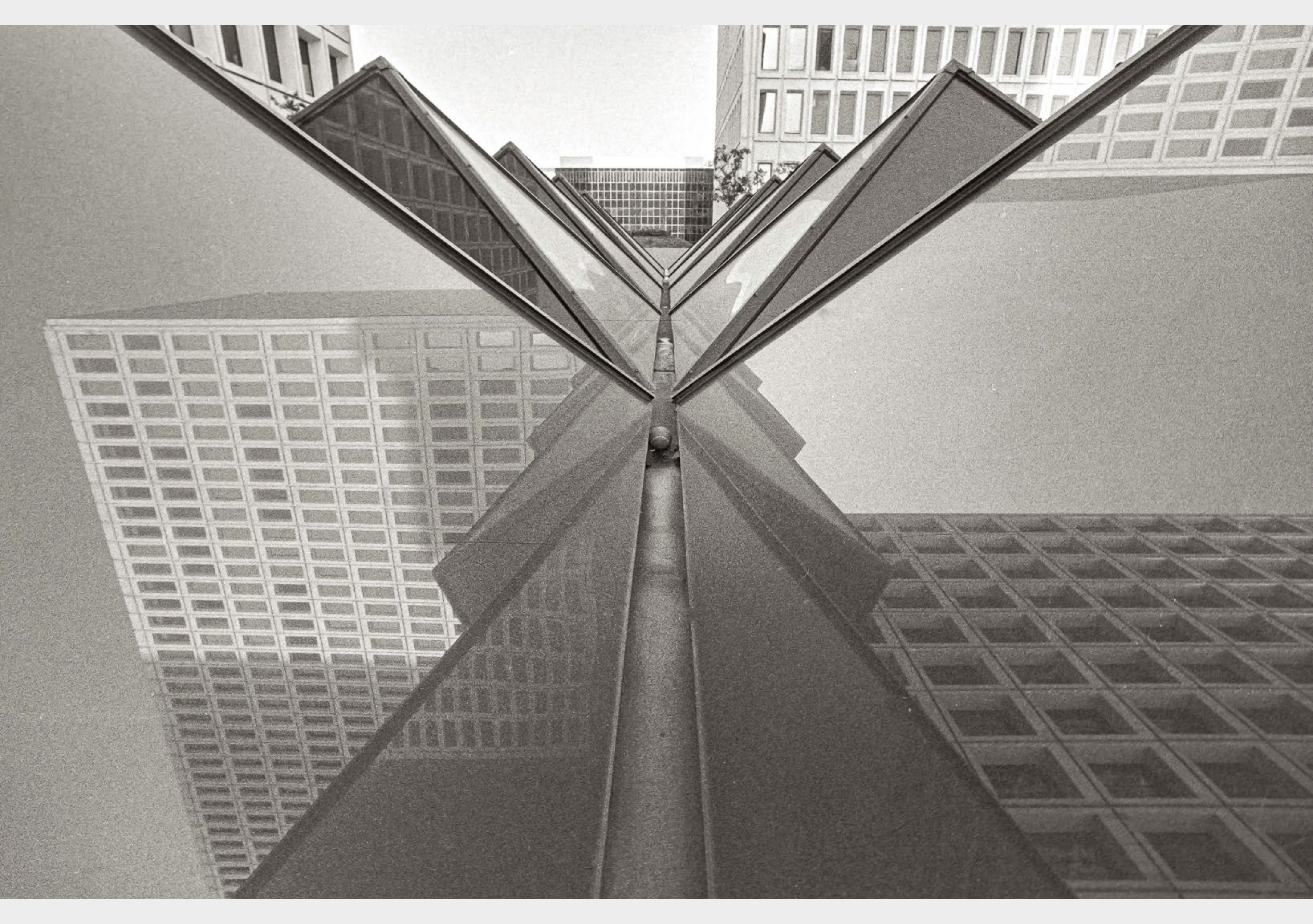
The obvious way to learn something is to do it. Lessons and education are necessary steps in the learning process, but there is no substitute for putting those lessons into practice. Early in my photo life I was looking for every opportunity to use my camera and make photographs. I walked through the office park every day without noticing what was around me. Once I took notice of my surroundings, I saw the opportunity to make images.

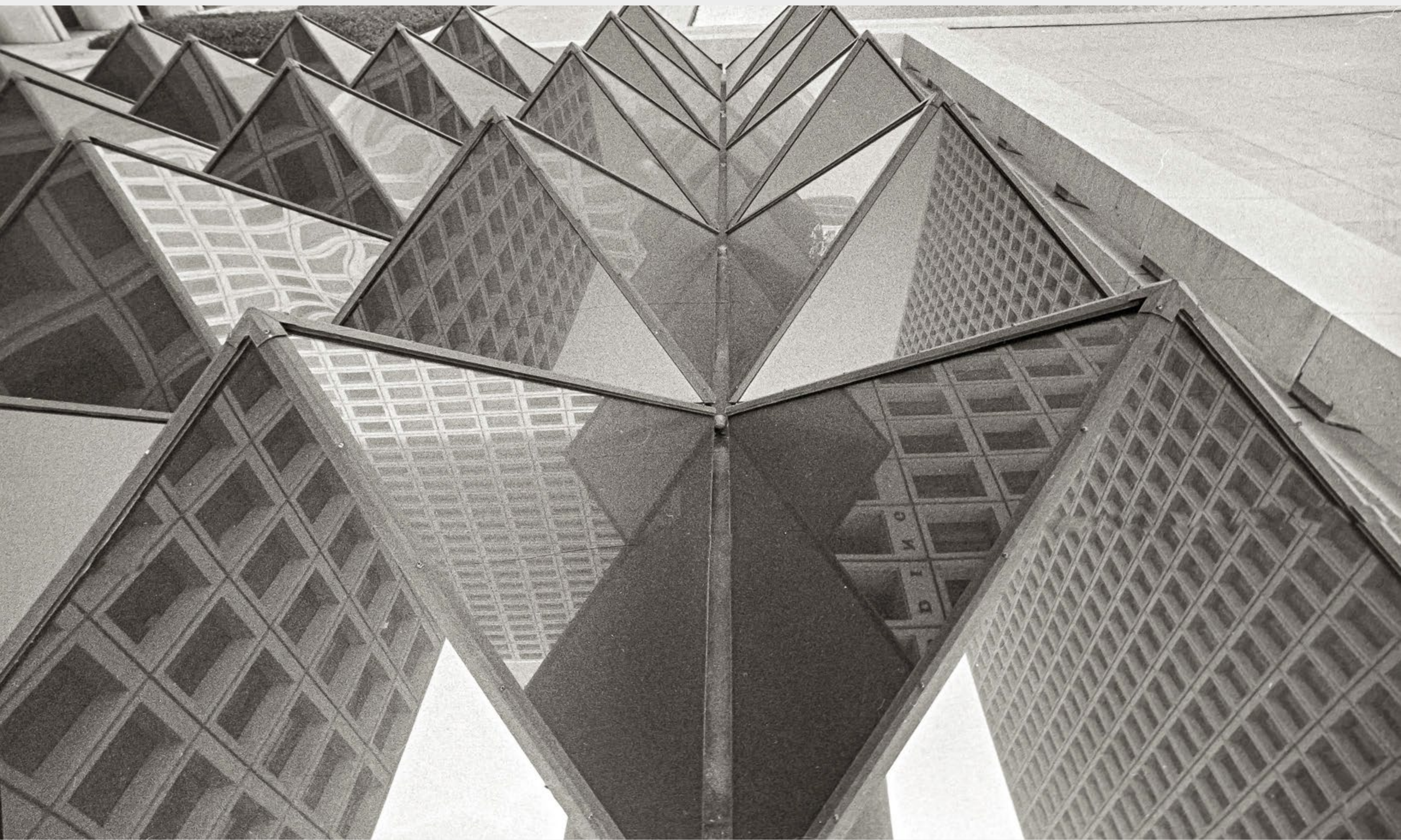
The lesson was two-fold. Seeing the photographic opportunities around you is one learning activity and the second is taking the camera off the shelf to make images.

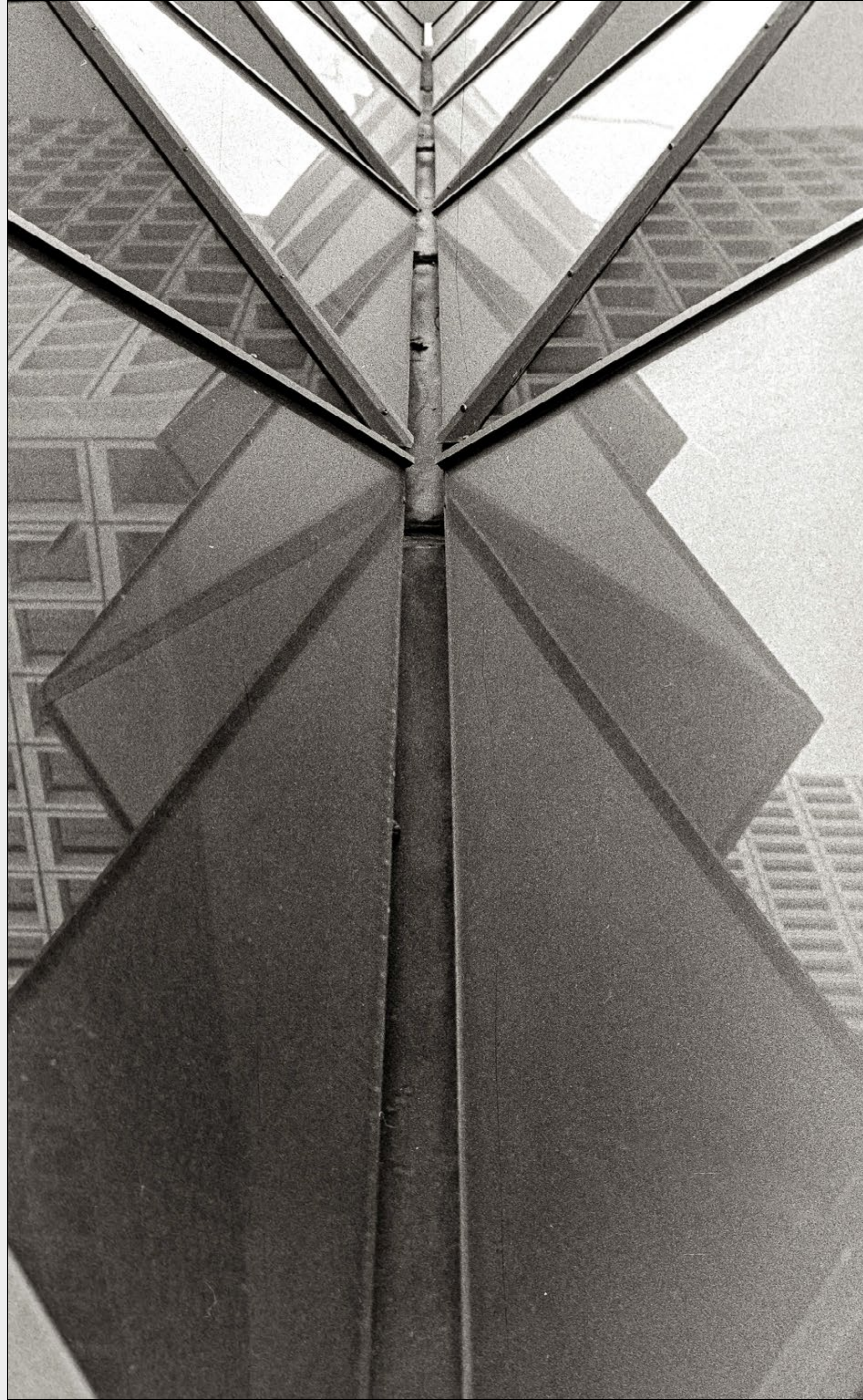














Familiar Ground

Familiar Ground

Exotic locations excite photographers. Inaccessible places with uncomfortable accommodations and barely edible food are burdens photographers welcome to photograph unique locations. The one time visit to the exotic locale often disappoints because we tread on unfamiliar ground.

Instead of the exotic, we should be thankful and happy with familiar ground.

Familiar Ground is a learning experience. It is a place to experiment, learn, and evaluate what you have learned. It is easy to come back and improve your vision.

Mistakes can be made and there is no disappointment because you can always return.













La Bahia



La Bahia

Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, also known as Mission La Bahia, is a Catholic mission established by the Spanish in 1722 near Goliad, Texas.

After the Battle of the Alamo, the Mexican Army's next stop was the Mission La Bahia. The fate of the inhabitants of La Bahia was a foregone conclusion.

Standing on the ramparts of the Mission, I wondered what it would have been like to stand there and know that I would probably be dead in the next few days. Would I see things differently on those last few days? Would the walls look the same? Are the closed doors prophetic?

















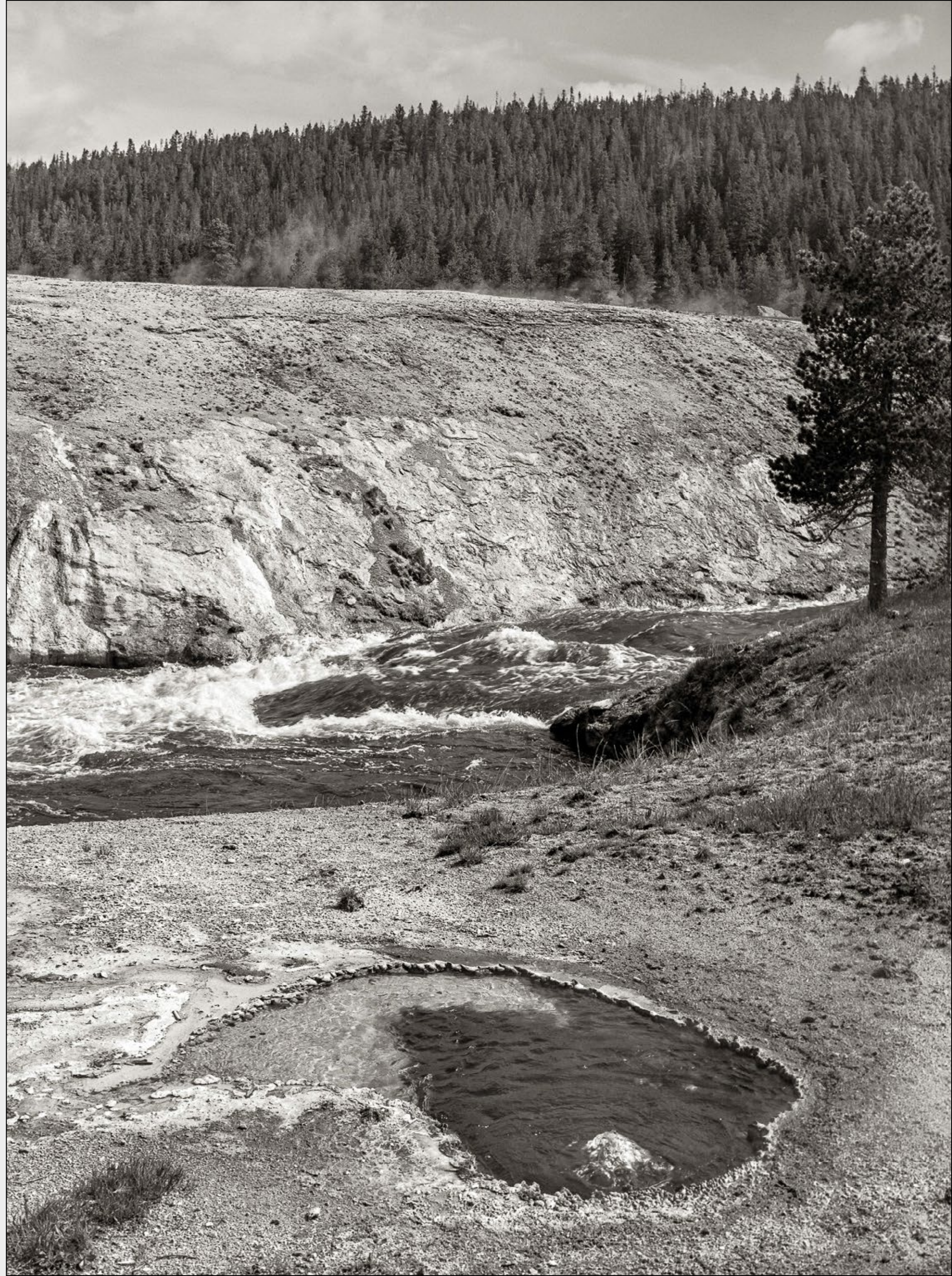


The First



The First

American photographers have a penchant for venturing into the American West to document the natural wonders we find in our National Parks. We walk on elevated pathways to observe the natural wonders and make our photographs from these safe spots. But every one of us imagines being the first ever to photograph this amazing land. We hope the ground beneath us is strong enough to keep us from falling into boiling hot springs and return home with photographs to prove our tall tales were true.







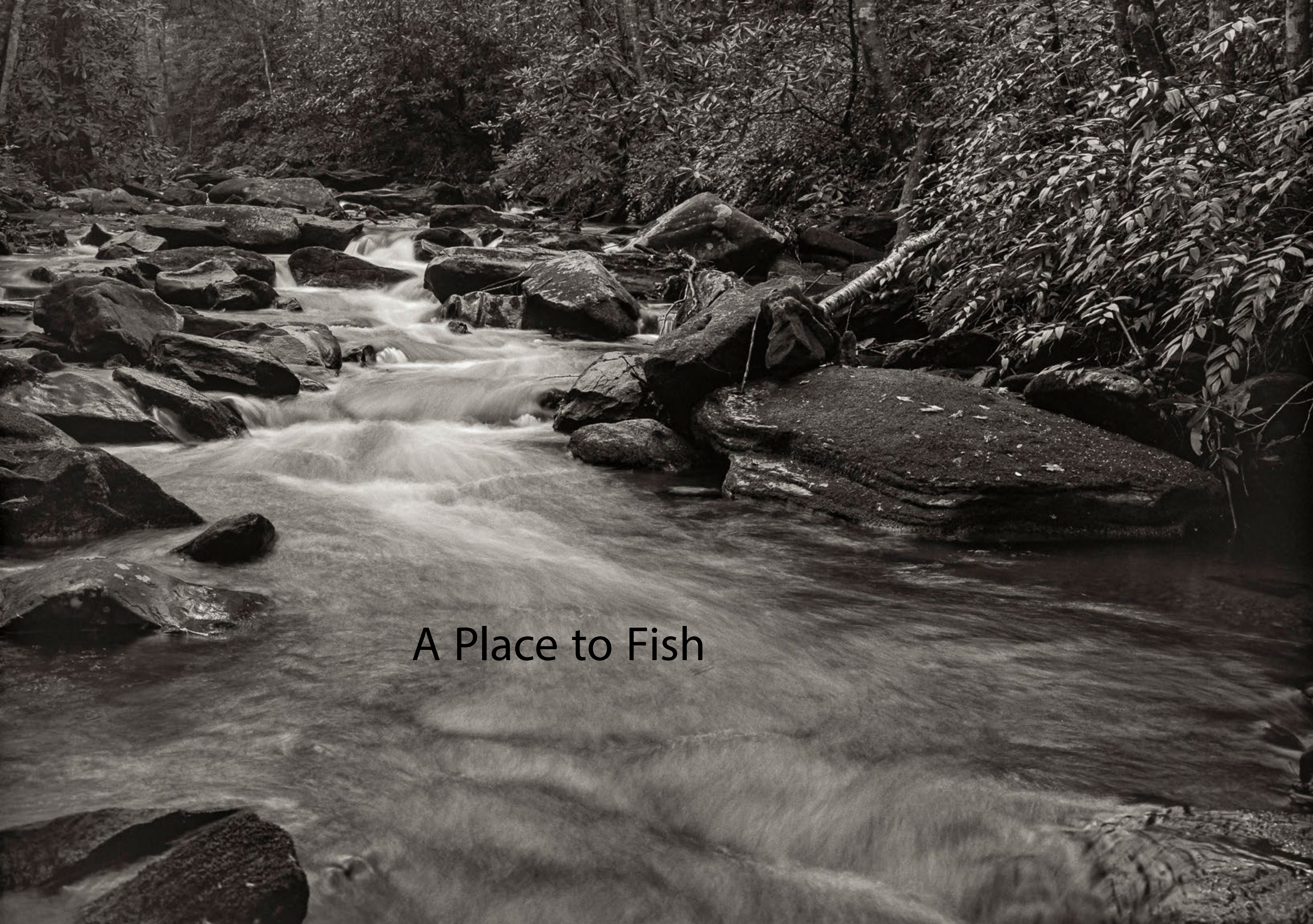












A Place to Fish

A Place to Fish

Bob loved to fly fish in the mountains. He asked me if I wanted to come along with him one Saturday morning. We left at 4 AM. Fishermen like those early morning hours. We didn't stay too long in any one place because the goal was catching fish not making photographs. I made more photographs than Bob caught fish. I was happy. Bob was not.



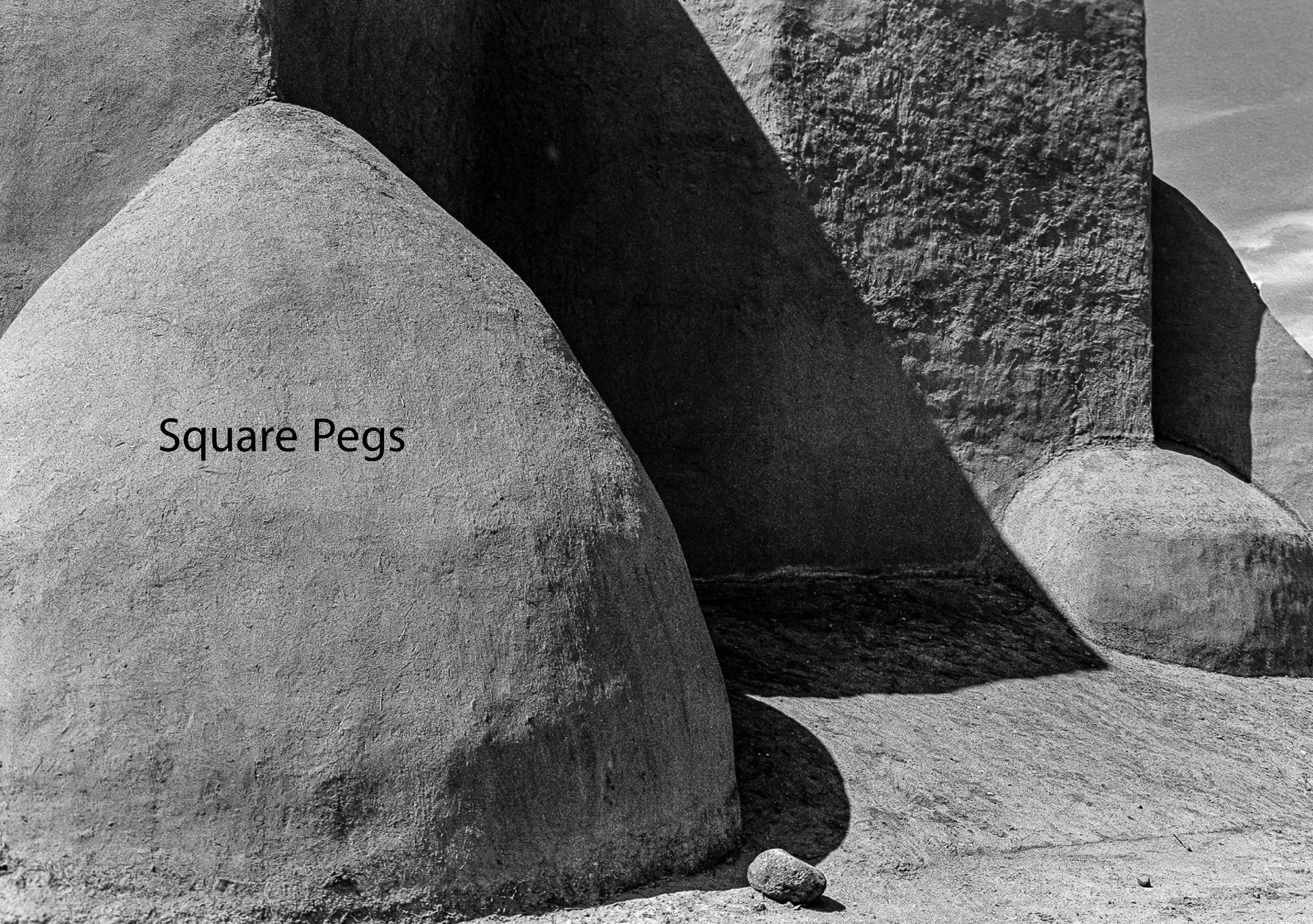








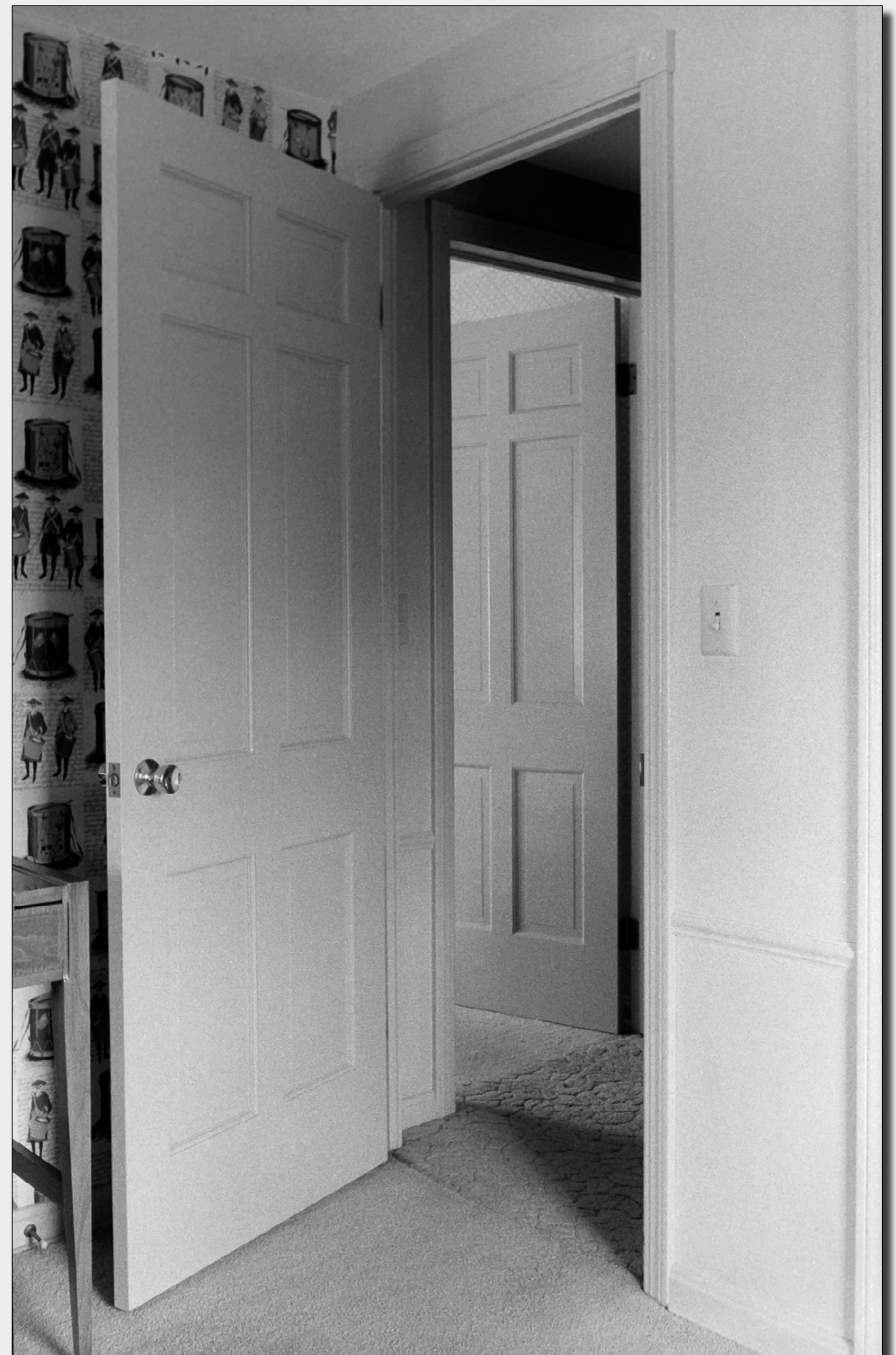
Square Pegs



Square Pegs

"Square Pegs" was the initial name of the blog that is now known as *"Postcards from the Creative Journey."* The Square Peg name came from images that didn't fit into the project-oriented work I was beginning to do. They didn't fit into the round hole of projects I was creating.

I think it's fitting that these single images that don't fit into any project come into this publication on their own. They are the result of a visual curiosity, a need to know what something looks like when it's photographed. All photographers make this type of image, something that appeals to their aesthetic and makes them bring the camera up to their eye and press the shutter.













ILFORD



36

36A

37

37A

38

38A

PAN F

EXTRA FINE GRAIN

PANCHROMATIC



3

33A

34

34A

35

35A





OURS DOWNSIDE
Since 1800

Closed
All day long
Since 1800





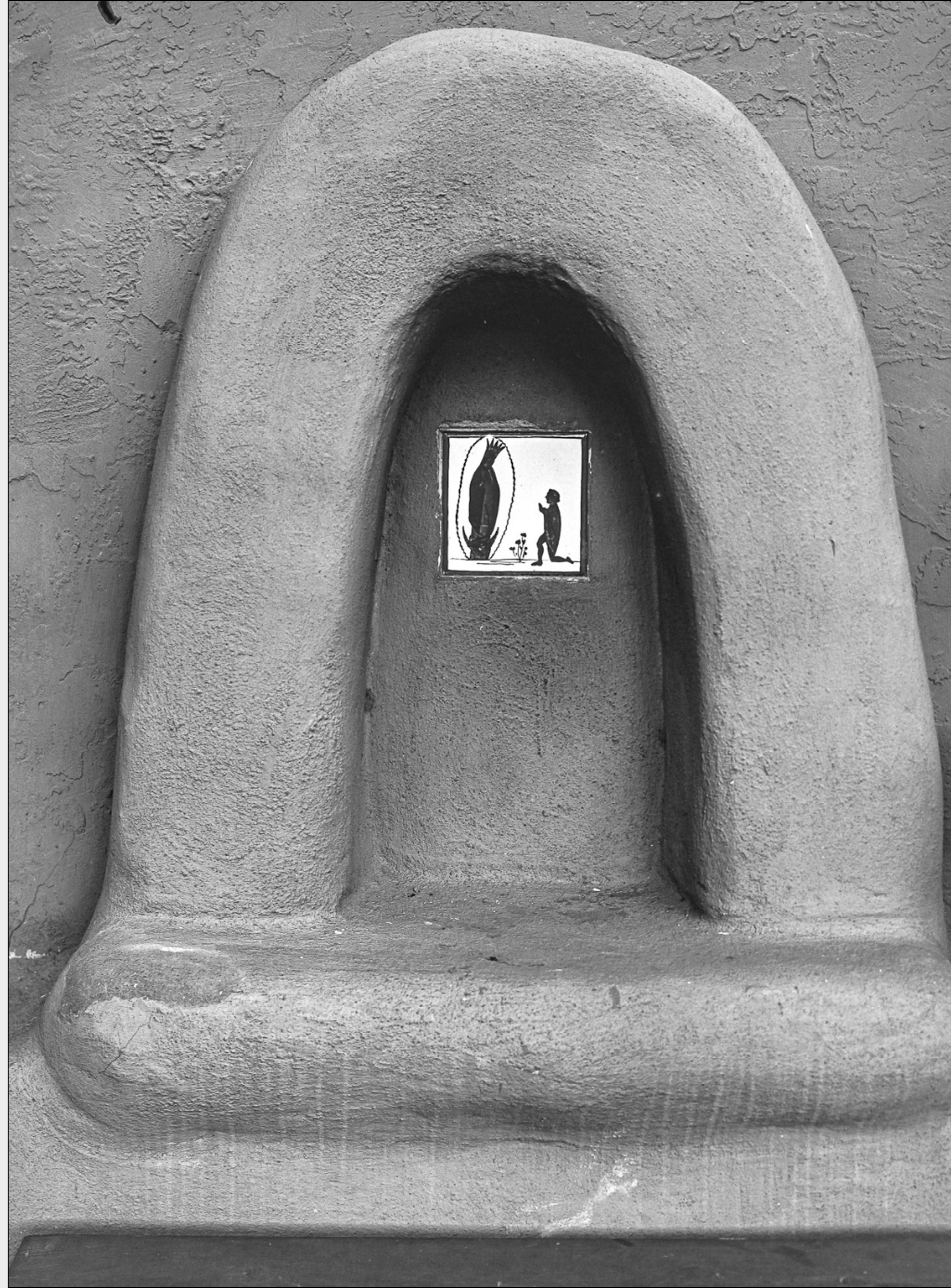






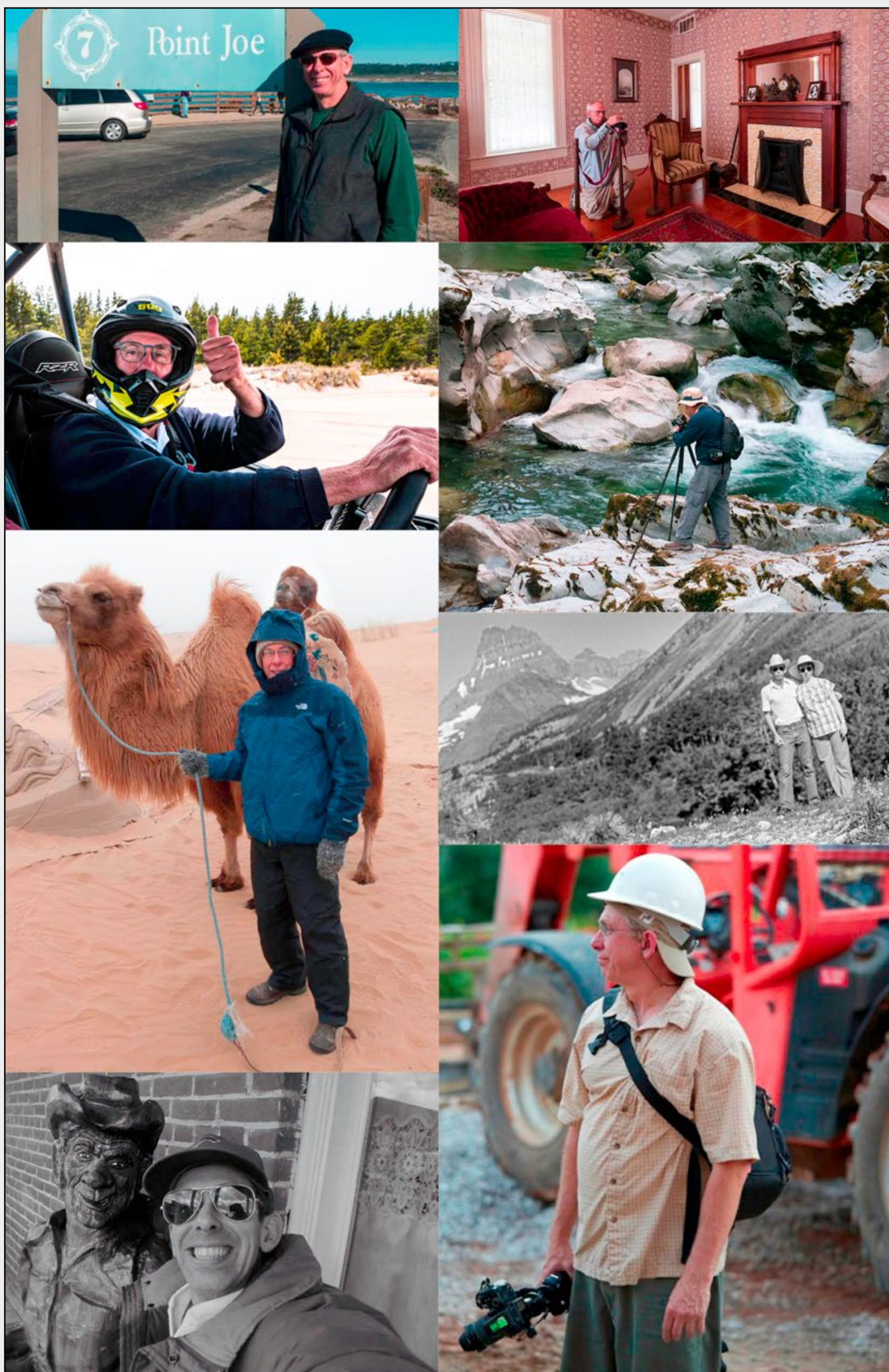












Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

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 has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog Postcards from the Creative Journey, published weekly since 2010, features a photograph and a little bit of writing.

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

More Memories Than Dreams

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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