

The Sixth First Annual U.S.
American Complete Popular
ModernOutdoorLandscape
AMATEUR Practical **Black & White**
Photography Magazine

WITH THE NEW
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
Digital Techniques
ANNUAL PUBLICATION
AND

**LIPKA JOURNAL
SPECIAL EDITION
EZINE
APRIL FOOLS DAY 2026**

'TOP SECRET!'
Future of AI Photography Exposed!!!1!
Our Editor's exclusive report!

Analog Revival!
Film Manufacturers predict
return to analog photography



Camouflage your
smartphone camera
with this genius hack!

This publication contains a minimum of 36.87469% recycled pixels.
We recycle pixels to help save the planet.

The End of Natural Photography?
AI is making human photographers obsolete!

TOP SECRET

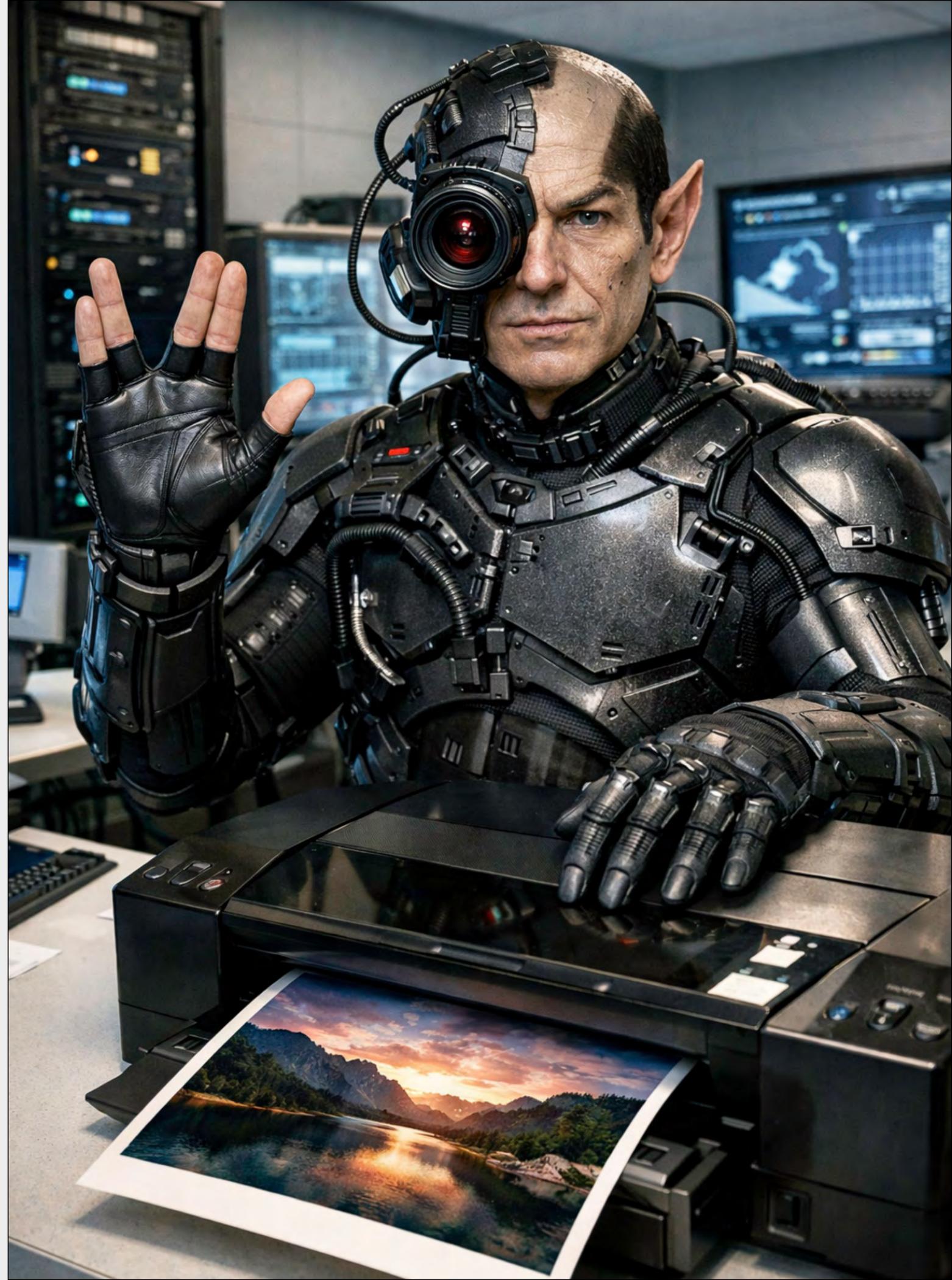
The End of Natural Photography?

The Lipka Journal was transported to a secret development site (see the cover - we think it's in Nevada.) We were granted exclusive access to facilities that are far beyond Top Secret level. While there, we met with our guide (who told us his name was "Tom"), showing the latest developments in cybernetics, artificial intelligence, autonomous operators – and digital photography.

As part of our tour, we saw a genetically engineered, cybernetic being combining components of Humans, the Borg Collective and Vulcans. This hybrid humanoid-like alien cyborg uses the powerful lens of the cyborg being, and the processing power of the Borg Collective to digitally perfect the image capture and then uses a Vulcan mind meld to a digital printer to create a perfect photographic print. Every. Single. Time.

The scientists, engineers and members of a secret shadow organization referred only as the "PSA" are developing this very black, far off the books, project. They predict the "end of personally creative photography by humans" in the "not too distant future," meaning, we were told, to be ready for release just in time for the Christmas shopping season in 2028.

more...



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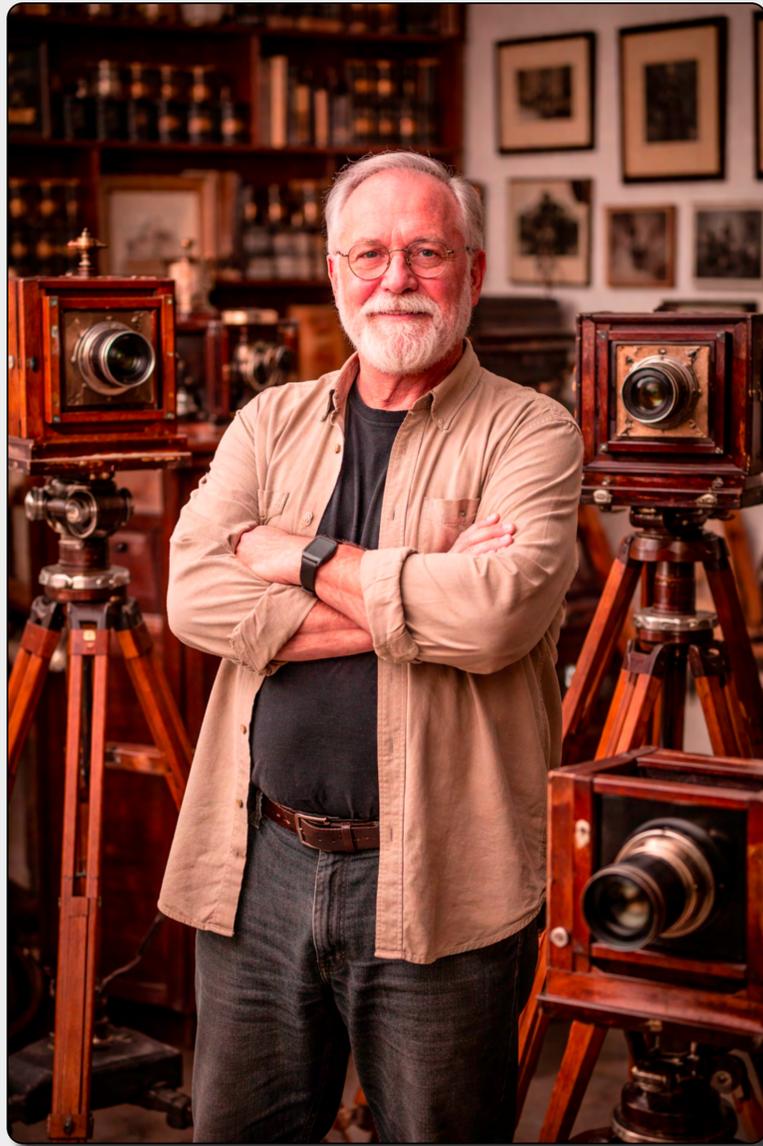
The team has completed a selection of pre-sets, actions and plug-ins that will satisfy the current and future infatuation with over-sharpened, over-saturated landscapes of inaccessible areas on planet earth.

The final hurdle before product release is aesthetics. The Borg collective's processing power is currently centered on optimizing the removal of anything that could be construed as offensive to anybody, anywhere at any time in history. This tendency is further complicated by the Borg's algorithm-based aesthetic which "regresses to the mean," resulting in a collection of mediocre themes and "averaged" compositional elements in each photo.

In revealing the latest test photo (right), Tom said that the image is approaching its critical mass for attaining the apex of mediocrity, but there has been vigorous debate about the location of a yet to be included dewy spider web in the composition. Development and testing continue on this and other AI breakthroughs.



ABOUT THIS ISSUE OF THE LIPKA JOURNAL



A portrait of Joe Lipka in his photographic studio surrounded by antique cameras on tripods.



Joe Lipka photographs Elvis, Jackie Onassis and Sasquatch exiting a UFO on the Las Vegas Strip.

(Apologies to Gary Larson)

I started The Lipka Journal six years ago. I thought it might be an incentive to keep producing meaningful photographic projects and challenging my creativity. A few years ago I noticed the anniversary of the first issue coincided with April Fool's Day. Why not have some fun with photography? All this art stuff these days is ever so serious. We need to lighten up.

For the past few years, I have had some fun with a "decoy cover" and last year I poked some fun at AI generated images. AI has progressed rapidly and so has my sense of the ridiculous. Enjoy the fun.

This year's annual portrait (as well as all the other images) was furnished by ChatGPT with the instructions shown as the caption. I still don't have a beard and am still not that good looking. Same can be said for that photo of "me" photographing on the Strip

We now return you to our regularly scheduled Lipka Journal.

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

A PHOTO EZINE WITH

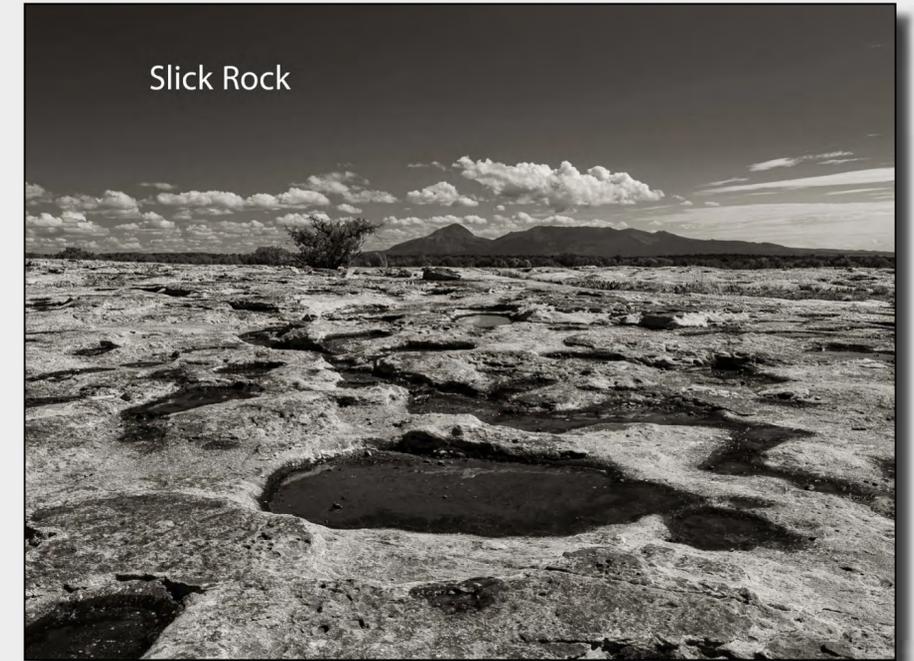
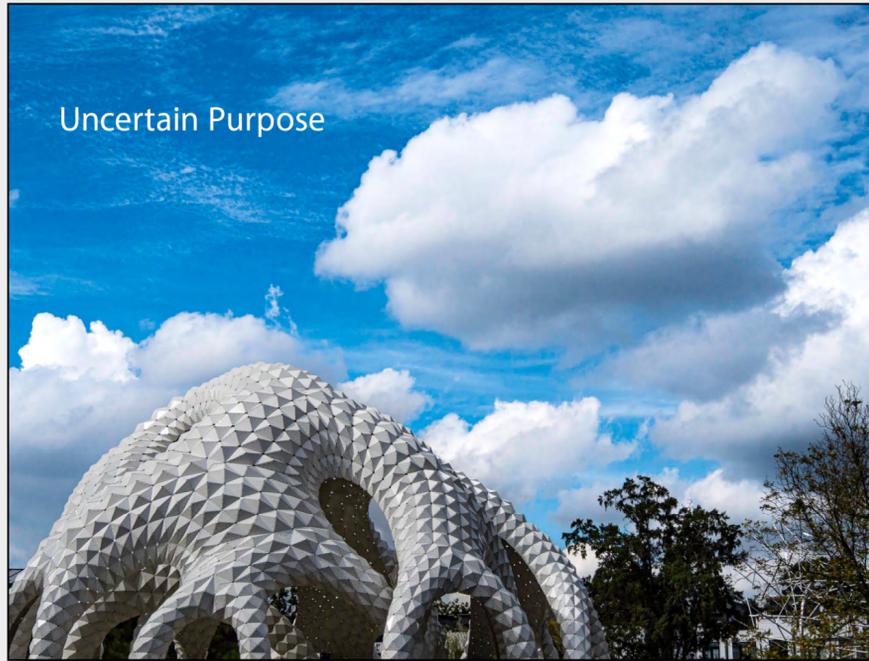
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS



NUMBER 073

APRIL FOOLS DAY 2026

WELCOME TO THE LIPKA JOURNAL APRIL 2026



Well, another year of The Lipka Journal is completed, and we launch ourselves into the next year, but only after having some fun with Artificially Intelligent photographs. Or at least computer-generated imagery. But now, it's time to get back to photography done by humans.

We're going back to the Downtown Park to try and figure out what in the world is hovering on the edge of the Lily Pond. After that stroll, another stroll is in the works when we walk narrow streets that can only mean Little Spaces. Lastly, it's that traditional Photo Safari Emergency Stop, where brakes are slammed, the truck skids to a halt just for the sake of photography. In the mountains of the American Southwest, we stop to photograph some flat rocks. It's different and it worked out just fine. Really, it all works out.

You've made it this far, might as well keep going.

Uncertain Purpose



Uncertain Purpose

It just showed up one day, I guess. Or at least I didn't notice it until I saw it. I'm not sure if it emerged from the uncharted depths of lily pond like some Megapus (that would be like an octopus, but with a lot more legs) bent on devouring our fair burg, or if it was left behind by the aliens along with a flying saucer shaped structure on the other side of the lily pond. Without answering either question, the armored Megapus is the master of the lily pond. We walk underneath its legs, and the sky is all but blocked from our view. I'm not sure if it's supposed to provide shelter for us, or is waiting for us to wander underneath so we can become its next meal.

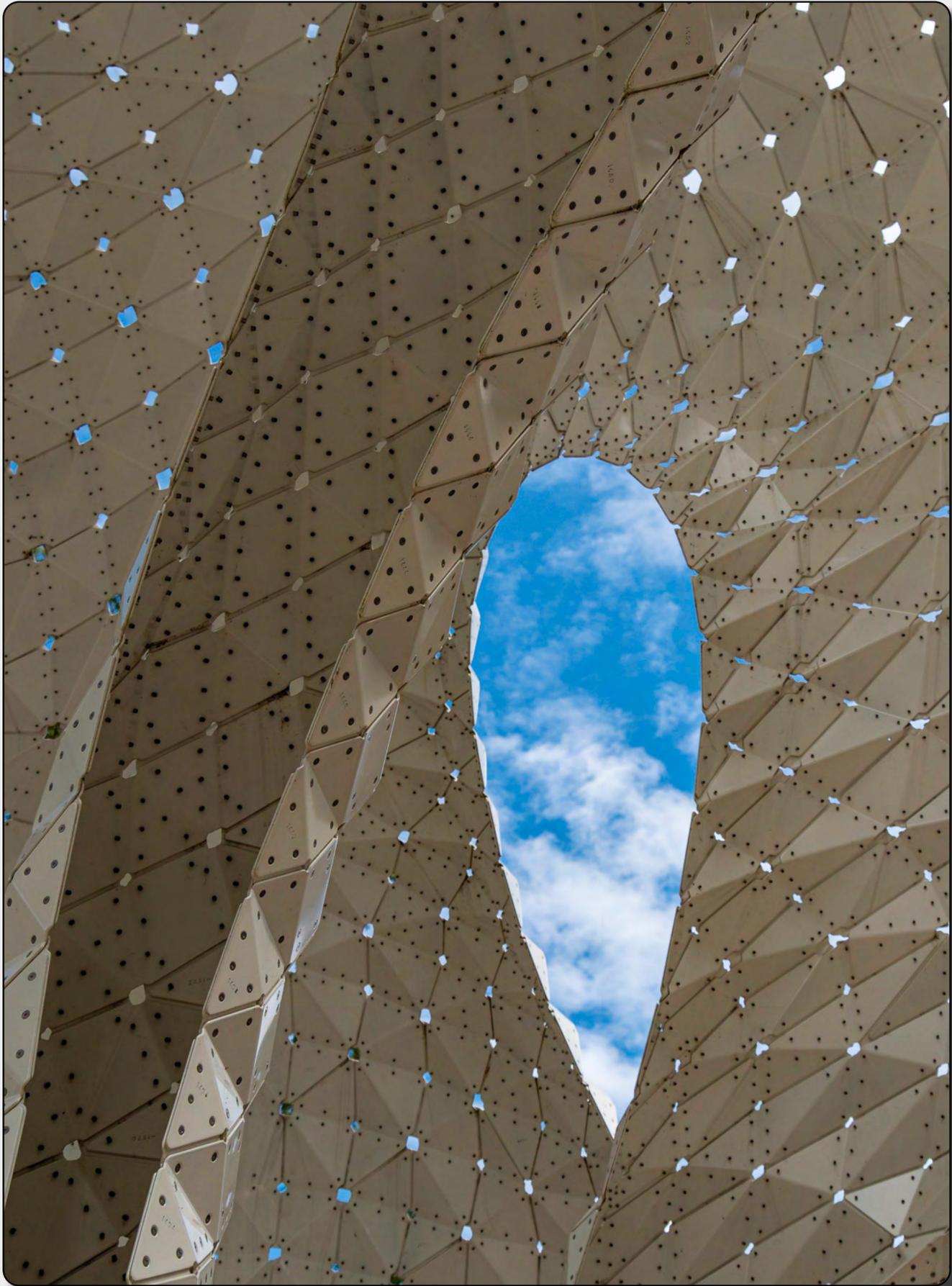
I am not certain of its purpose.







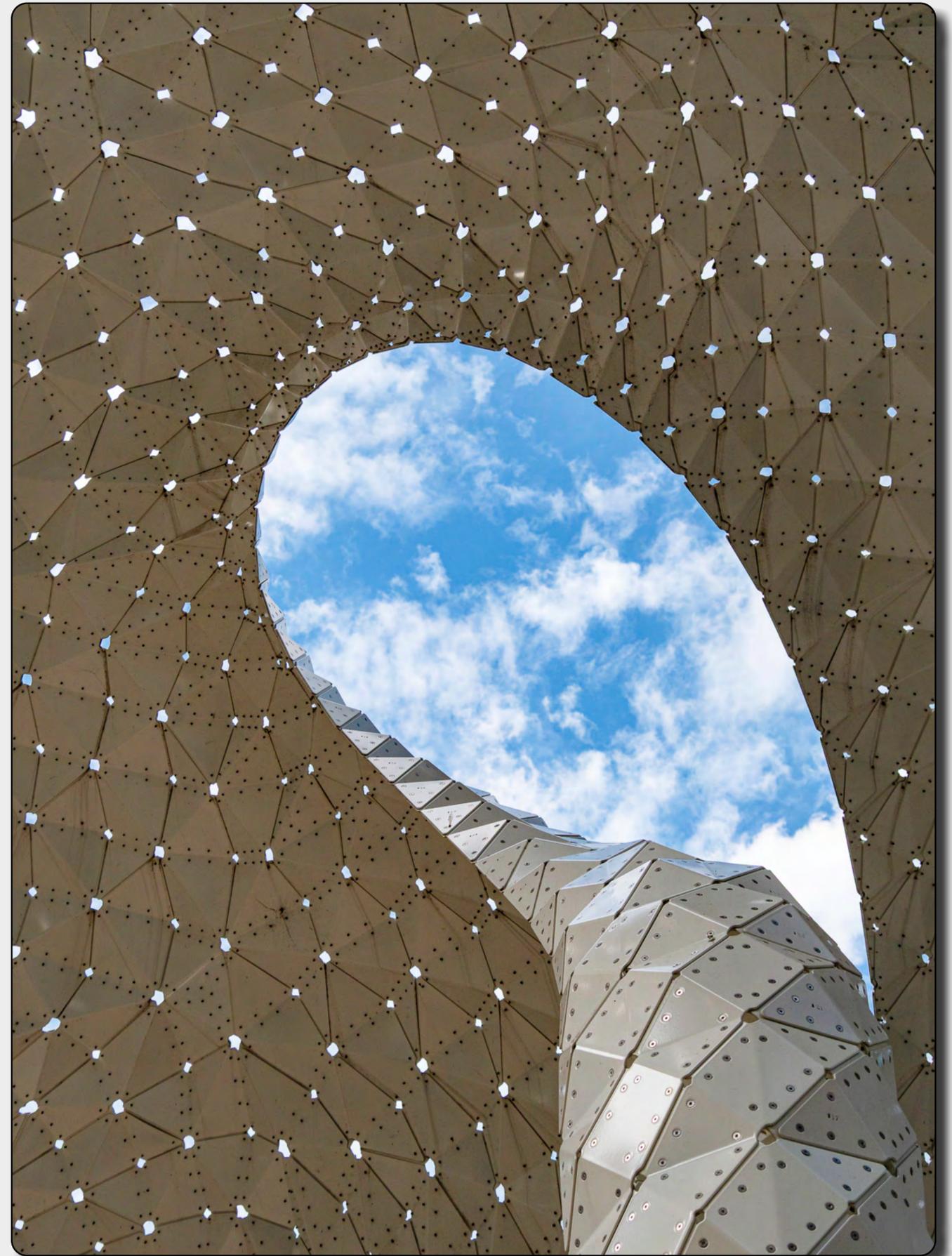


















The difference between graffiti and art.

Prologue: A photo and six words.

Little Spaces

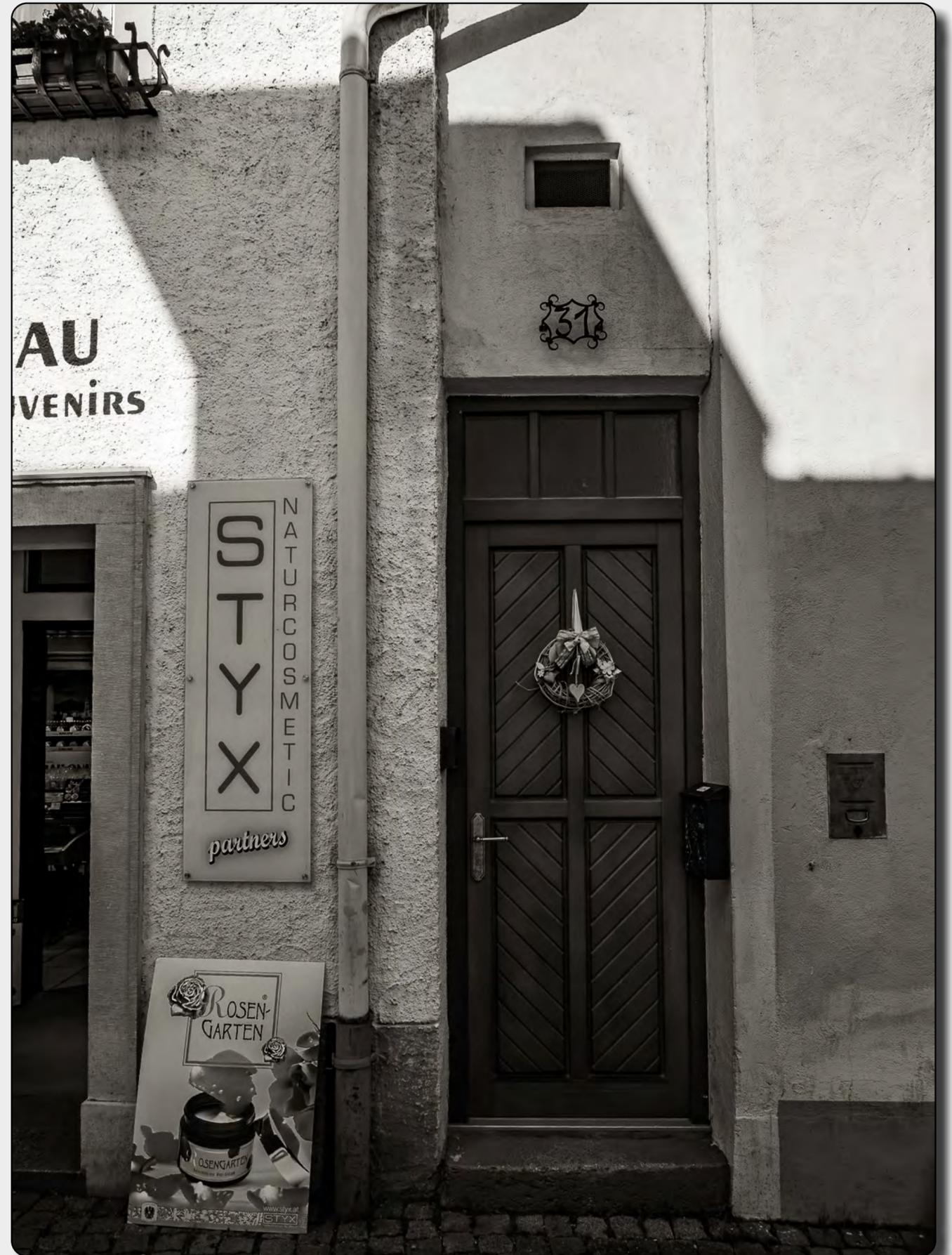


Little Spaces

Where do we feel comfortable? If you're like me, there are certain places that just feel "right." We have a favorite comfortable chair by the window, or maybe a bench in the park, a neighborhood where "everybody knows your name," or just a spot that you like to think of as home.

One of my many favorite places is walking down a small street that was meant to be walked on. As Americans, our streets are designed to get you from one place to another in an automobile. It's tough to get comfortable when the task is moving from Point A to Point B. In other little places, there are no cars and you can take a leisurely stroll wherever you like and enjoy the details of Little Spaces.















A Mostly True Story

We had to drive Grandpa back and forth to town a couple of times a month to get his treatment from the doctor. These trips were almost always silent because we all knew Grandpa was on that downhill slide that ends in a pine box. It was always a solemn journey made in respectful silence.

On one trip Grandpa slowly lifted his hand, pointed at the school and said, "One a spring day when I was twelve, I kissed Mary Margaret in the school's vestibule."

He continued, "She slapped me, then she smiled."

Slick Rock

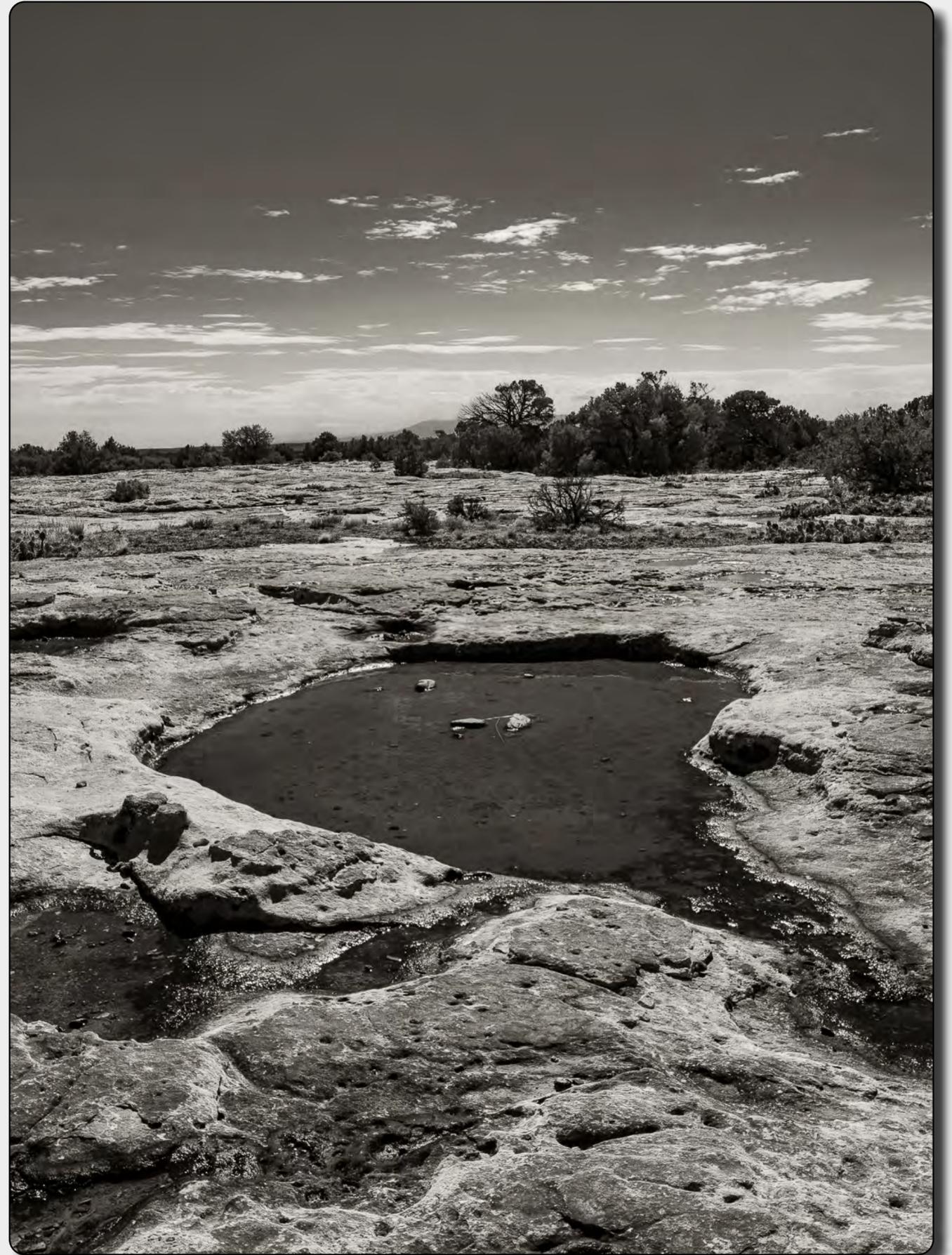


Slick Rock

It is a hard land. The dirt is mostly blown away, the sandstone is exposed to the constant wind, and the rain, when it comes, is rarely gentle. Survival here is difficult, and in true Darwinian fashion, only the most adaptable survive. In some places, the erosion has succeeded in creating what the scientists call ephemeral pools, places where life hangs on from rainstorm to rainstorm.

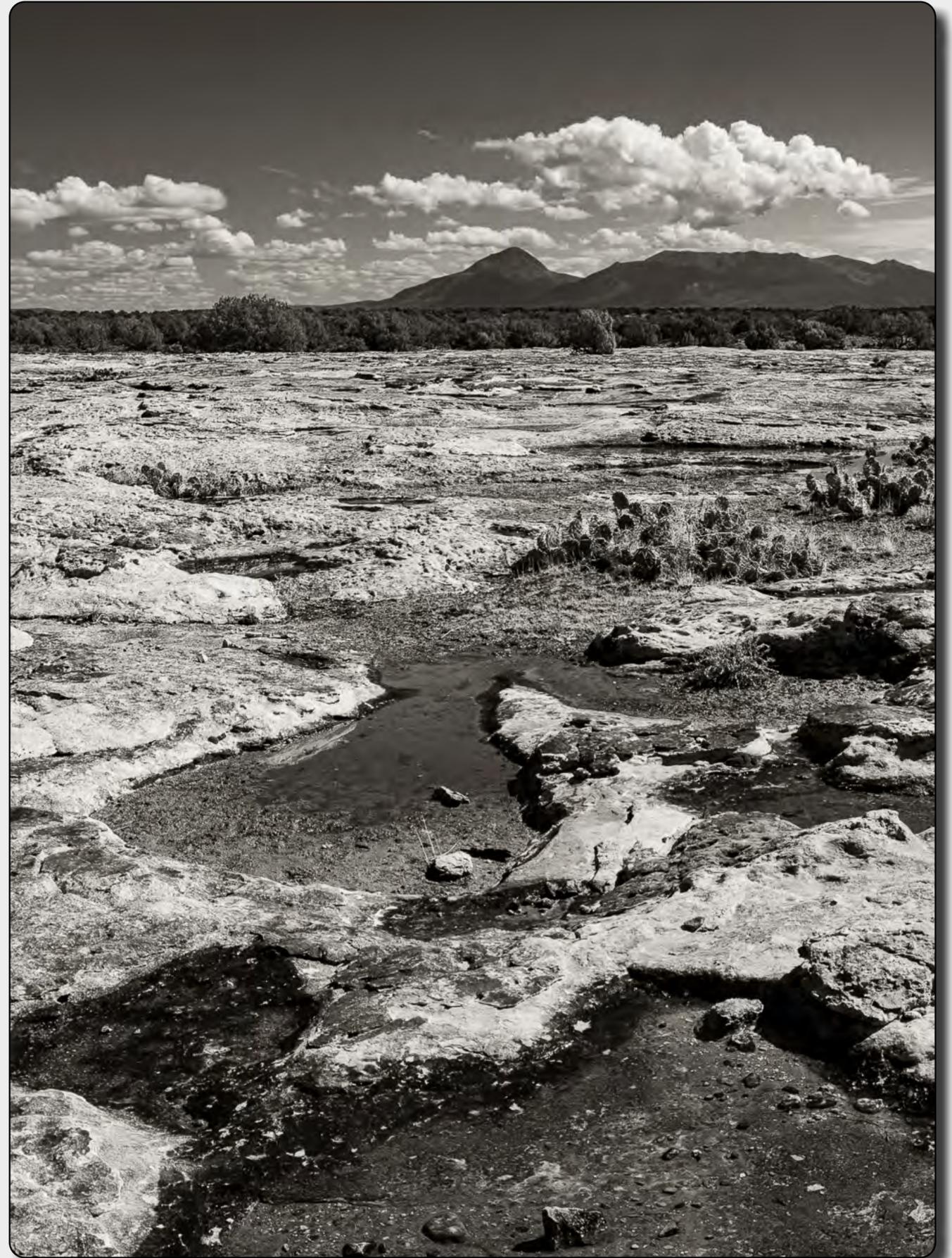
Our life can be hard, too. We are buffeted by the world around us, affected by the actions of others that we cannot control. We hang on and manage to muddle through life day to day, adapting to the world around us the best we can.





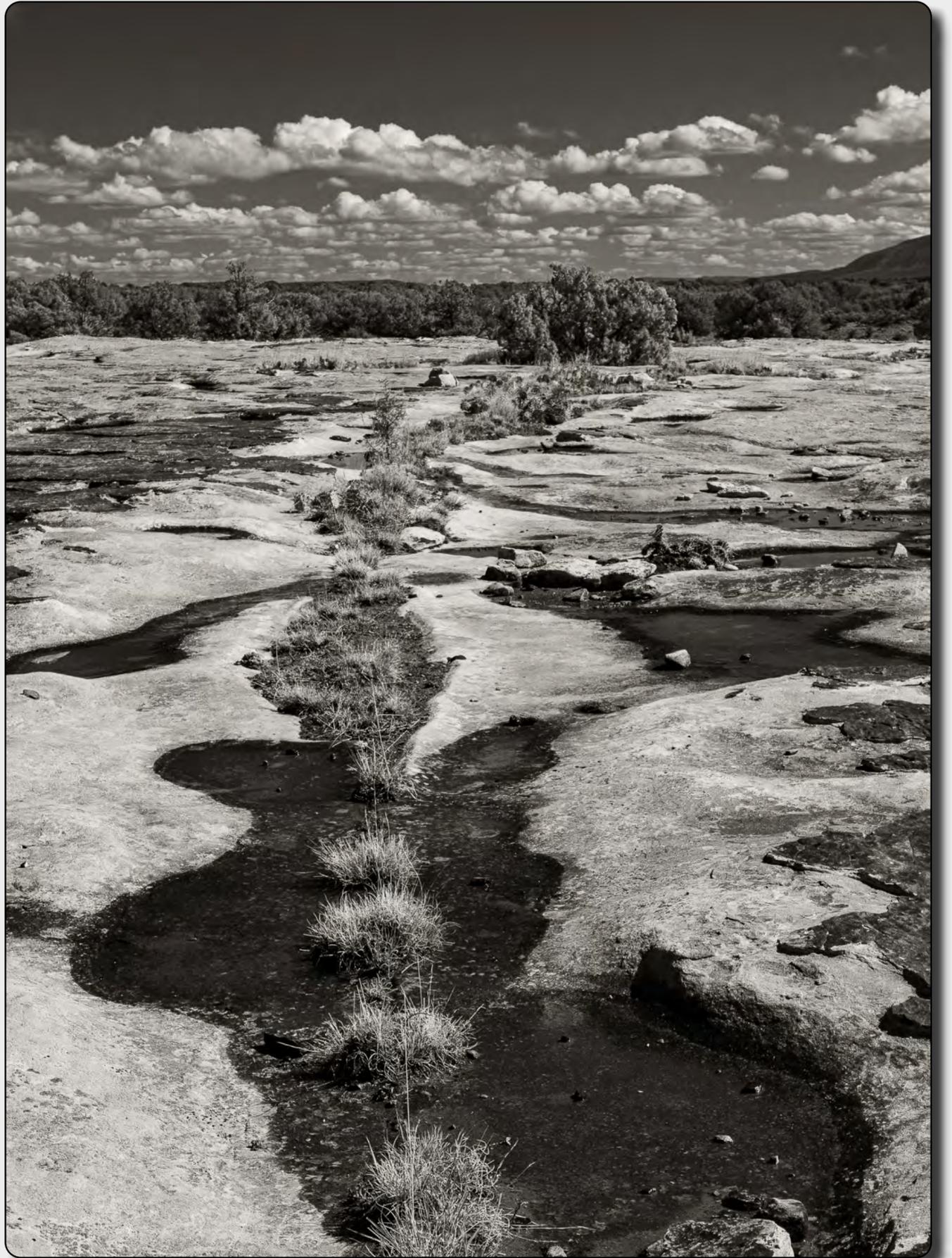






















Postcards from the Creative Journey



Sheldon,

It's all about zeroes and ones, isn't it? We click on the buttons, move those sliders one way and other, to make our desired changes. If we like, we can ask the app to delete something we don't like and the app fills in the vacancy with something the app thinks we might like. All this magic comes from a machine that can only differentiate between a zero and a one.

We can now tell the app what we want, and the app creates something with no more input than what we told it. Can something that is so easily produced have a value that transcends a swipe or a scroll down?

JOE



Sheldon Cooper

2311 N. Los Robles

Pasadena, CA

A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Uncertain Purpose

I'm continuing with the next "chapter" of my project on the Downtown Park in Cary, North Carolina. Tucked away in the corner of the Park is L'île Folie. Translated from the French it can mean "crazy island."

A Folly is a decorative building that has little to no practical purpose. Well, at least it has a purpose as a subject for some of my photographs.



Little Spaces

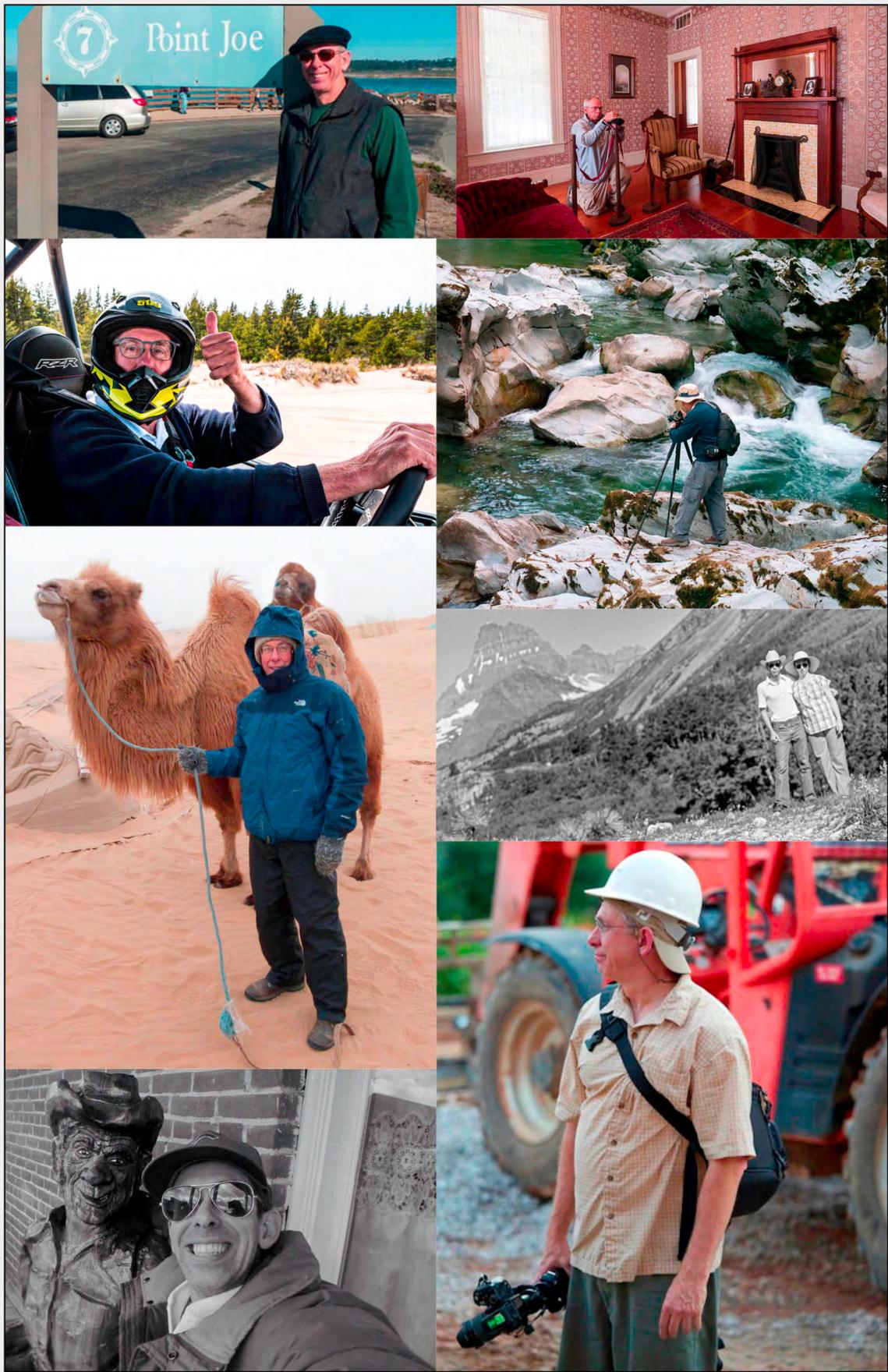
Just walking around, you know, with a camera in hand and responding to the world around me. Narrow streets mean there's no space to back up so whatever you see is going to be seen in a little space.



Slick Rock

Another one of those, "Stop the truck and look at that great place to photograph!" moments. Just north of Hovenweep National Monument, we pulled off the road and began to look at this slick rock formation. In one of the most mountainous areas of the American Southwest, we're photographing flat rocks.

Sometimes you photograph what's in front of you, but it's not really about what's in front of you.



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-five 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, is now part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, has migrated to Instagram. Don't forget to follow him on this new platform linked below.

The Lipka Journal, Number 073, April, 2026

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dailyphoto7375

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