

THANK YOU, JOHANNES



J Brooks Jensen

A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication

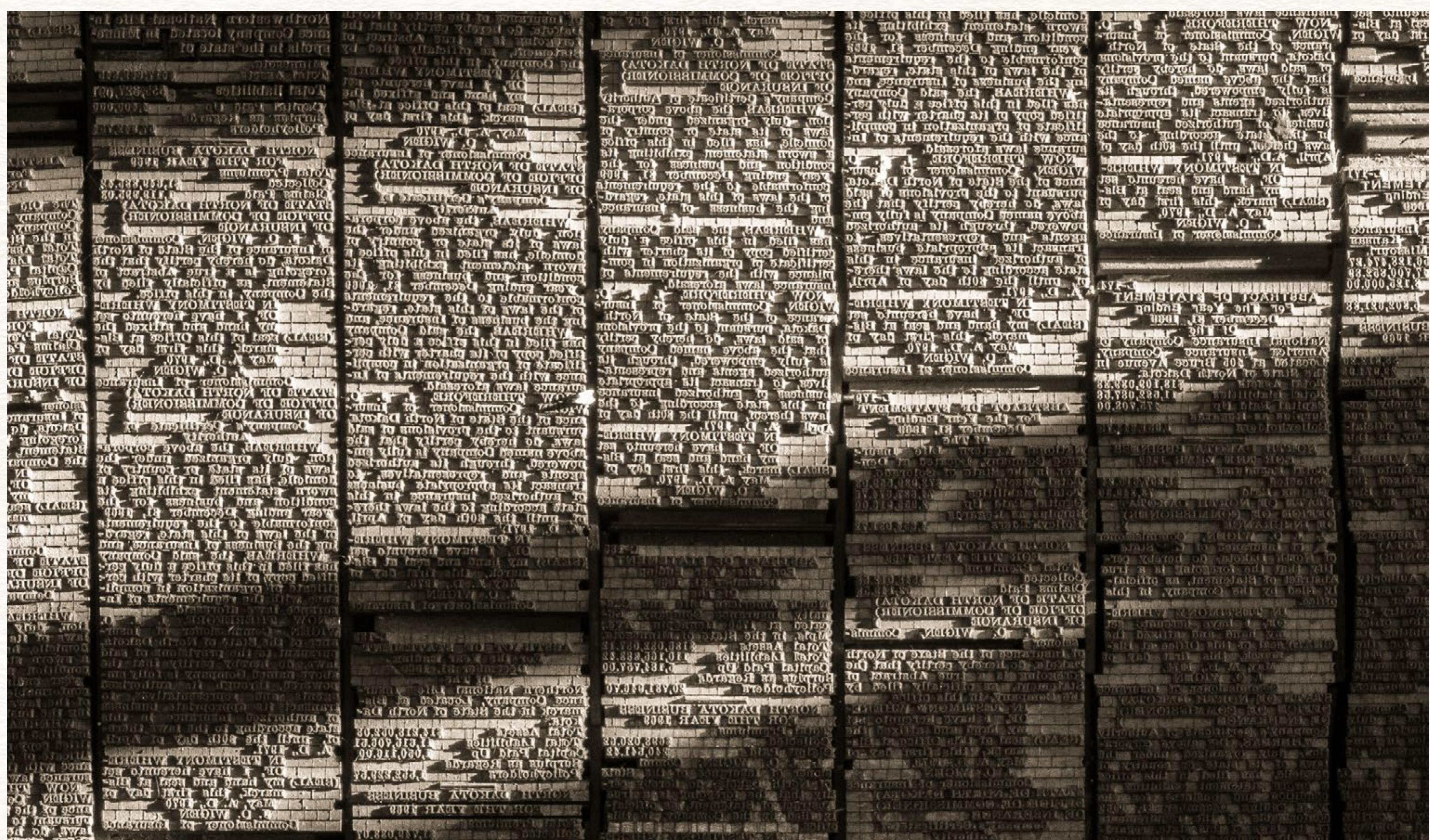
Where would we be without writing? I remember being so excited about entering the third grade because I was to learn writing — not block-letter printing, but *writing*, in cursive hand — which I thought would teach me to write books. I could hardly quell my enthusiasm for the first day of school.



From the moment we are born, we yearn to express ourselves. To speak is marvelous, but to write approaches the divine. I have always thought it magical that scratches on paper could be me — my thoughts, my feelings, my yawp. Me, there on the paper, for all to see, even long after I no longer strut my hour upon the stage. Truly miraculous, not to be taken for granted.

As a photographer, I am supposed to love the print — and I do — but books are the true medium to preserve and share our work. There is no better way to connect with the future. Odd, I suppose, to state in a digital publication like this.





My yawp. Text, image, idea. If I have an artmaking credo, that would be it. I've not had much interest in making movies; they happen at the speed of life. (Should photographs be called *stillies* because they do not move?) Text and image are outside of time, frozen, allowing the viewer to set the pace. Text and image are patient, waiting on the shelf for when the reader has time to linger and absorb. More than once I've felt as though the characters in a Dickens novel were frozen in mid-gesture as I put the book down, waiting for me to pick up my reading so they can animate once again.

God may have evoked the world with, "Let there be light!" but, Gutenberg! There was a man opening the door to *immortality*. Gutenberg is more of a hero to me than Ulysses. Ulysses gave us *his* story; Gutenberg gave all of us access to know stories outside of time — and to tell our own. Type, printing, a photograph, and the page. Books and ideas, outside the constraints of time. Thank you, Johannes.



Brooks Jensen is a fine-art photographer, publisher, workshop teacher, and writer. In his personal work he specializes in small prints, hand-made artist's books, and digital media publications.

He and his wife (Maureen Gallagher) are the owners, co-founders, editors, and publishers of the award winning *LensWork*, one of today's most respected and important periodicals in fine art photography. With subscribers in 73 countries, Brooks' impact on fine art photography is truly world-wide. His long-running podcasts on art and photography are heard over the Internet by thousands every day. All 900+ podcasts are available at [LensWork Online](#), the LensWork membership website. LensWork Publishing is also at the leading edge in multimedia and digital media publishing with *LensWork Extended* — a PDF based, media-rich expanded version of the magazine.

Brooks is the author of seven best-selling books about photography and creativity: *Letting Go of the Camera* (2004); *The Creative Life in Photography* (2013); *Single Exposures* (4 books in a series, random observations on art, photography and creativity); and *Looking at Images* (2014); as well as a photography monograph, *Made of Steel* (2012). His next book will be *Those Who Inspire Me (And Why)*. A free monthly compilation of this image journal, [Kokoro](#), is available for download.

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Anacortes, WA, U.S.A.

Email brooks@brooksjensenarts.com

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