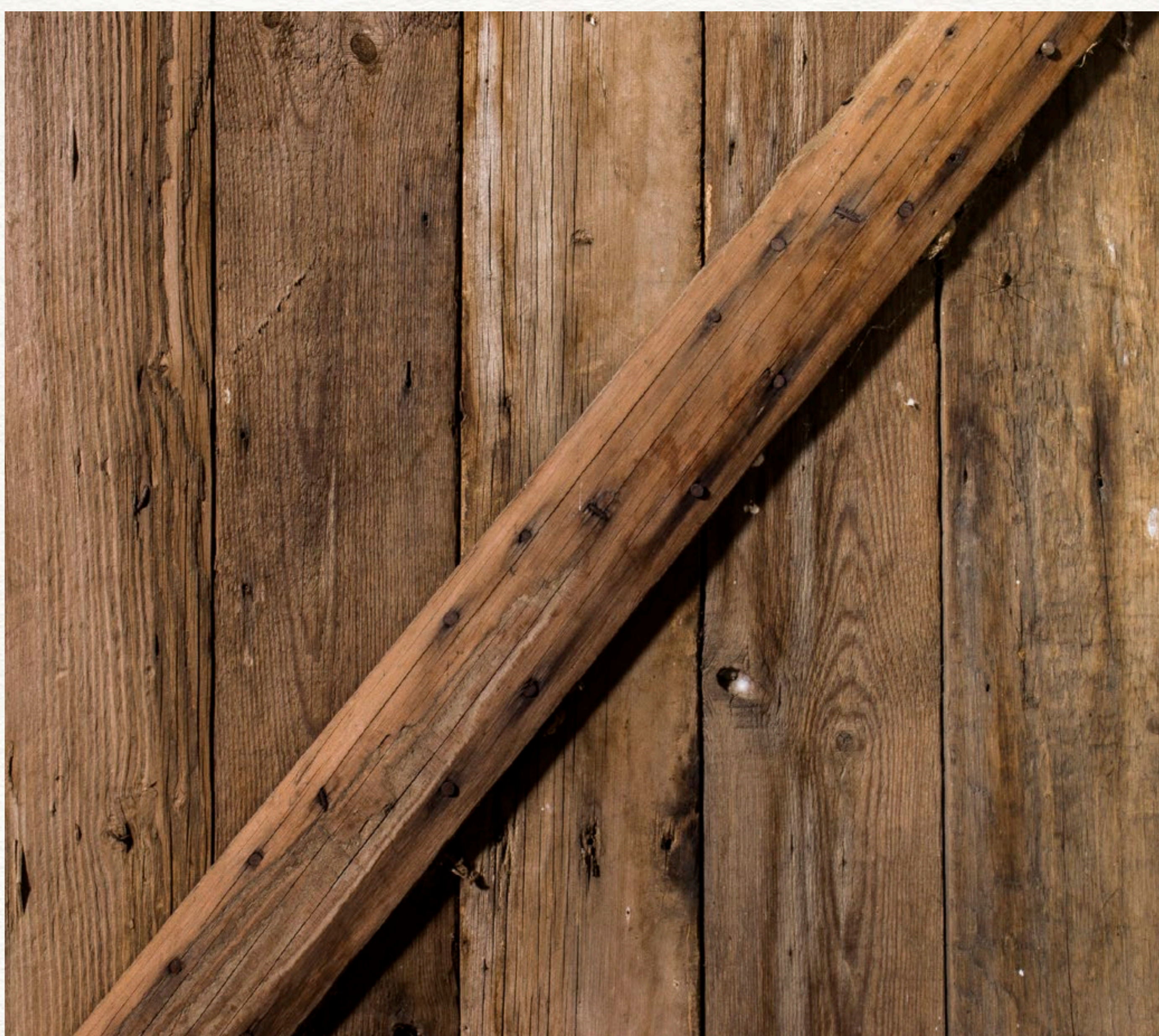


THE WOODGRAIN DEEP IN MY BONES



Brooks Jensen

A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication



The sensuality and seduction of woodgrain

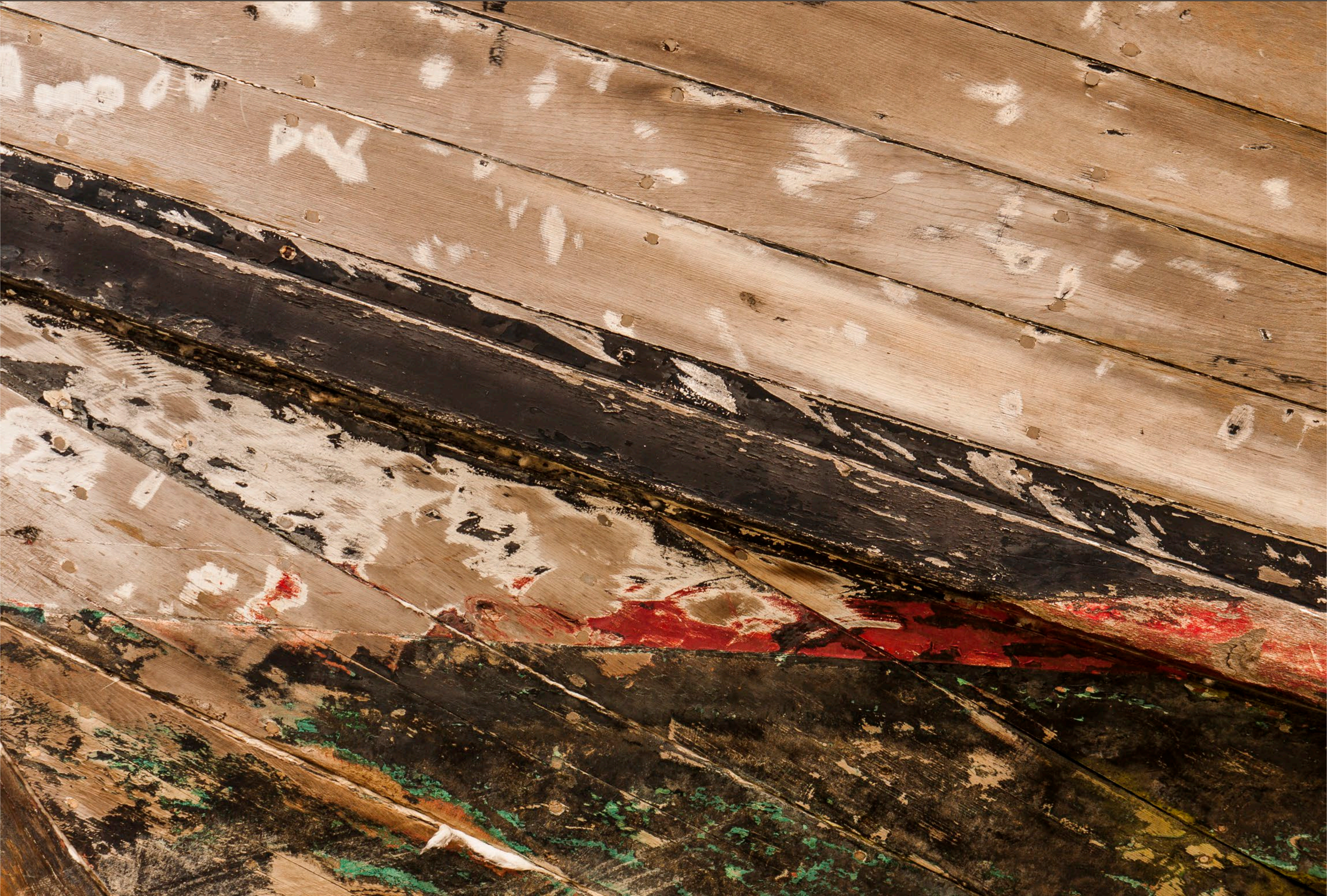
— a wooden boat, a bristlecone pine, a weathered barn — what is there about these textures that connects so deeply? I'd much rather spend the night in a knotty-pine cabin than a glass-and-steel highrise. Not a contest.



Perhaps the grain in wood reminds us so much of the fiber in our own muscles. Perhaps it is the protection that trees and wooden buildings have built into our DNA over millions of years. Perhaps it is the comfort of a campfire. I don't *why*, but I can feel it, deep in my bones.

Boats

















Bristlecone Pines



















Barns



As a photographer, some of the very first photographs I made were of weathered, wooden cabins in the Oregon desert. I quickly learned that photographs like these are considered “cliché” and trite. I stopped showing them, but would secretly look and occasionally succumb to the temptation to make another photograph. Now I’m older and year-by-year sneaking closer to “weathered” status myself. It’s time to let go of the inhibitions and simply enjoy the textures in the woodgrain for its simple beauty. Come to think of it, perhaps that applies to many things in life.





















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 of this image journal, [Kokoro](#), is available for download.

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