

THANKFUL



A short meditation on a few things for which I am thankful.

Brooks Jensen

A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication



Life

As a child, I was taught the nighttime prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray the Lord my soul to keep. *If I should die before I wake . . .*" As a child, they were just words. I am older now, and thankful for each day, for each hour, for the joy of having Life while it lasts.

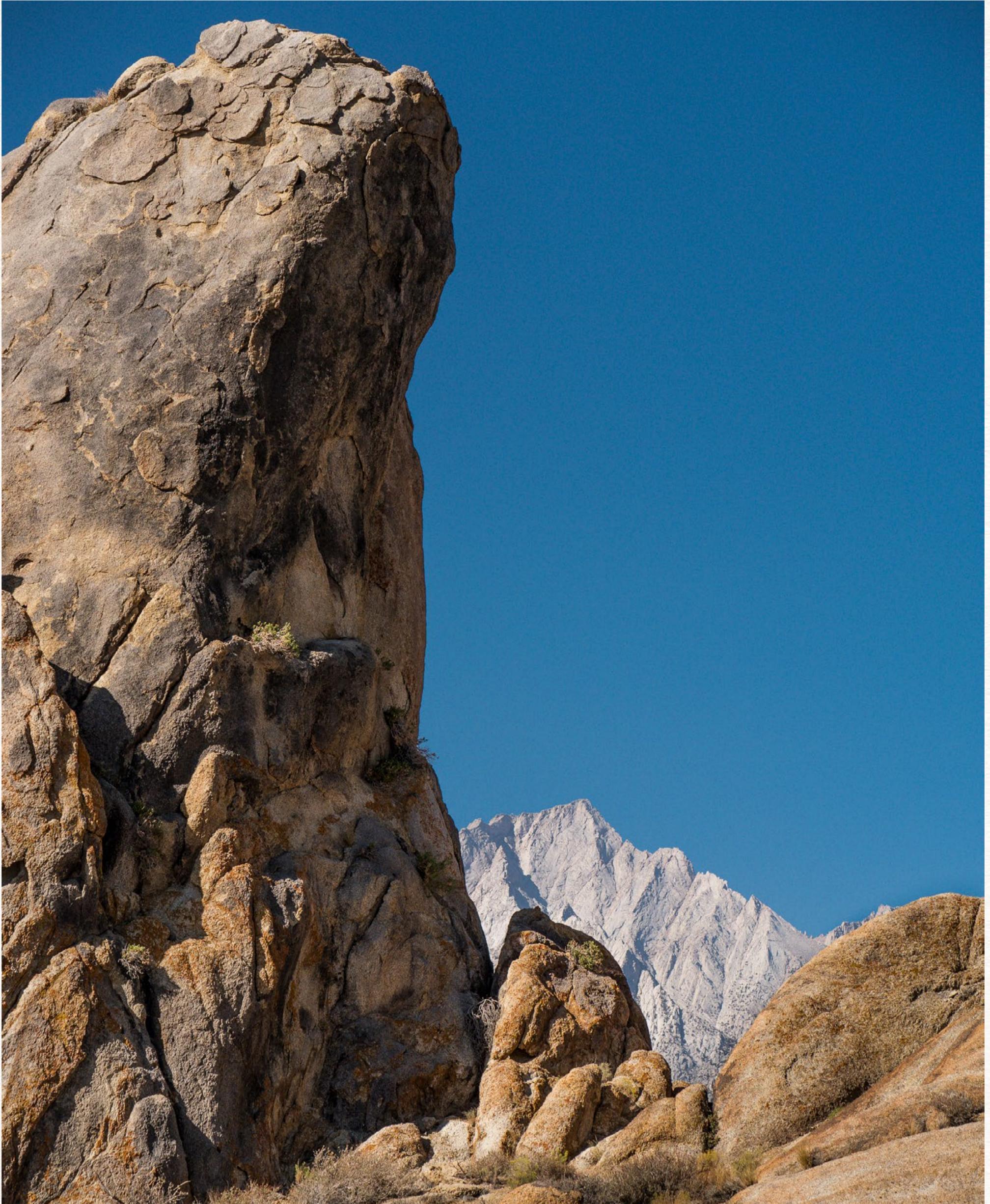




Compassion

The world is a competitive — and often *violent* — place. Compassion and empathy are the twin emollients. Imagine living in a world without the spirit of *other*. I am thankful that Compassion exists.





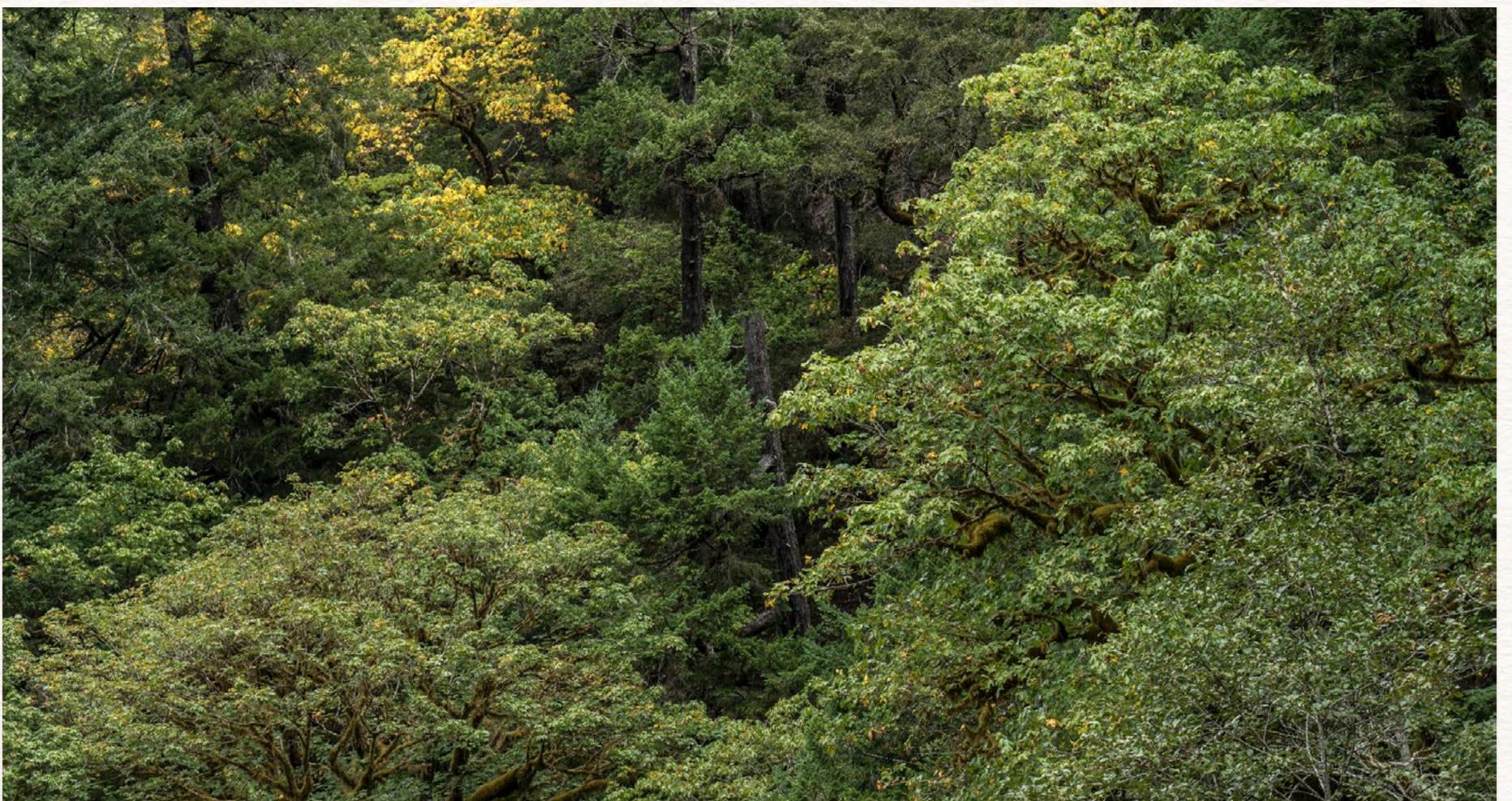
Strength

Life is a battle with the two forces that pull us down, *literally* — gravity and friction. I am thankful for the strength to move and strive.



Trees

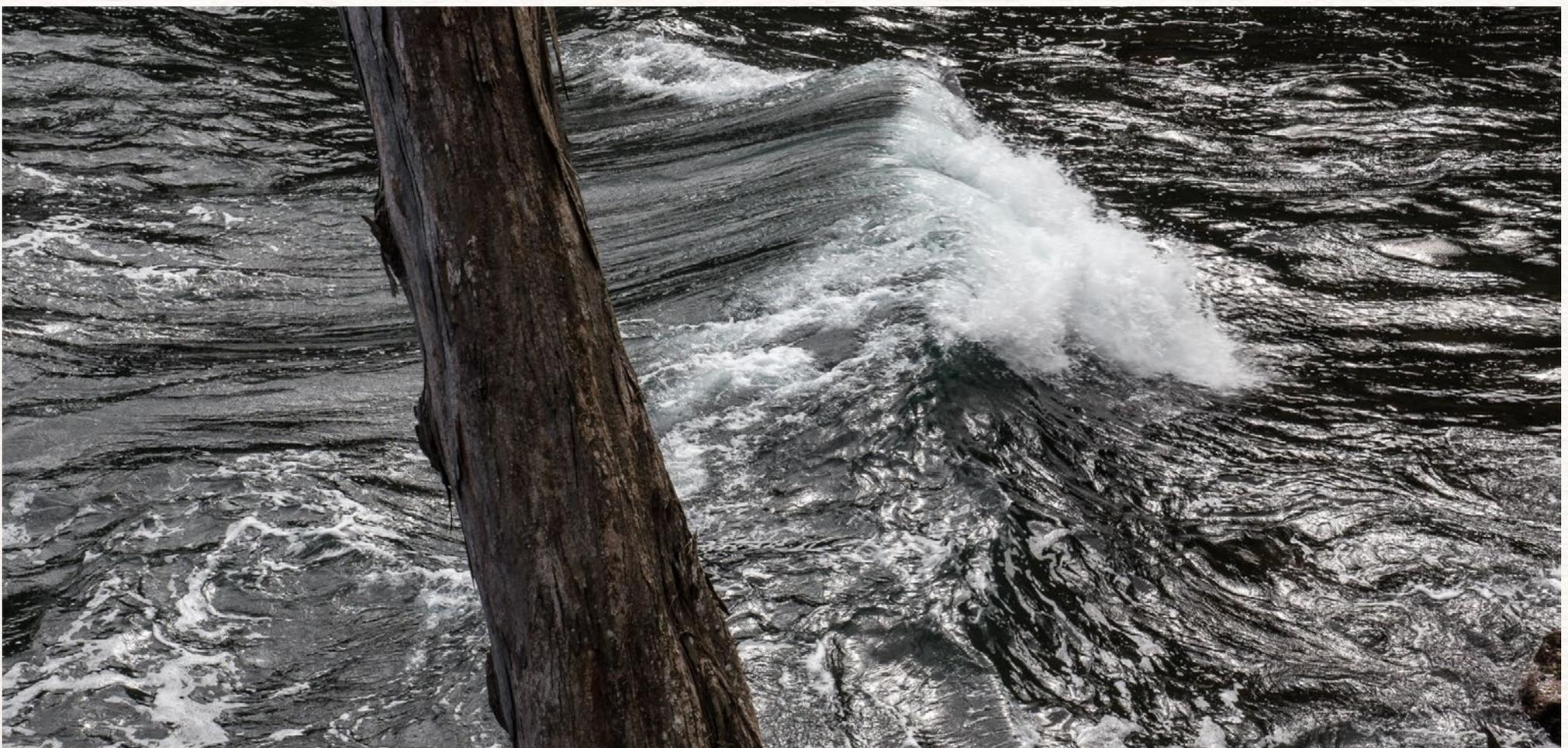
Aesthetically beautiful, functionally useful, life-enabling, shade-producing, protection-giving — just wander a treeless desert and it becomes obvious how interconnected we are to trees. I am thankful that trees are a part of my everyday life.





Water

The planet is mostly water; we are mostly water. Life is only possible because of water. Change our planetary orbit just a bit, and the water evaporates or turns to ice. A bit more sunshine, or a bit less, and the water evaporates or turns to ice. And so would we. I am thankful for the simple ubiquity of the water that sustains us.



Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.

Gilbert K. Chesterton

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.

Marcus Tullius Cicero

When a person doesn't have gratitude, something is missing in his or her humanity.

Elie Wiesel

Gratitude is when memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind.

Lionel Hampton



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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