

# KOKORO

Brooks Jensen Arts ~ October 2019, Vol 5, No 5







## About This Issue

# *Seeing in Sevens*

In 2016, we proposed the idea of six-image projects and published a book of fifty such projects from *LensWork* readers titled *Seeing in SIXES*. I love this idea of using photography to present a question, a thought, a comment on life, a moment of insight — with just six images and a paragraph or two.

Essentially, that's what *Kokoro* has been since its inception — but often with more than six images in a project. In this issue of *Kokoro*, I am picking up the theme of *Seeing in SIXES*, but have added a title page to each project — hence the seventh image.

Photography — if it is worthy of the term *art* — is more than just a pretty picture. Like all other arts, it is capable of evoking thought *and* engaging our most profound sense of aesthetics. Hopefully, a successful project combines these two, leaving us both contemplative and amazed. Lofty goals indeed, and ones that all artists strive for even if their shortcomings limit their success. At its best, the medium becomes transparent and leaves the viewer with a greater sense of being alive.

Perhaps Lafcadio Hearn will not protest too much if I paraphrase (almost word for word) from *Kokoro*, his 1895 book of Japanese life. He explains this important Japanese term far better than I ever could:

**The entries comprising this volume treat of the inner rather than the outer life, — for which reason they have been grouped under the title *Kokoro* (heart). Written with the above character, this word signifies also *mind*, in the emotional sense; *spirit*; *courage*; *resolve*; *sentiment*; *affection*; and *inner meaning*, — just as we say in English, 'the heart of things.'**



# Contents



#125

Thirst



# Thirst

Brooks Jensen





The Sun said, "Here is a last bit of warmth for this day."





The Fish said, "I prefer the wet things."





The Raven said, "I prefer the shiny things."





The Man said, "I prefer the beautiful things."





Satan said, "You shall have them all."







Bodhidharma said nothing,  
and walked away.



# The Japanese *Kappa*

A One-Picture Story



Japanese water monsters known as *kappa* have been blamed for drownings, and are often said to try to lure children into water and pull them in with their great skill at wrestling. They are sometimes said to take their victims for the purpose of drinking their blood, eating their livers, or gaining power by taking their *shirikodama*, a mythical ball said to contain the soul.

Some people say they are just a myth from an ancient superstition. I've seen them. I've *photographed* them. Do not let your children near the water. Trust me.





#126

Grace and Beauty



# Grace and Beauty

Brooks Jensen







A press event for a photography company in China.

Traditional wedding dresses.  
What grace and beauty!





























# Flying, Eventually

A One-Picture Story



When I was a boy, no doubt influenced by the superheroes of my boyish fictions, I dreamt of flying. I remember quite clearly an afternoon one mid-summer day when I tied one of my mother's dish towels around my neck to form a cape. So prepared, I leapt off the backyard deck with arms outstretched into the grassy lawn below, over and over again, thinking, feeling, *believing* that if I willed it with sufficient ardor that I might fly, that I *would* fly if only my faith was sufficient. It was a difficult lesson for a young boy to learn that the immutable laws of physics – *gravity* – could not be overcome by even the most fervent dreams and wishes of fanciful youth. I know, there are balloons and airplanes and helicopters – but I wanted *wings*.





#127

The End of Summer





# The End of Summer

Brooks Jensen















Now that I'm 65, so many of my photographic projects  
are metaphors for the fall season,  
the end of summer,  
the approaching winter.

I guess I'm fortunate that Fall  
has always been my favorite time of year.















# Lao-tzu and the Cataract

A One-Picture Story



Confucius and a few of his disciples were walking in the forest. Suddenly, they saw an old man fall into the top of a cataract and plunge over the edge. “Poor fellow,” said Confucius.

A moment later, they saw the man hop out of the water at the bottom of the falls, no worse for the experience. When they caught up with him, they discovered it was Lao-tzu himself, unharmed and quite jovial. “How is it that you did not perish?” asked Confucius. “Oh it was simple,” Lao-tzu replied, “I just followed the Great Tao and abandoned myself to the currents of the water. I went in with the swirl and came out with the curl.”





#128

Hands of God



# Hands of God

Brooks Jensen







Let us lift up our hearts and  
hands to God in heaven.

Lamentations 3:41





















From the Mission of the Sacred Heart,  
the "Cataldo Mission," established 1850-53  
in northern Idaho.



# Dirt Roads

A One-Picture Story



“Just keep going until you hit the dirt road. All the good stuff is there. You might even be able to make a picture or two.”

He was right about the “good stuff.” He was also right about the photography. I’ve never yet driven down a dirt road that didn’t show me something, teach me something, ask me something, or lead me somewhere I didn’t know I wanted to go.





#129

# Leaf Journeys





Brooks Jensen

# Leaf Journeys



























John Bolton

A One-Picture Story



Kingsley Catholic Cemetery  
Donate 6-25-1989 by  
Remi, Jessie Ronneau

Mrs Bridget J. Bolton  
Erect this monument  
To the memory  
of her family.

John Bolton

A native of  
County Clau Ireland

DIED

Oct. 3, 1891

AGED. 63.

May they Rest in Peace.

*And 46,739 days later,  
he still rests under a summer moon  
with an eternal view of Mt. Hood.  
Well done, Mr. & Mrs. Bolton, well done.*





#130

Perch



Perch



Brooks Jensen



There is an attitude to  
proper perching.

Stately and alert,  
Disinterested,  
Distant,  
Very cool.

The James Dean of  
bird poses.





























Notes



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## Thirst

Some thoughts on *objects of desire*. The Buddhists say that suffering exists (the First Noble Truth) as the consequence of *trishna*, or thirst. It surely can be.

**Tech notes:** The floating kelp were all shot this year on the Oregon Coast with a Panasonic G9. The wave was with a G1, the overlook with a G2.

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## Grace and Beauty

I don't shoot fashion. Just never had the chance to, so when we were invited to work with these models in China, I was nonplussed. I decided to concentrate on their hands and the fabric of their costumes. I still am not a fashion photographer, but I did have fun.

**Tech notes:** Shot in 2016 in the Mullan Paddock region of China on a Panasonic G7 with the kit lens.

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## The End of Summer

I'm drawn to the chaos – and the golden colors – of fall grasses. There is something perfectly *organic* about their gestures of submission to time.

**Tech notes:** I did do some white balance work so the seven images would harmonize, but other than that, they are straight out of the camera. Six of these were shot handheld with the marvelous Panasonic Leica 50-200mm lens – which has quickly become one of my favorite lenses of all time.

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## Hands of God

Wandering around the State Park which is the Cataldo Mission Church, I realized I was photographing mostly the *architecture*. Wrong. It then occurred to me that this facility was filled with *gesturing hands*. One of the few times I've conceived the title for a project while still photographing in the field.

**Tech notes:** Photographed in 2010 with a Panasonic G1 and the much maligned 45-200mm lens. If I hadn't confessed this, would you have known these were shot with a crappy lens? Hmmm. . .

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## Leaf Journeys

Another fall season project. For reasons I cannot explain, I never tire of photographing fall leaves. I connect with them in some unknown way. Perhaps it's that we are all eventually compost ourselves. A bit too morbid? Sorry. But, true.

**Tech notes:** China, Japan, Portland, Seattle. I love themes that we can carry with us and photograph wherever we find ourselves. Panasonic G1, G6, G85, G9. Five different lenses. Whatever works.

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## Perch

This one snuck up on me. As seen in a recent issue of *Kokoro*, I love photographing leafless trees. Every once in a while, after I'm back and reviewing images on the computer, I'm surprised to see a bird that I hadn't noticed when I was making the exposure. The little guy on page 61 was the inspiration for this project. And besides, I really needed to do *something* with all those pelicans.

**Tech notes:** Bird photography is its own specialty – and I am *not* a qualified practitioner. I bow to all the bird photography specialists and offer these as *artwork*, rather than as bird photos. Go easy on me, please.

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## One-Picture Stories

Memory, like storytelling, is all anecdotes and snippets – the story of our lives.



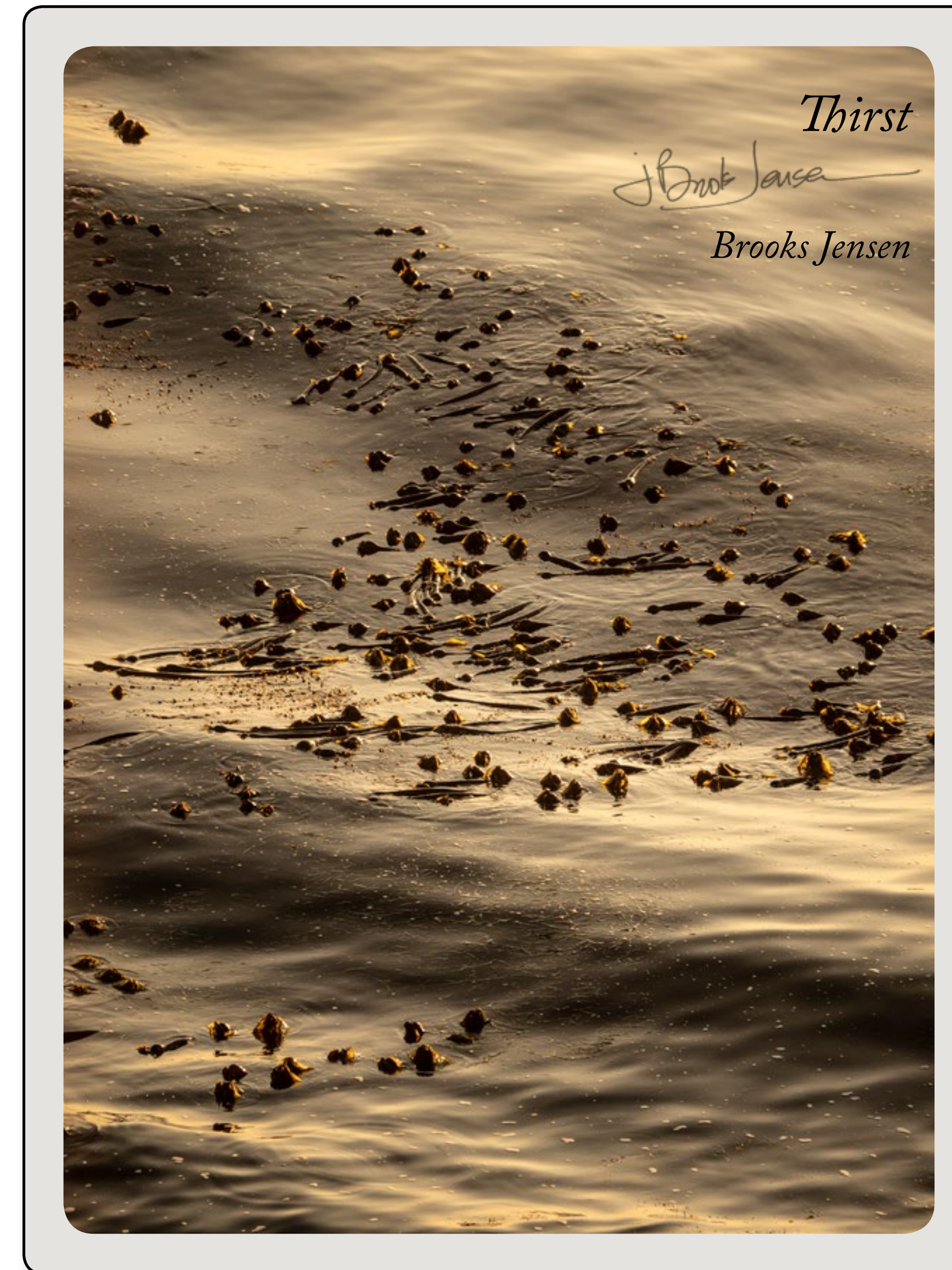
Folios, Chapbooks, Prints



# Coming soon! *Sketches from Kokoro*

A Series of Printed, 8-page, Handsewn Chapbooks by Brooks Jensen

- Original artwork, individually printed and signed by Brooks Jensen
- Each chapbook contains a single Sketch from *Kokoro*
- Folded and sewn 8-page signature with rounded corners
- Traditional "Quarto" chapbook format, 6R size (6x8")
- Archival Moab Entrada paper with Epson 4880 archival inks
- Personally inscribed with the purchaser's name and date
- Priced to be collectible, gifts, or just enjoyed!



## *Sketches from Kokoro*

A Series of Handmade Chapbooks by  
Brooks Jensen

#124 – *Whereabouts Unknown*  
First Edition, September 2019

Brooks Jensen Arts chapbooks  
are hand-crafted in an open edition.

Printed and sewn in January 2020 for

*John Smith*

with heartfelt thanks for your interest  
and patronage of my creative endeavors.



Initial creative work and design completed during August 2019.

Printed Quarto 6R (8-page, 6x8") to archival, museum standards  
using Moab Entrada Rag Bright White 190gsm archival paper and Epson Ultrachrome K3 archival pigment inks.

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# Folios and Chapbooks

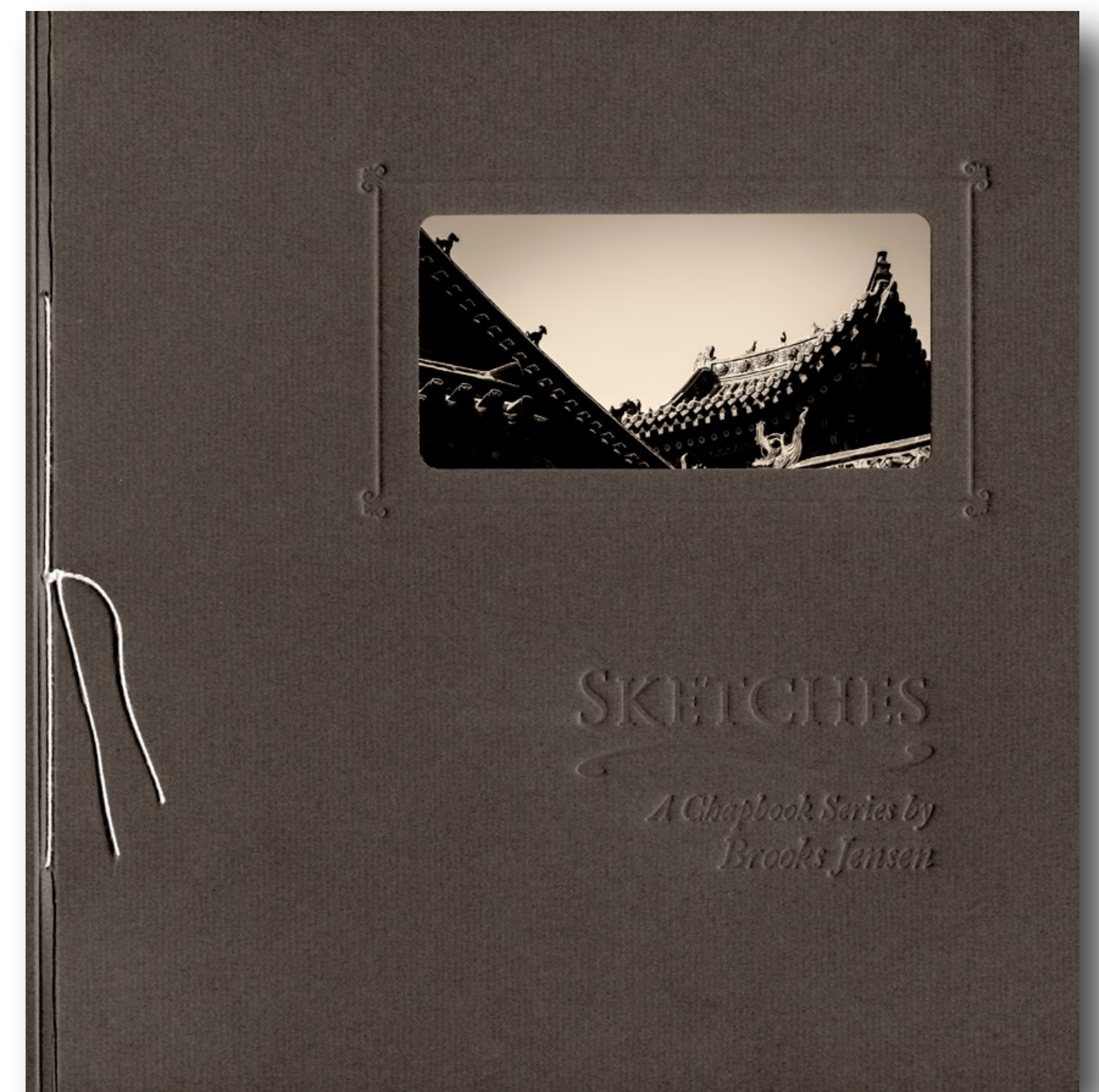
My primary media for physical artwork are handmade folios and chapbooks. These media allow me to provide a hands-on, tactile, off-the-wall viewing experience.

Folios are sets of unmounted sheets, typically related by theme or place. Folios include an introductory text sheet or folded signature. The art-paper enclosure is embossed. These are numbered and signed.

Chapbooks are sewn, handmade books that present more flexible possibilities for storytelling and predetermined sequencing. Chapbooks use two-sided printing and are typically between 8 and 12 pages. The covers are made from embossed art-paper. Chapbooks also are numbered and signed.

I do not use the artificiality of “limited editions” — a marketing strategy that conflicts with the very nature of photography’s reproducibility.

Currently available titles are listed at [www.brooksensenarts.com](http://www.brooksensenarts.com).







**Brooks Jensen** is a fine-art photographer, publisher, workshop teacher, and writer. In his personal work he specializes in small prints, handmade artist 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 worldwide. His long-running podcasts on art and photography are heard over the Internet by thousands every day. All 1,200+ podcasts are available at [LensWork Online](https://lenswork.com), 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 fourteen books about photography and creativity: *Photography, Art, & Media* (2016); *The Creative Life in Photography* (2013); *Letting Go of the Camera* (2004); *Single Exposures* (4 books in a series, random observations on art, photography and creativity); *Looking at Images* (2014); *Seeing in SIXES* (2016); *Seeing in SIXES* (2017); *Seeing in SIXES* (2018); *Seeing in SIXES* (2019); *The Best of the LensWork Interviews* (2016); as well as a photography monograph, *Made of Steel* (2012). His next books will be *Those Who Inspire Me (And Why)* and *Looking at Images 2019*. [Kokoro](https://kokoro.com) is a free, monthly PDF e-magazine of his personal work and is available (both current and back issues) for download from his [website](https://www.brooks-jensen.com).

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Email [brooks@brooks-jensen.com](mailto:brooks@brooks-jensen.com)

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