PETALS OF POWER

Tug Boat Propellers of Dakota Creek Shipyards

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A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication

For ten years, my office was directly across the street from Dakota Creek Shipyards. From the window next to my desk, I could watch each project while it morphed from piles of sheet metal to a massive, fully-functioning ship. One of the most exciting days of my photographic life was when the owner of the shipyard gave me my own hardhat and permanent visitor's pass so I could wander the shipyard with my camera whenever the action and the light moved me.

Mechanics, materials, and math are the foundations of a ship. The angles and twist of the propeller blades can push even the most massive and laden ship through the roughest seas. The forward thrust of a ship's spinning propeller is a matter of engineering, calculable by some fairly high-level math which I have no hope of understanding. For me, the magic is in the simple beauty of exquisite and graceful *form,* particularly in those giant petals of power, designed for a powerful purpose, sculpted out of solid brass, taller than I am, golden in the evening sun.


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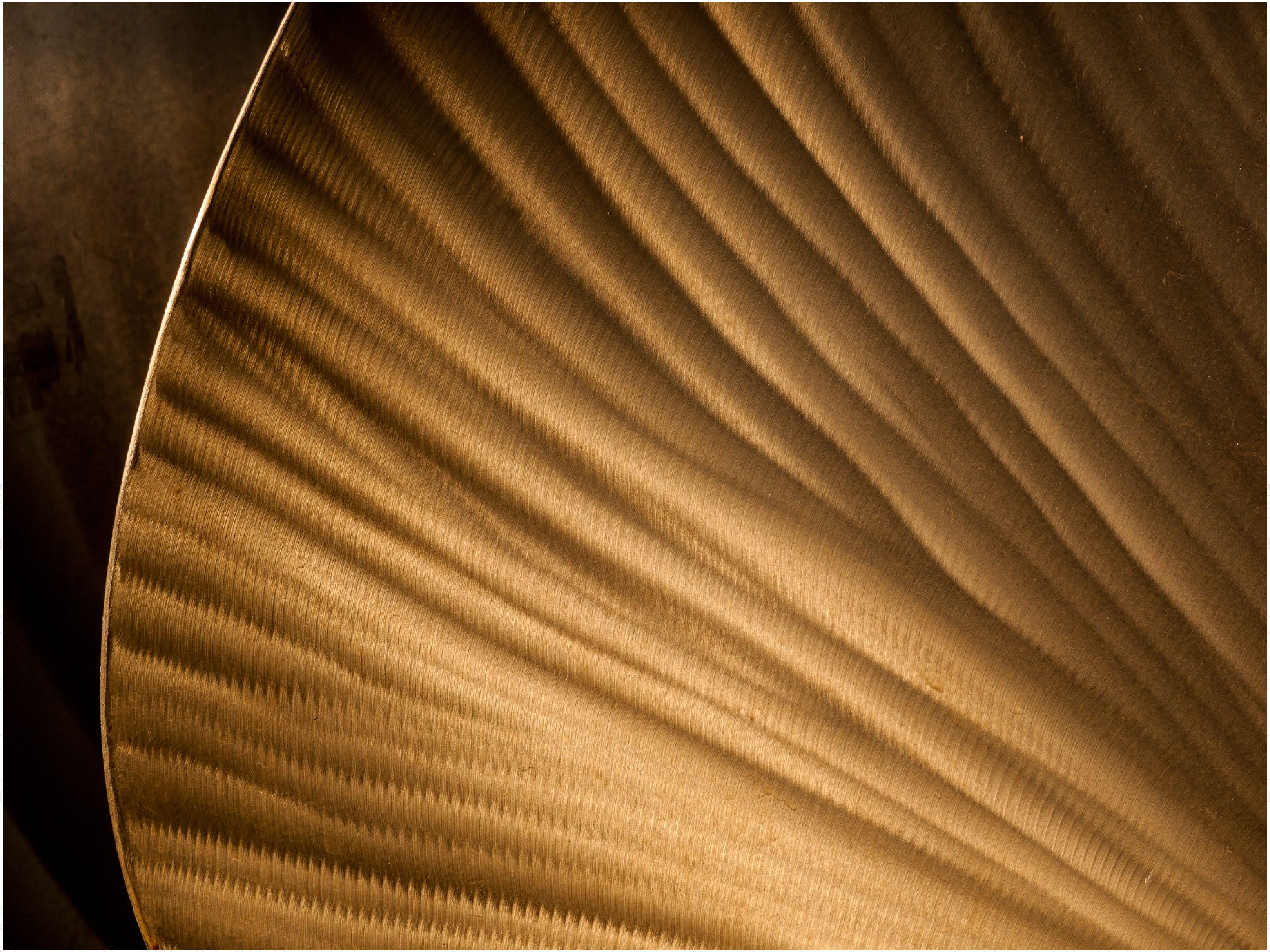

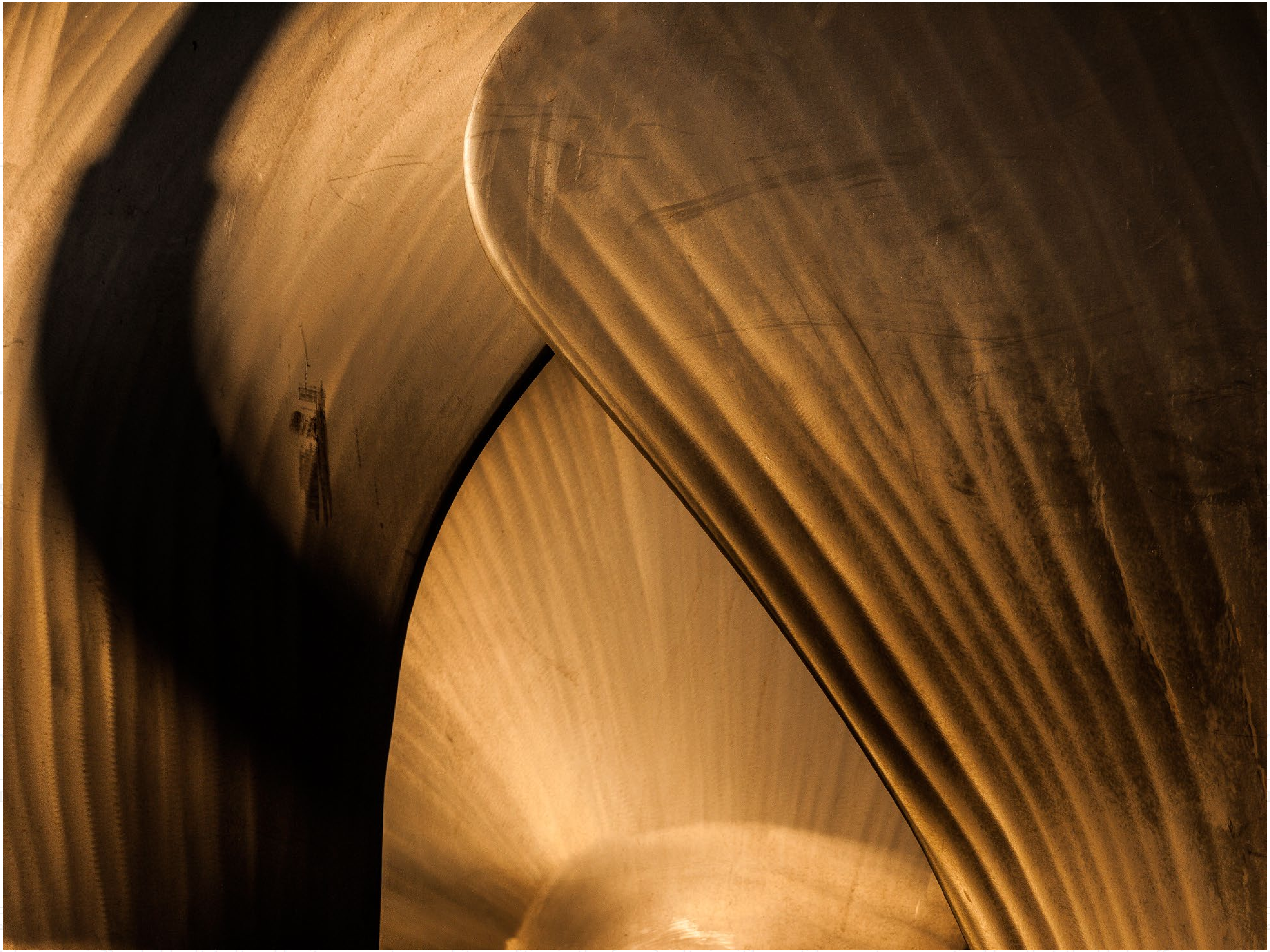

Brooks Jensen is a fine-art photographer, publisher, workshop teacher, and writer. In his personal work he specializes in small prints, hand-made artist's books, and digital media publications.

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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