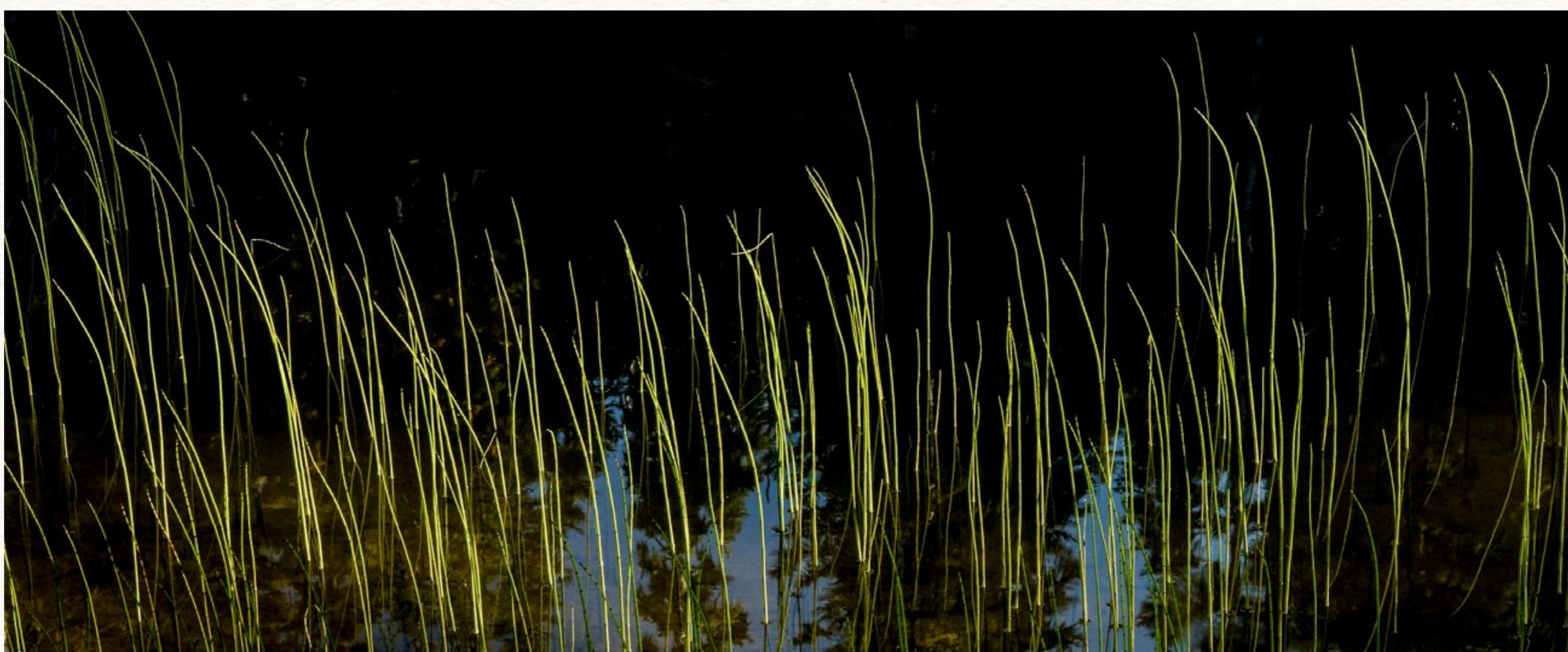


# ORDER IN THE CHAOS



*Brooks Jensen*

*A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication*

**Photographing nature** is a delicate business. On one hand, we artists want to impose some sense of order onto the chaos of nature's unordered mess. We compose our images based on this premise; e.g., as photographers, we eliminate and crop until the order becomes visible.

Conversely, we also want to open ourselves to nature's organization, to sense the beauty there without our simplistic human preconceptions. We prefer the organic line to the grid of regularity, the flow of water to straight edge of a ruler, the sound of the wind to the cadence of a military march. The chaos of nature renews us, but only if the chaos is not *too* chaotic.

For me, photographing in the landscape is a search for balance. The most successful photographs occur when I find that spot right in the middle — finding order in chaos, but allowing the chaos to define the order.

Ultimately, this always seems to me a matter of *listening* rather than speaking, *looking* rather than composing, opening ourselves to what *is* rather than defining what should be. In Zen, they call this the "controlled accident." I love that sense of the aesthetic dance between opposites.



















**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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