

# WORK AND REAL WORK

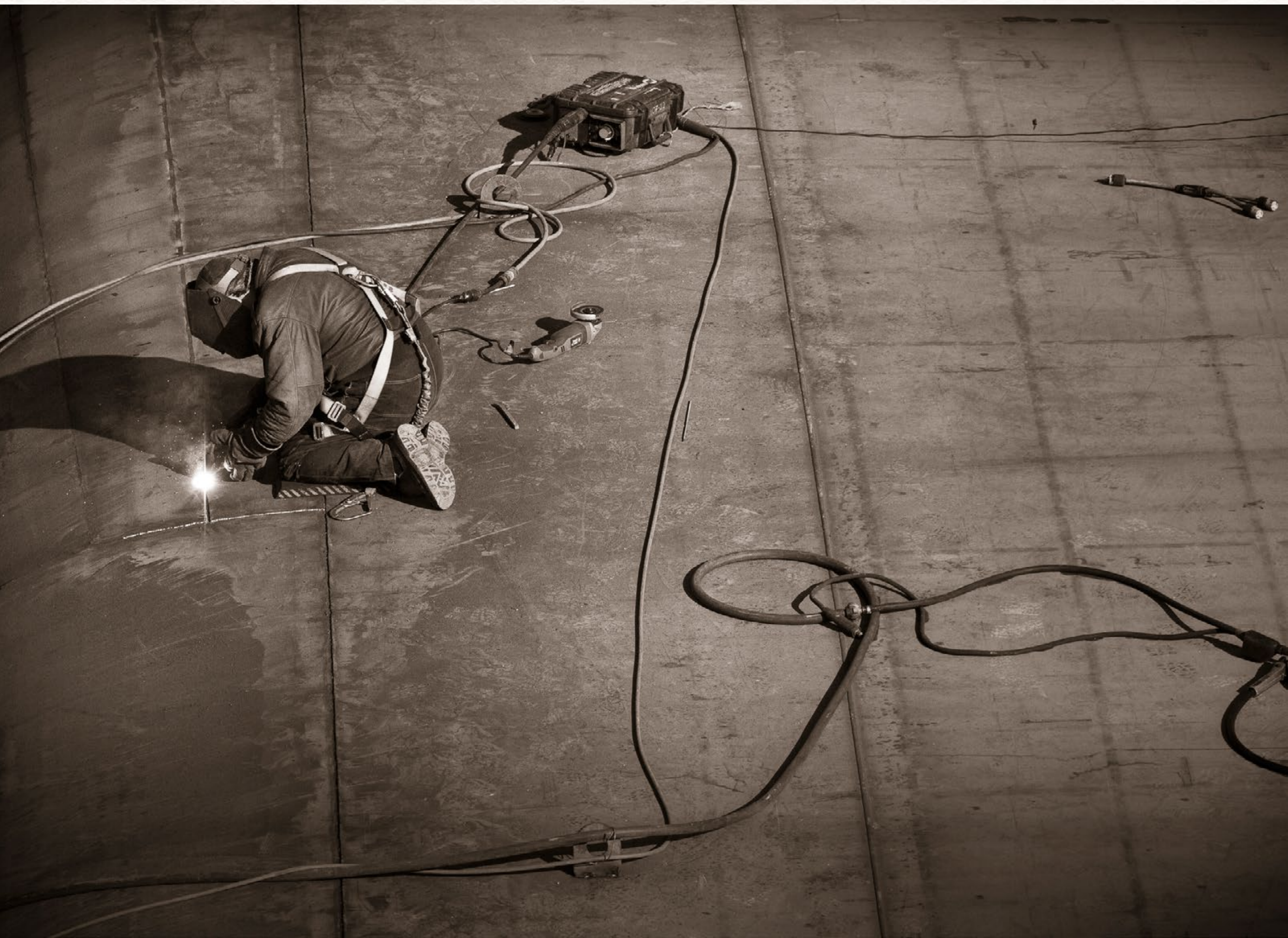


*Brooks Jensen*

*A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication*

**We all** like to think we work hard — at whatever it is we do. I sit at my desk and type, read, think, edit, and click my mouse buttons. Then I look across the street from my office and see the shipbuilders turning piles of sheet metal into massive ships. When I compare what I do to what they do, I find it difficult to describe what I do as “work.” I don’t break a sweat and I don’t get dirty. Somehow, it seems like cheating to call it *work*.

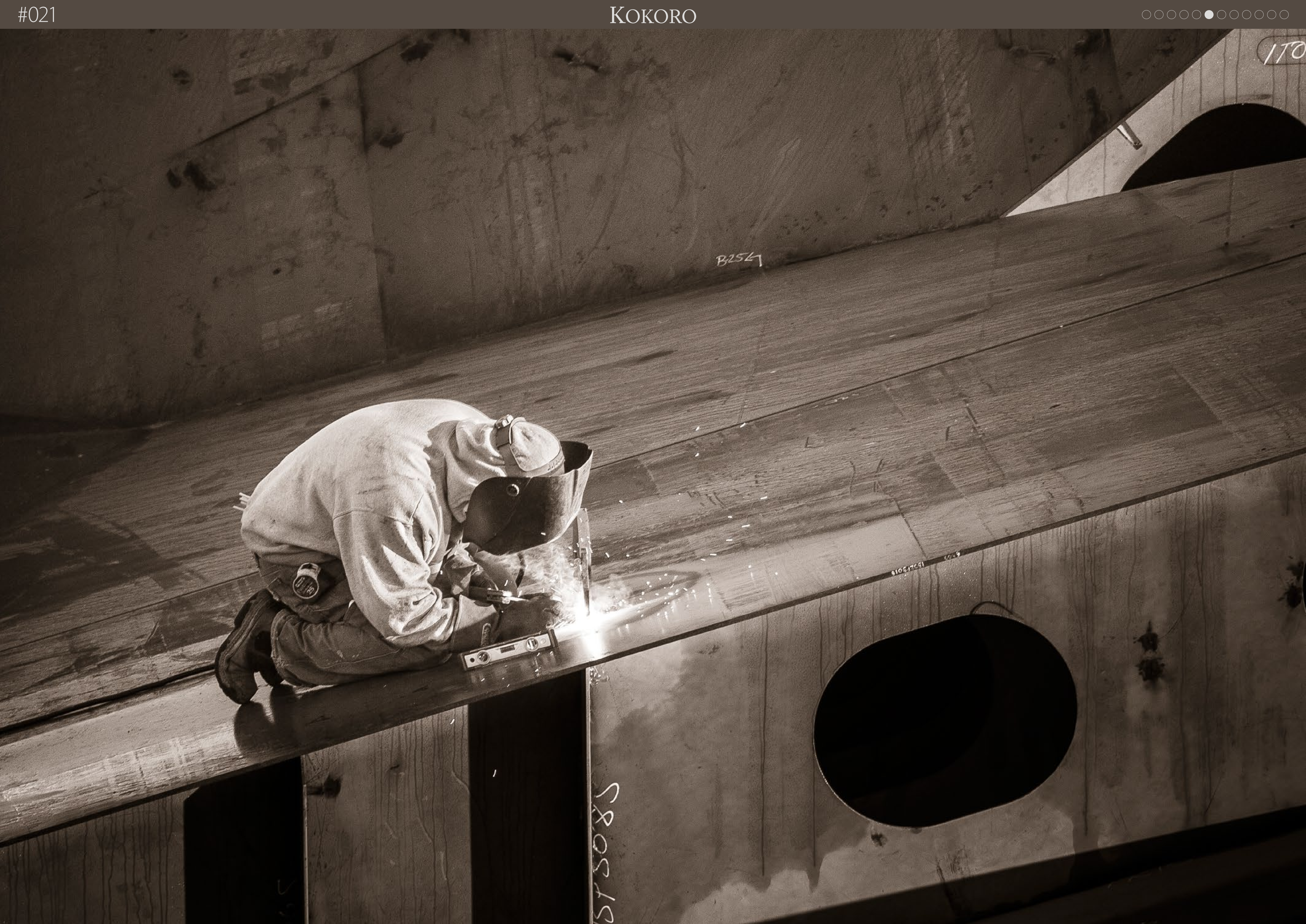
In their protective clothing, hot, doing physically demanding tasks, contorted into uncomfortable positions, on their knees for weeks at a time, hanging in the air on the side of a ship — *that* is work. Even when I was young and fit, I doubt I would have had the stamina to be a shipbuilder. It is a privilege to watch them ply their craft and build, one piece at a time.











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I'd salute them with a tip of my hat,  
but my job doesn't require that I wear one.



**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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