

GONE

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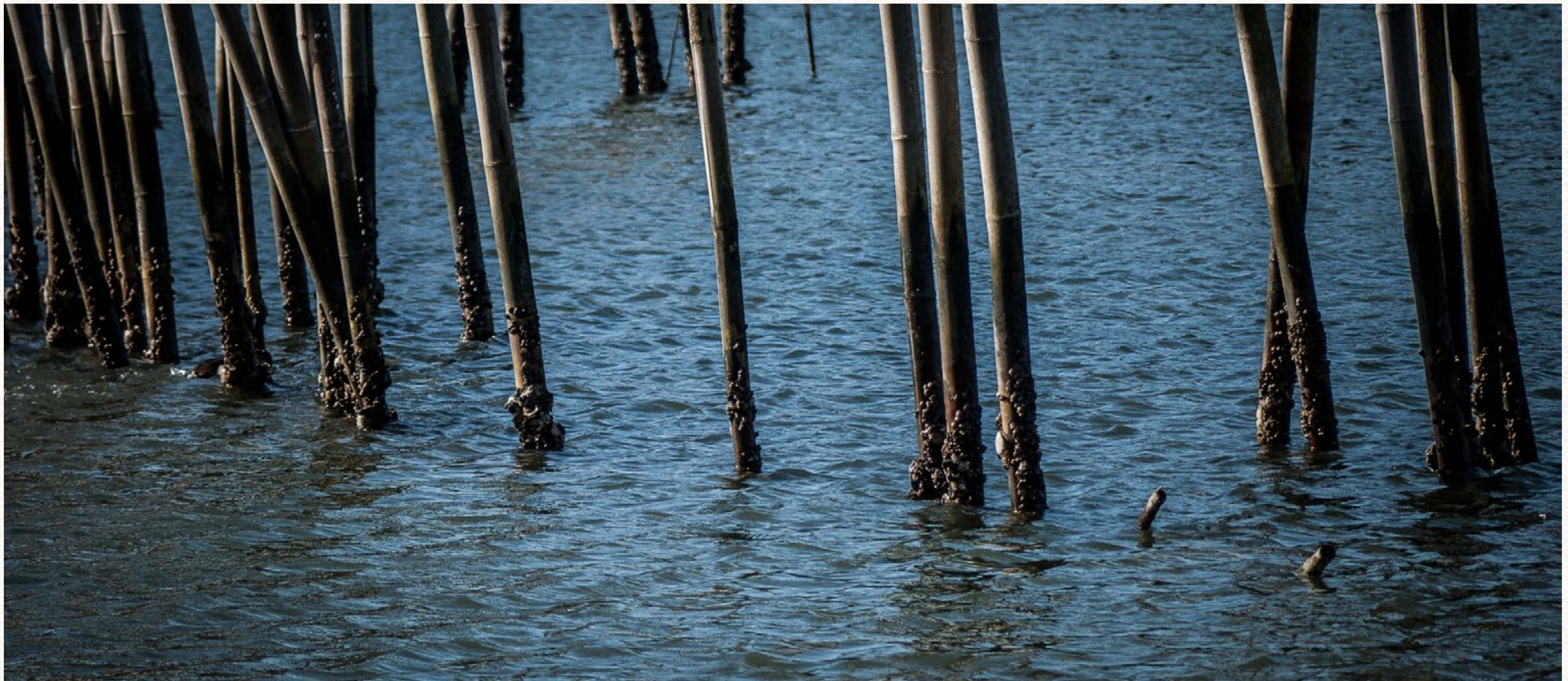


Brooks Jensen

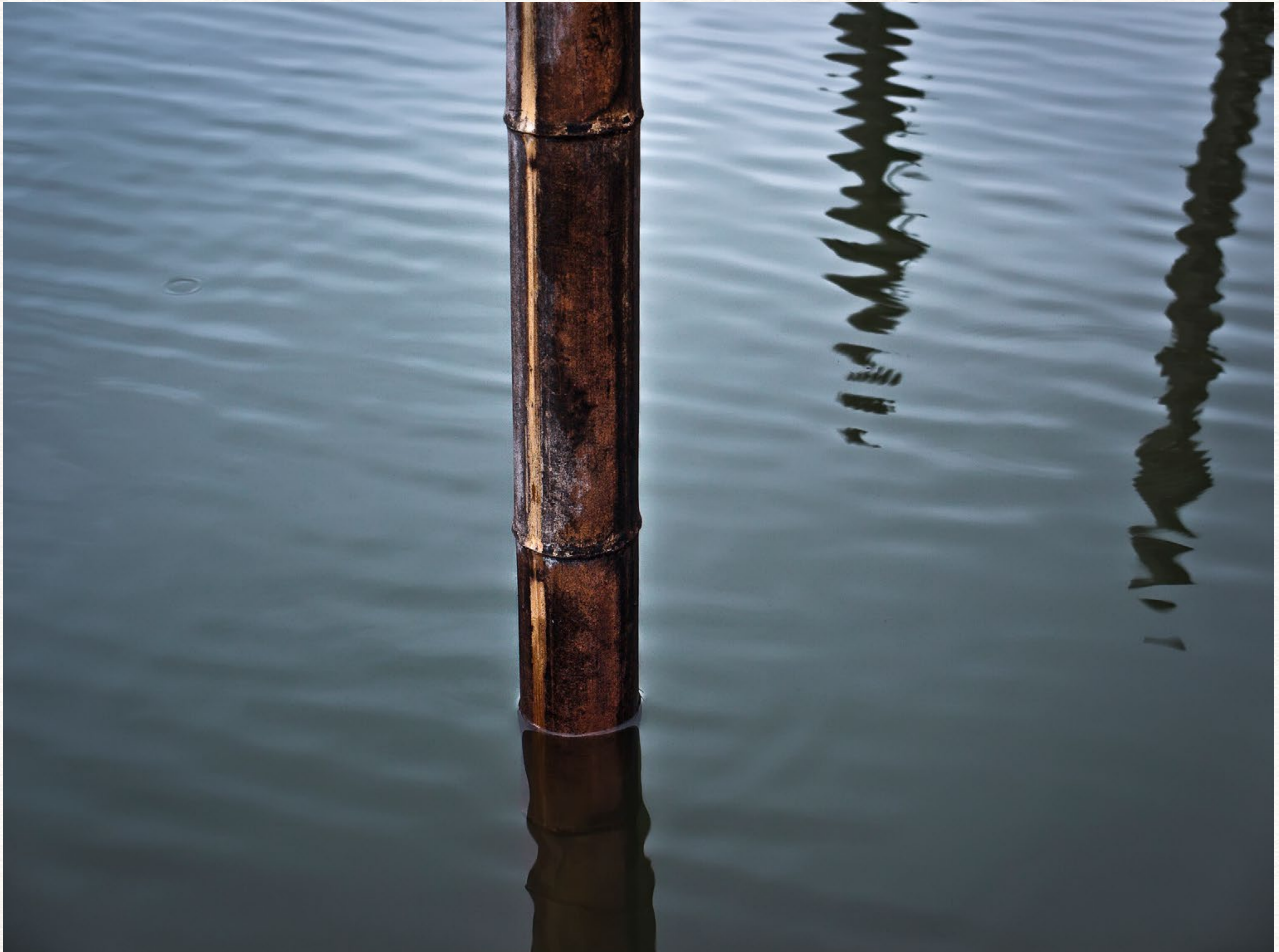
A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication

The notes on my map read simply, “Good potential.” I’d passed this little fishing village in a protected inlet in 1990 during my first trip to Japan. I noted its name, *Rikuzen Tomiyama*, but didn’t stop. Funny how certain places can make an impression all out of proportion to logic.

Beyond explanation, it was just *calling*. I knew I wanted to return, and 19 years later I finally did so, for a single morning of photography.



What first attracted me were the bamboo used both as mooring and for the oyster beds.





















Then the boats and their reflections in the water.







丸光辰



宝 仁 丸











And finally, once the day had broken and the workday begun, the people who bring the oysters to market.













*Four hundred seventy-nine days later,
it was all gone — washed away in the
Tohoku tsunami of March 2011.*

Gone in moments,
with only 30-minutes warning from the earthquake
to the 30-foot wall of water that took everything in its path.



I choose to remember Rikuzen Tomiyama
as I found it that one glorious morning,
before *Higashi Nihon Daishinsai*, the Great East Japan earthquake of 2011,
before the tsunami that devastated the coastline of Tohoku,
before the tears of Japan and the world fell for the 15,891 dead,
6,152 injured, and 2,584 people still missing.





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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