

# COLD ON A COSMIC SCALE

*Or, How I Lost My Tuhkus in China,  
on the Banks of the Frozen Yellow River*



*Brooks Jensen*

*A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication*

**Science tells** us that the coldest *theoretical* cold is minus 273° Celsius, so-called “absolute zero.” Most of the cosmos is pretty close to that, except the occasional pinpoint of a sun here and there. The interior of a sun is the other end of the cosmic temperature scale — roughly 15 million degrees Celsius. Of the 15,000,273 possible temperatures in our cosmos, we humans are “comfortable” in a range of about 0.0002% of them. Picky little creatures, aren’t we!? Or perhaps just incredibly delicate.



As I write this, here comfortably seated on a park bench overlooking Fidalgo Bay in my hometown, I am surrounded by a comfortable 60° (Fahrenheit) morning and a gentle warming sun. I recall a day photographing on the banks of the Yellow River in China not long ago, protected by two goose-down coats, still bitterly cold on a sunny, windswept 13° (Fahrenheit) winter day. On the cosmic scale, such a tiny change in temperature — almost immeasurable — was cosmically insignificant, but not to me! On that cold winter day in China, my lips and my *tukhus* froze and fell right off. I might be speaking *emotionally*, but trust me, it was **cold**. Ah, the sacrifices we make for art!



























**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.

### **The contents of this computer media are copyrighted materials.**

Please note that this computer file publication is a consumer product for private non-commercial use only. Its contents are copyrighted in its entirety and may not be duplicated by any means. All content is copyrighted by Brooks Jensen, his assigns or heirs, and may not be duplicated for any purpose or by any means without their consent. All rights reserved.

Please play fair.

© 2015 Brooks Jensen  
Anacortes, WA, U.S.A.

Email [brooks@brooksjensenarts.com](mailto:brooks@brooksjensenarts.com)

Additional work by Brooks can be found:  
[www.brooksjensenarts.com](http://www.brooksjensenarts.com) and [www.lenswork.com](http://www.lenswork.com)