

KOKORO

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Perhaps Lafcadio Hearn will not protest too much if I paraphrase (almost word for word) from *Kokoro*, his 1895 book of Japanese life. He explains this important Japanese term far better than I ever could:

The entries comprising this volume treat of the inner rather than the outer life, — for which reason they have been grouped under the title *Kokoro* (heart). Written with the above character, this word signifies also *mind*, in the emotional sense; *spirit*; *courage*; *resolve*; *sentiment*; *affection*; and *inner meaning*, — just as we say in English, 'the heart of things.'

A Perfect Glory of a Day

Experiencing Lamoille Canyon



Lamoille Canyon, Nevada, in Four Chapters

Dramas of Dark and Light

The Fall Performance

Breathing In the Mountains

Our Little Planet of Rocks

#181

Dramas of Dark and Light

Dramas of Dark and Light

Brooks Jensen









I know they are only rocks.

I know they are only clouds.

I know that inanimate objects do
not battle each other
for dominance.

I know that.

It still feels like a drama that
unfolds before my eyes.













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The Fall Performance



The Fall Performance

Brooks Jensen













Did you know that a grove of
aspen trees is a single living,
growing entity?

Strutting *our* hour upon the stage?
Aspens strut! We humans are just
pretenders.













#183

Breathing In the Mountains

Breathing in the Mountains

Brooks Jensen









Mountain air is thinner.

Is this why our lungs feel so much cleaner when we share air with the mountains? Or is it a gift, an altitude reward for our efforts?

For reasons I cannot fully understand, mountain air makes me feel
younger.















#184

Our Little Planet of Rocks



Our Little Planet of Rocks

Brooks Jensen

Mountains, boulders, rocks, pebbles, dust. . .







The poets say we are all star-dust. Perhaps. Or maybe we are all really slow light.













Notes

Dramas of Dark and Light

Photography is, as we all know, “light writing.” That said, I remember an early workshop instructor who suggested that the true essence of photography is in the contrast of chords between dark and light.

As the clouds moved swiftly overhead, the dance of shadows on the geological features of Lamoille Canyon were breathtaking. No photographic image can do justice to the rapidly moving shadows, but it sure is fun to try.

The Fall Performance

Trees. I cannot imagine being a photographer, especially a landscape photographer, and not having a love affair with trees. Aspens are a favorite. By luck, the aspens were in full regalia the afternoon I visited Lamoille Canyon. It’s not that I don’t already have enough pictures of yellow trees. Can one have too many? Even if our photographs cannot capture the resplendent colors of fall aspens, we’ll continue to try.

Breathing In the Mountains

I spent a considerable time in my youth slogging up backpacking trails in the Pacific Northwest. Looking back on those adventures, I have to conclude that breathing high altitude pure air was more than reward for a long day’s climb.

I’d never heard of the Ruby Mountains nor Lamoille Canyon, but I felt like I knew them with that first breath of mountain air.

Our Little Planet of Rocks

There are detractors of landscape photography who try to insult such photographs as ARAT photography — “Another rock, another tree.” I feel sorry for these people. Every rock is unique, every tree a story of life and death. Failing to recognize this is worthy of our compassion for these poor souls who are deprived of the joy don’t revere nature.

Tech notes: Amazingly, these four projects were the result of a couple of hours of intense photographing, start to finish. All shot on Panasonic G9 with the Panasonic Leica 50-200mm lens.

The afternoon yield was 191 RAW captures of which 44 have survived the selection, editing, processing, and layout into this final publication. I know that a mere 23% survival rate may sound like a lot of failures, but I’ve never in my life had such a successful two hours of photography. I’m usually happy with a percent or two.

Support the artist!

For over 50 years, Brooks has shared his photographic lessons, failures, inspiration, creative path — and more than a few laughs. If you've enjoyed his free *Kokoro* PDF publications, or been a long-time listener to his free audio commentaries (his weekly podcast *On Photography and the Creative Life*, or his daily *Here's a Thought* commentaries), here is your chance to tell him how much you appreciate his efforts. Support the artist!



Choose whichever level of support fits your appreciation and pocketbook. We thank you, he thanks you, and here's looking forward to the exciting content that is yet to come in all our *LensWork* publications and media as Brooks continues exploring this creative life.

\$15 Applause - Thanks!

\$25 Standing Ovation - You'll receive a signed copy of *Dreams of Japan*

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\$100 Essential Support - You'll receive a signed Full Quarto (16-page, 8x11") chapbook handmade and signed by the artist

[You can donate to support Brooks' creative life using this link.](#) Thanks!

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

He is the owner, co-founder (in 1993, with his late wife, Maureen), editor, and publisher of the award winning *LensWork*, one of today's most respected and important periodicals in fine art photography. With subscribers in 70 countries, Brooks' impact on fine art photography is truly worldwide. His long-running weekly podcasts on art and photography are heard over the Internet by thousands every day. All 1,490+ podcasts are available at [LensWork Online](https://www.lenswork.com), the LensWork members-only website. He also publishes a daily *Here's a Thought...* commentary with short inspiration for creative photographers. Again, all 2500+ are available to members of *LensWork Online*. Recent posts are available for free at www.lenswork.com

LensWork Publishing is also at the leading edge in multimedia and digital media publishing with the *LensWork Tablet Edition*, and *LensWork Extended Computer Edition* — a PDF-based, media-rich expanded version of the magazine.

Brooks is the author of sixteen books about photography and creativity: *Photography, Art, & Media* (2016); *The Creative Life in Photography* (2013); *Letting Go of the Camera* (2004); *Single Exposures* (3 books in a series, random observations on art, photography and creativity); *Looking at Images* (2014); *The Best of the LensWork Interviews* (2016); *Seeing in SIXES* (2016); *Seeing in SIXES* (2017); *Seeing in SIXES* (2018); *Seeing in SIXES* (2019); *Our Magnificent Planet* (2020 and 2021), *Trilogies* (2022), and *Light Glorious Light* (2023). He has also published two printed monographs of his photography, *Made of Steel* (2012), and *Dreams of Japan* (2021).

Kokoro is a free, bi-monthly PDF e-publication of Brooks' personal work. Each issue of *Kokoro* includes either four or six independent projects. Both current and back issues are available for download at www.brooksensenarts.com.



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