

The background is an abstract composition of layered, textured surfaces. The upper and central portions are dominated by various shades of blue, ranging from deep navy to bright cyan, with some areas appearing more crystalline or metallic. In the lower-left corner, there is a prominent, bright red textured area. The overall effect is one of depth and organic complexity, resembling perhaps a close-up of a mineral specimen or a microscopic view of a material.

5 For 5

Impressions Of Australia

Second Edition

Jerry Grasso

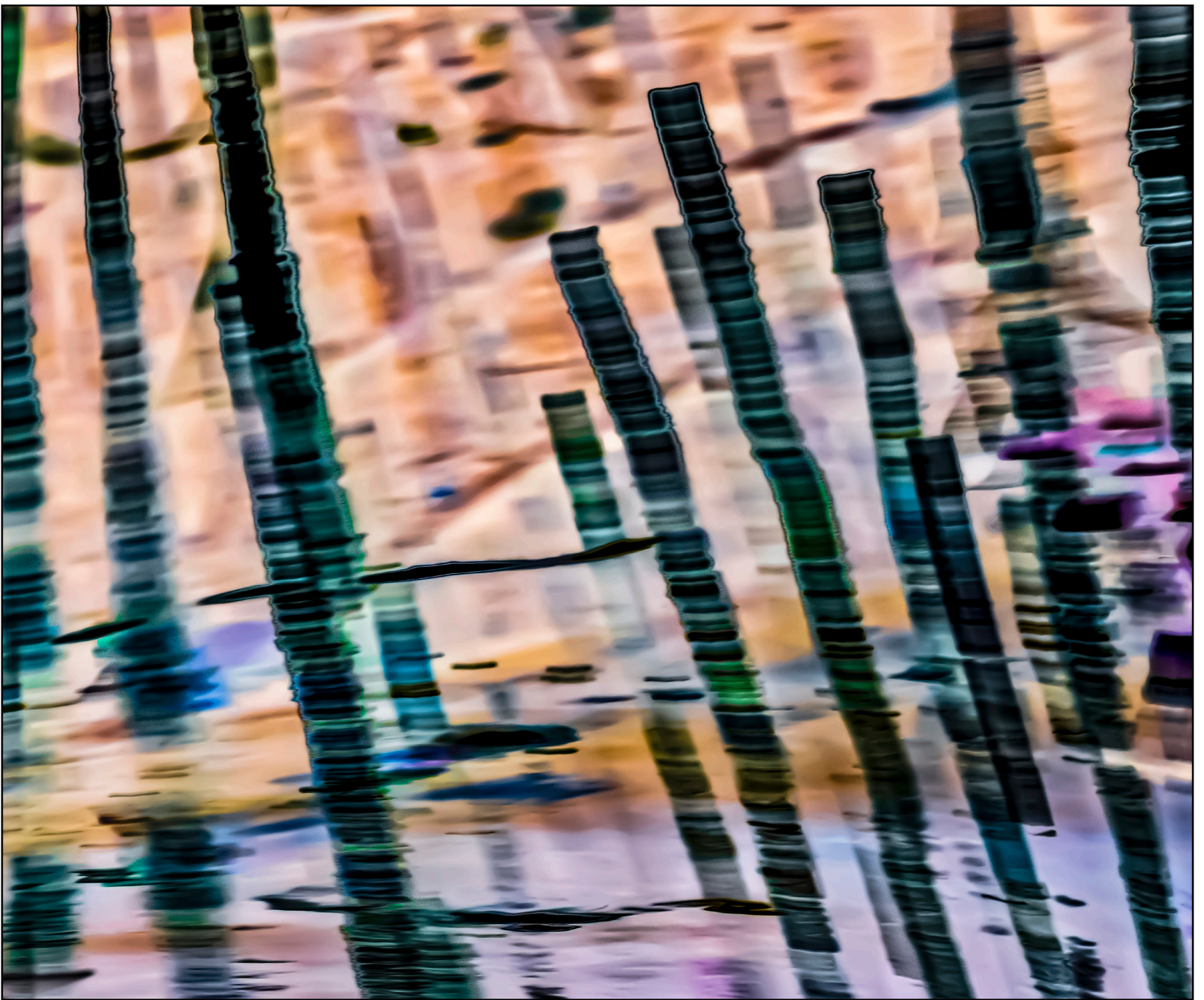
How does one portray the emotional response to, and non-representational spirit of, a new and exotic travel location? During February, 2010, my wife, Jayne, and I visited three diverse areas of [Australia](#) for the first time. Presented here are a series of five mini-folios. Each of these folios contains expressions of five impressions related to one of these particular Australian scenes.

The first mini-folio attempts to interpret our visit to the World Heritage [Daintree Rainforest](#), the oldest rainforest on the planet. It is located in the tropical Northeast [Queensland](#), north of [Cairns](#) and [Port Douglas](#), with the [Great Barrier Reef](#) just off its shoreline. The striations of color within each of these images depict [DNA-like](#) impressions of the rainforest. The motion and vibrant color of each image tries to capture a sense of living energy.

Explore the many informational hyperlinks included within this ebook!

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Enjoy life!











These next five images, taken within the [Jenolan Caves](#), attempt to capture a sense of molteness as seen within the world's oldest known and dated open cave system. These caves are composed of limestone and calcite formations. It is located in the [World Heritage Blue Mountains](#), northwest of [Sydney](#). Many of the strange shapes and forms seen throughout the extensive cave system reminded me a lot of melted candle wax. Their shadows added their own mysterious dimension to these odd shapes.





Molten 2



Molten 3



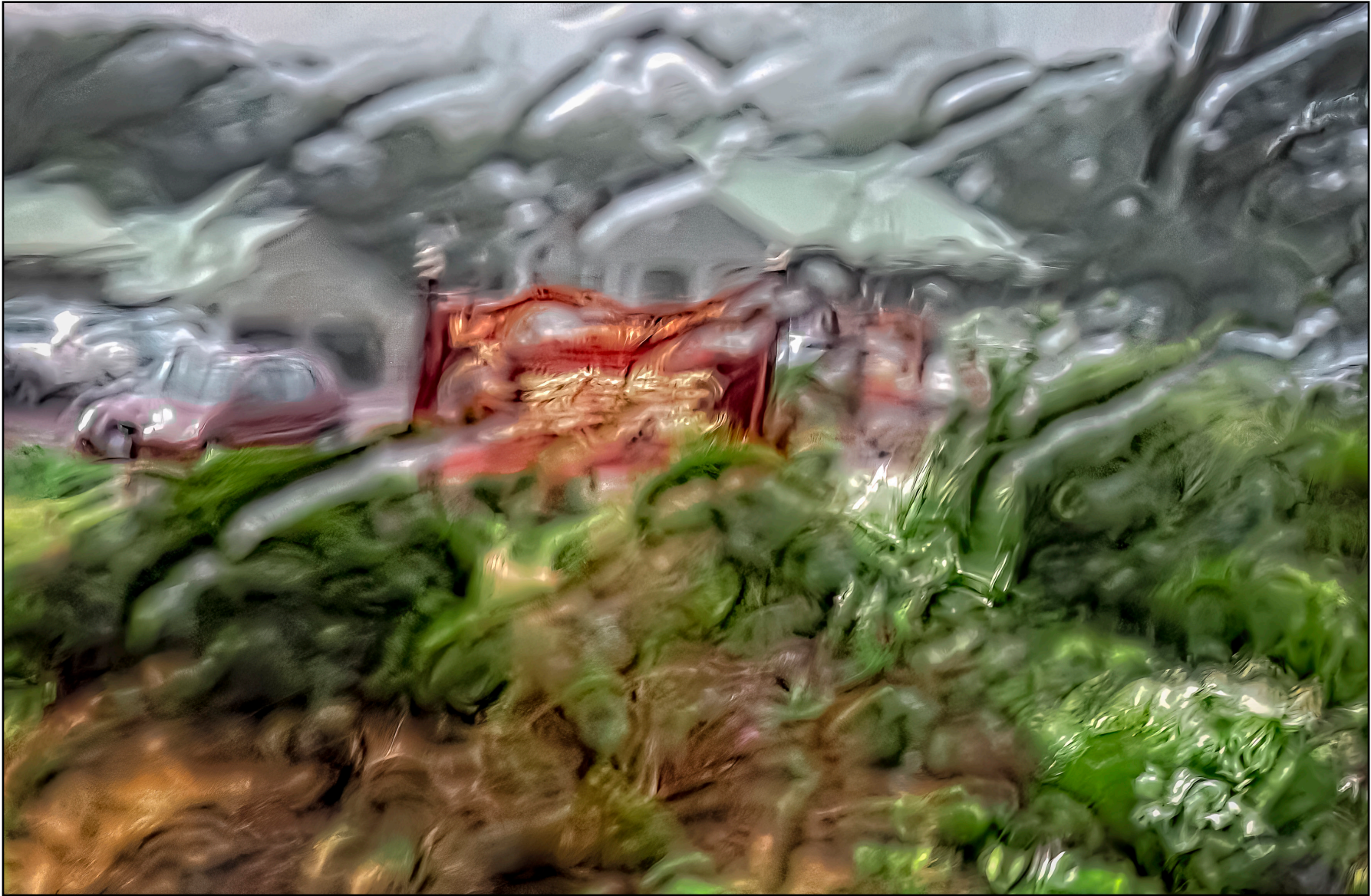


While on a tour bus to [Port Campbell National Park](#), it started to rain heavily. The [eucalyptus](#) tree-lined countryside, several hours west of [Melbourne](#) along the [Great Ocean Road](#), began to take on a surrealistic appearance as I stared through the rain streaked windows. While I began to feel sorry for myself that this new location adventure would become considerably dampened by the flat light and gloomy weather, I soon discovered that an impending disappointment could actually become an intriguing viewing adventure into an exploration of warped forms, shapes, and color.



Port Campbell 1









Port Campbell 5

My most memorable first impressions of the [Sydney Opera House](#) were discovered within the amazing lines, shapes and reflections of its [World Heritage-listed architecture](#). The great windows facing its famous harbor reflected images of the intrepid [Sydney Harbor Bridge climbers](#). These hearty souls took the walking tour that allowed them to literally walk upon and across the great arch girders to the very top of the bridge itself! The Opera House roof shells and ribbing are abstraction marvels themselves. The lines and shadows created by these shells seem to lead the viewer into a geometric mystery tour.



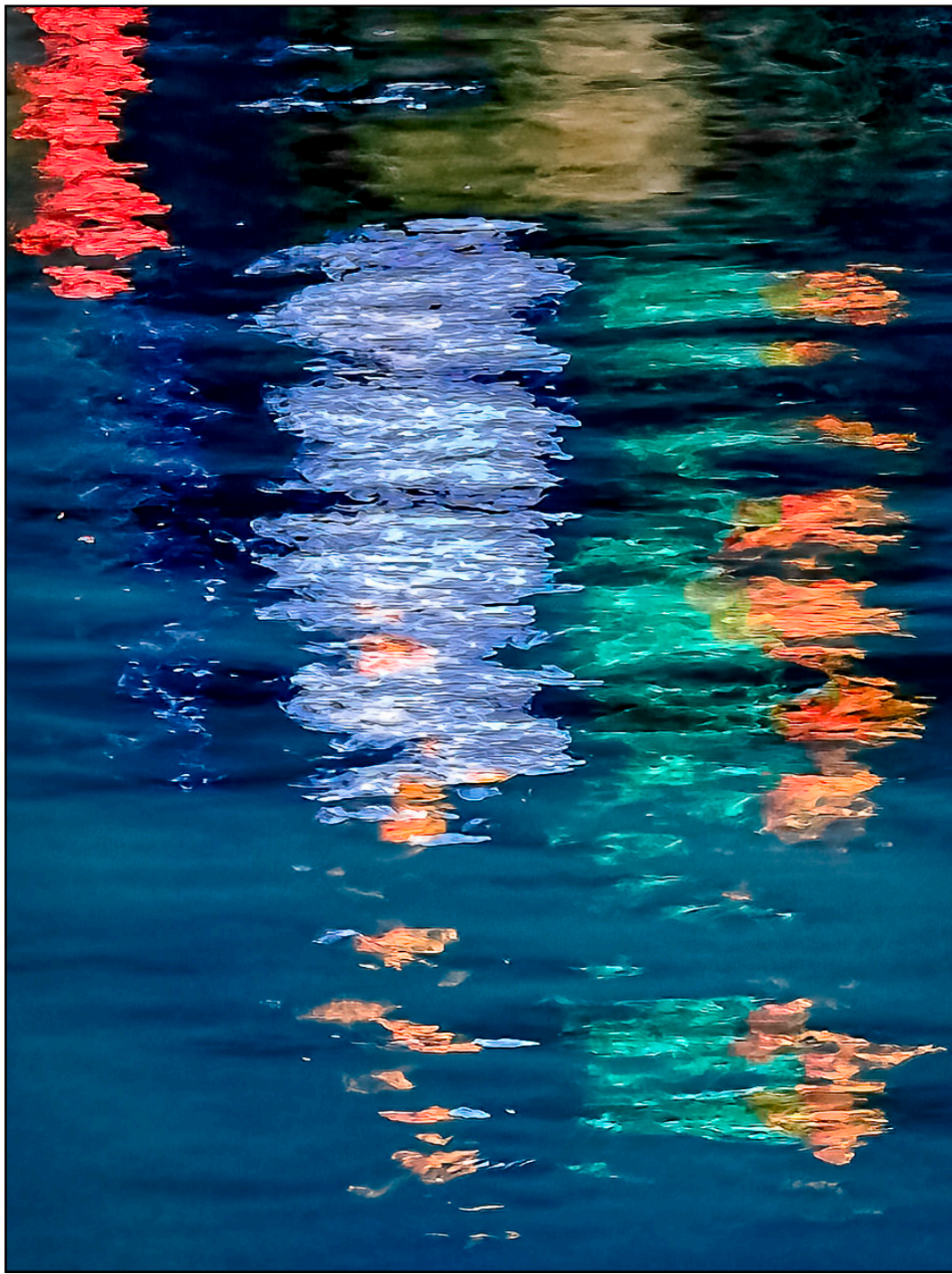








The final series of images is from [Sydney's Darling Harbor](#), located on the other side of the city from the Opera House. What impressed me most here were the many exotic and colorful cityscape reflections cast upon the harbor waters at night. The summer swarm of diners, tourists and party goers gave a rapid pulse to the city's heartbeat as these reflections seemed to dance with their vibrant energy.



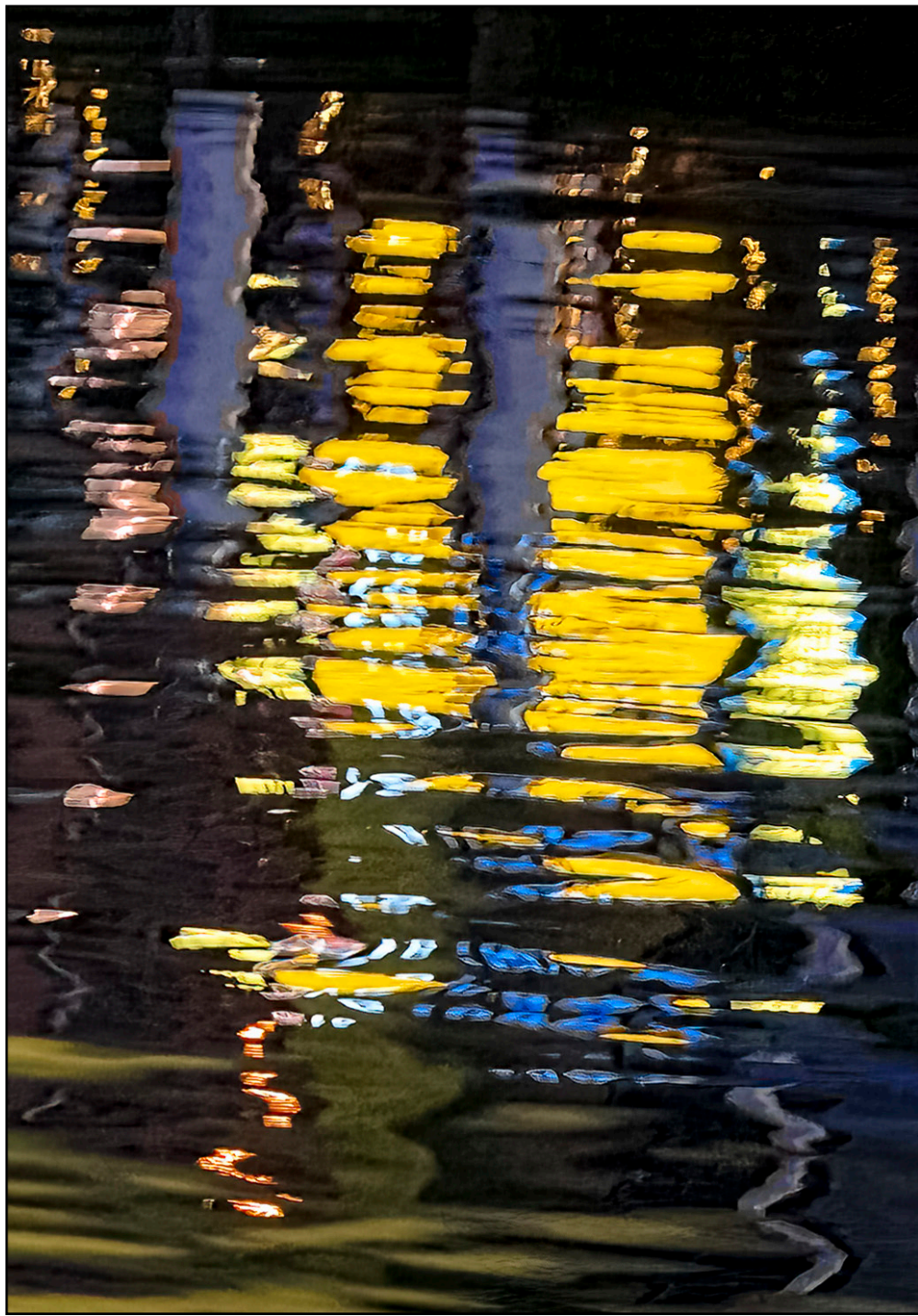
Darling 1



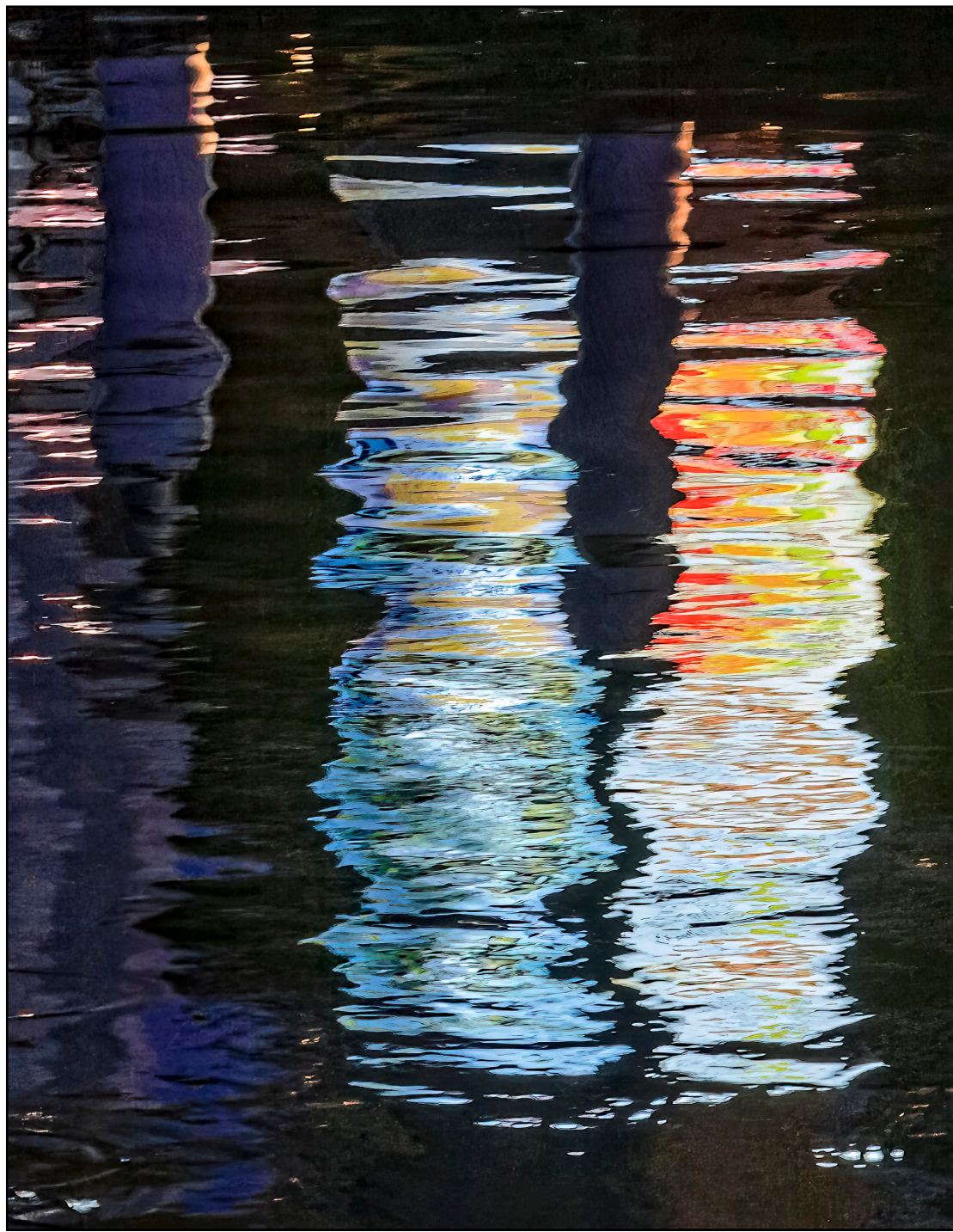
Darling 2



Darling 3



Darling 4



Darling 5

My Artistic Mission

Child-like wonder and inquisitiveness are qualities frequently put aside once we become adults. We tend to slowly become sterilized by our right-or-wrong kind of world which too often has too little time to explore the what-if's and the what-could-be's. I believe we all need to re-connect with these qualities to re-enrich our lives. A first glance at a photograph of an onion often reveals the fact that, indeed, it is an onion. But what also lies beneath its surface? We won't know until we peel back its layers.

Animation innovator, Walt Disney, recognized this and tried to bring back the power and importance of imagination. Inspired by his spirit, my mission therefore is to encourage the use of viewer imagination. My work attempts to explore and suggest what often lies hidden within the personalities and mysteries present in the world that was, and the world that is around us.

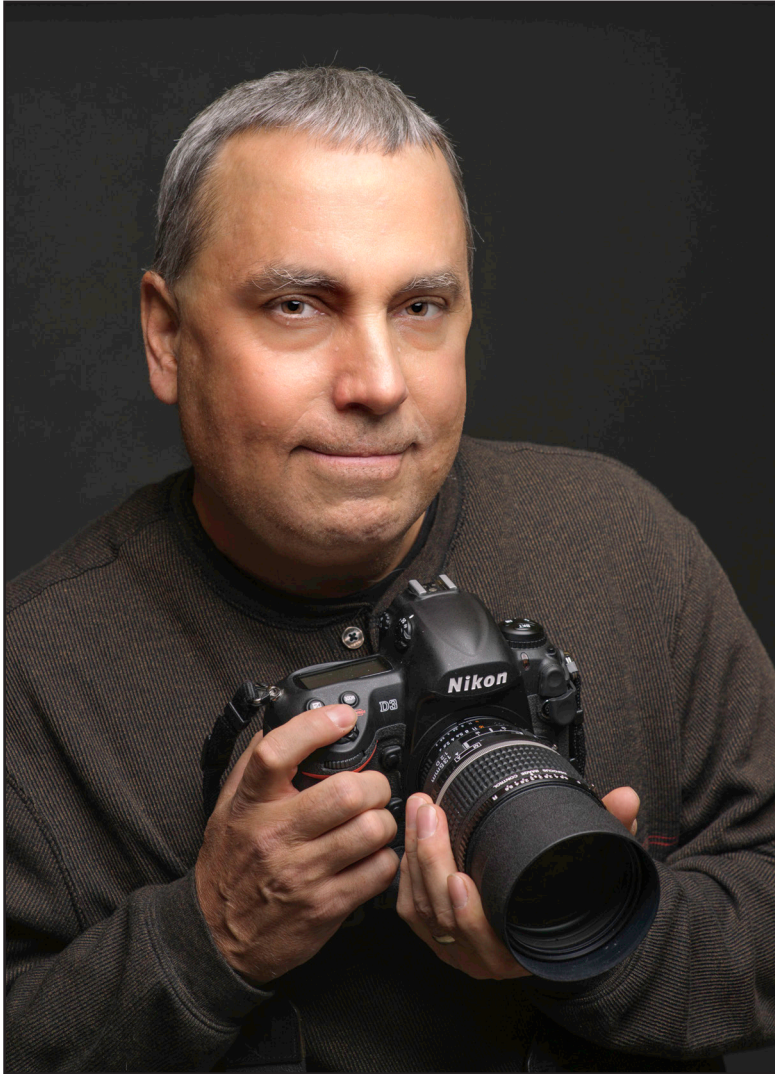
For me, my photography often is not so much about the decisive moment. Rather, it is about creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery. It is the starting point for my artistic journey, not the destination. I try to use what I produce as personal metaphors for my reactions to what I saw and felt.

My favorite motivational quote is that "Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone." My works attempt to reflect this as I probe the emotional, mind's eye after-image that was captured by both the eye and the heart, and which often defies logical explanation by the mind.

My goal is that my projects will serve as a springboard into inventiveness and exploration with the hopes of awakening my viewer's inner child. I try hard to show the connections and implications of things that others may not readily see. My hope is that my work may also help viewers discover the beginnings of their attempt to understand and perhaps even learn to tolerate and sympathize with the human condition and the world in which we live. I will try to do whatever I can to make viewers linger longer in front of my works so as to ignite their imaginative response through discovery and inquisitiveness.

Any image found within this book or on my website is available as a print purchase. Just email me at jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com, or visit my website at jerrygrasso.com.

Enjoy life!



JERRY GRASSO has been an award-winning, international fine art photographer and visual artist since 2002. He has mentored locally with photographer, [Mallorie Ostrowitz](#), and then with internationally-renowned visual artist, [John Paul Caponigro](#). Photography is only the starting point for many of his projects. His favorite motivational quote is that “Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone.”

In addition to his travel photography, Jerry specializes in the intimately abstracted architectural photography, the photo essay, and the photo composite series.

Jerry’s mission is to awaken his viewer’s inquisitive inner child by creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery.



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