

Ancient Passageways

Jerry Grasso

What is on the other side? This may be a simple question to ask, but it is one that engages the imagination and often invokes wild flights into fantasy. The collection of works presented here attempt to entice the viewer to ask and then answer this very question. All of these are based upon passageways, from ancient to medieval times, which were captured during my travels through Europe.

Each passageway suggests the results of an attempted pilgrimage, either as an open-ended story, or one that had abruptly ended. Each image palette and treatment presents its own aura of history with a sense of obscure, time-worn mystery.

Within the series story line, we wander through the entrances depicted in the first images. Once inside, we turn in different directions, trying to proceed through other passageways only to find some barred and others closed. In other images, some are only partially open, perhaps in reluctance, while others are completely open, perhaps in abandonment. And still others are more openings than doorways. Finally, we find ourselves before the memorials of life in the ending loggias.

But we must decide for ourselves why this passage as a story line has led us here. We have been on a journey between frozen fragments of time that progress from one opening to the next until we come to this ending. But where is that ending? And is there any lesson metaphorically that we can learn from the barred and closed passageways within our own lives? If we listen close enough and long enough, we may still hear the faint echoes of the lessons learned from our ancestors as they walked these Ancient Passageways.

Enjoy life!



Passageways 1



Passageways 2



Passageways 3

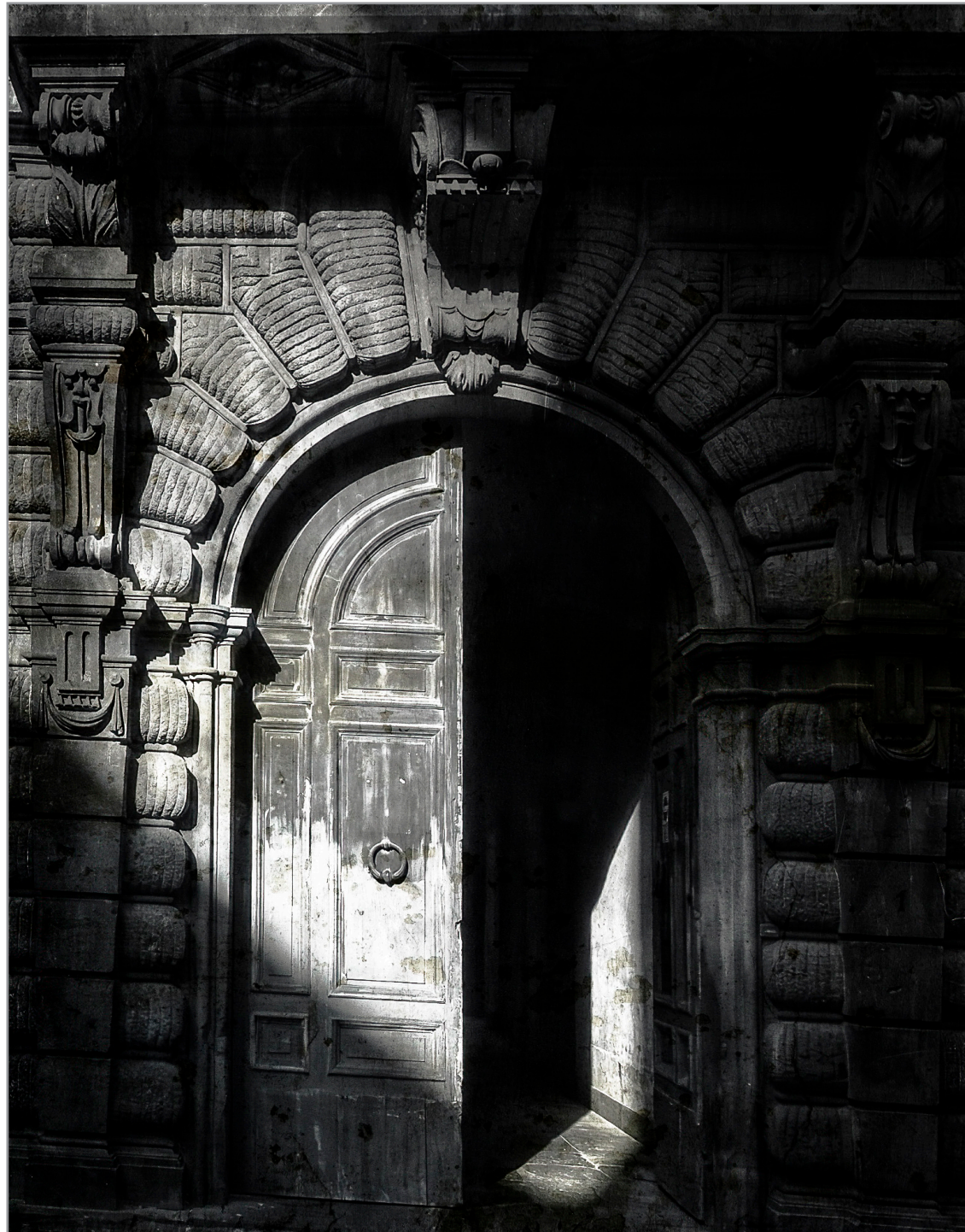


Passageways 4





Passageways 6

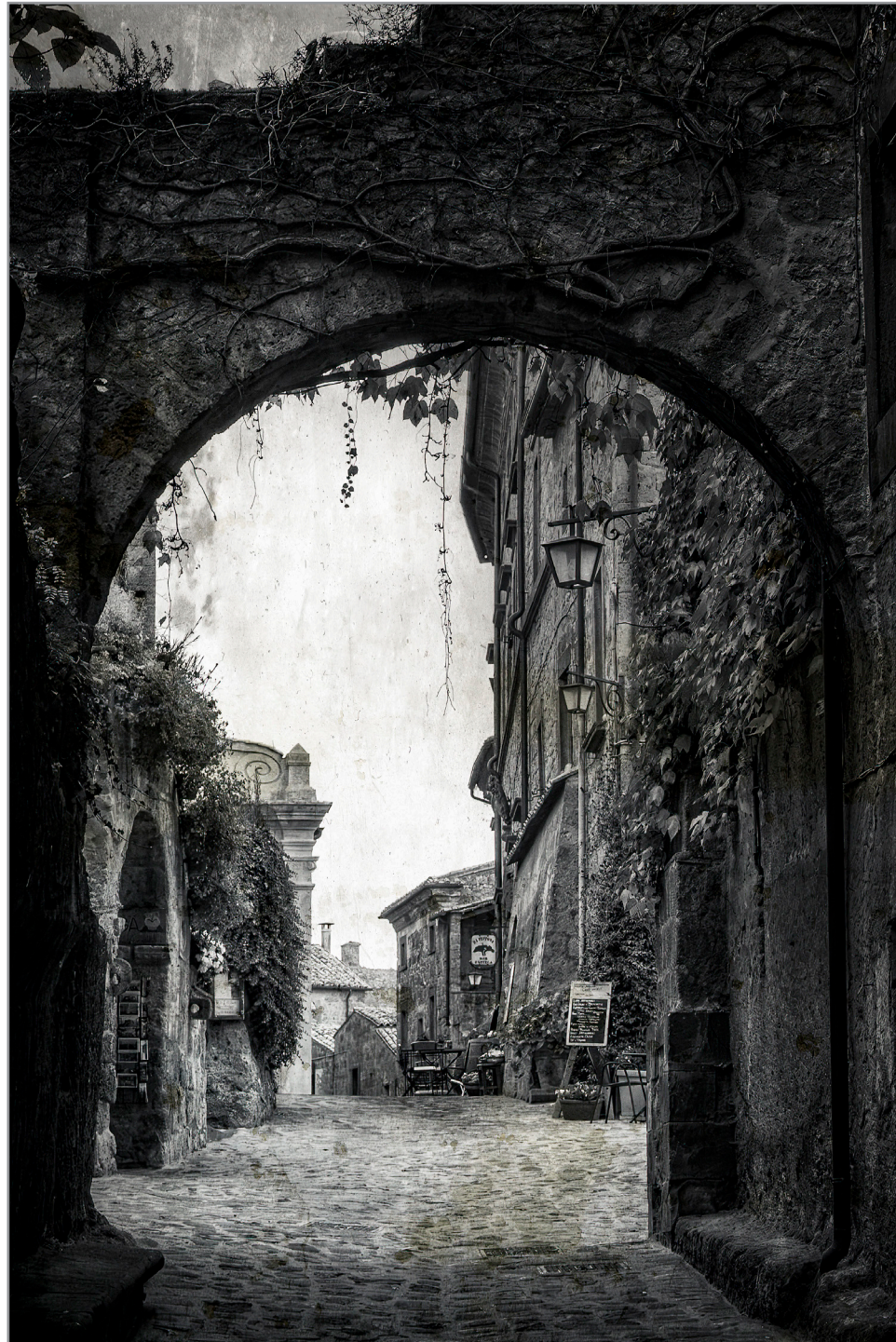


Passageways 7



Passageways 8





Passageways 10



Passageways 11



Passageways 12



Passageways 13





Passageways 15



Passageways 16



Passageways 17



Passageways 18





Passageways 20



Passageways 21



Passageways 22









Passageways 26

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.

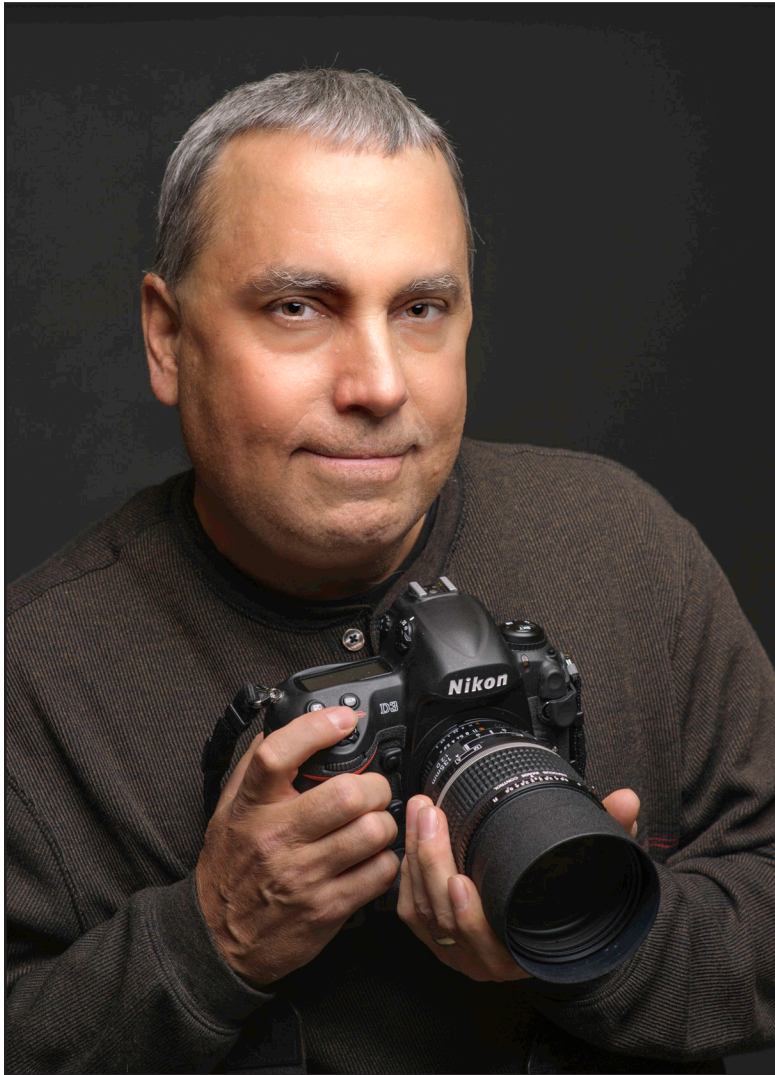
For me, my photography often is not so much about the decisive moment. Rather, it is about creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery. It is the starting point for my artistic journey, not the destination. I try to use what I produce

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.



You might also enjoy...

* My Travel Series...

Please click jerrygrasso.com/travel/.

* My Project Work...

Please click jerrygrasso.com/galleries-3/.

* My Photography...

Please click jerrygrasso.com/photography/.

And of course prints of any of the images contained within are available for purchase. Just click jerrygrasso.com/prices/ for more information!

All contents of this computer media
are copyrighted materials.
Unauthorized extraction or reuse of images or text is a violation of
international copyright law.

© 2012, 2023 Jerry Grasso
Jerry Grasso Visual Arts
148 Old Turnpike Road
Bristol, CT 06010 U.S.A.

Contact me at:

jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com

Visit my website at:

jerrygrasso.com