

Selective Seconds



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PHOTOGRAPHER

Dedicated to Kim Chandran

2019

COVER PHOTO: Looking west along Zion River from Canyon Junction Bridge—2018.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Looking east along Zion River from Canyon Junction Bridge—2018.

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All photos were taken prior to 2019.

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INTRODUCTION

Selective Seconds



The author talking with curious children when out photographing in a small Korean village— 1983.

During 1982—1984, I served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in South Korea where I fell in love twice... with my now-wife, Kim, and my then-new camera, Cannon A-1 — of course, Kim took priority over Cannon. I learned some basics on photography and the small airbase I was stationed at had a fully equipped darkroom in its Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center. After we left Korea to the states, I didn't do much with photography due to raising a family, but I still had a passion for it. After transitioning from the military to a civilian career, I kept pretty busy up until I retired in 2014. That's when Kim let me know that I could start seeing Cannon again. Of course, Cannon was old at that point and I wanted something more updated and exciting. So after letting Cannon down easy, I started a new relationship with Nikon. Kim approved—she's open that way.

I view photography as art with opportunities for interpretation and hopefully tell a story. This encompasses both Objective

Photography (documenting the world as it really is) and Subjective Photography (portraying the world as I interpret it) which is perfectly fine as long as it stays art..

I love the idea of painting and originally I tried to take it up, but I soon discovered my skills with a paint brush and easel only produced figures appealing to a very limited audience — mostly those under five years of age and a select few in therapy.

So that's why photography appealed to me. All I have to do is push a button to get the initial image. The downside to that is there is a broad learning curve of understanding what an image is, the equipment that captures the image and the capabilities that produce the image—outside of that, it's as easy as pushing a button.

- MC

Landscapes: Black & White



Clouds over Walker Lake, Nevada, 2016



Moonrise over Amargosa Range, Death Valley, California, 2018



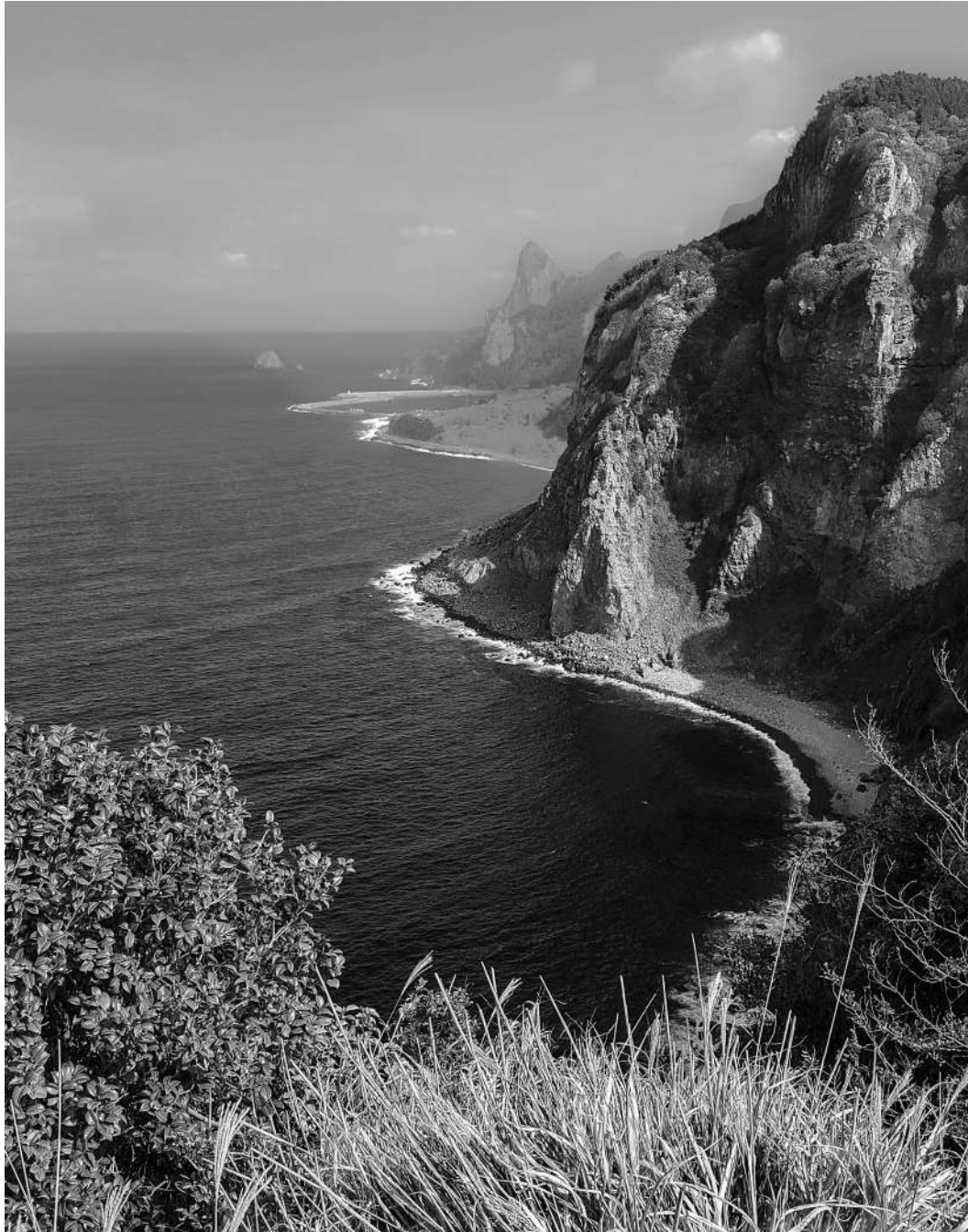
Sunrise at Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, California, 2018



Overlook at Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, California, 2018



Weathered ground at Valley of Fire, Nevada, 2017



Overlook on Ulleung-Do Island, South Korea, 2015



Seaside village at Yosu, South Korea, 2015



Modern seaside village at Yosŭ, South Korea, 2015



Fishing village on Ulleung-Do island, South Korea, 2015



Revere Golf Course #1, Henderson, Nevada, 2017



Revere Golf Course #2, Henderson, Nevada, 2017



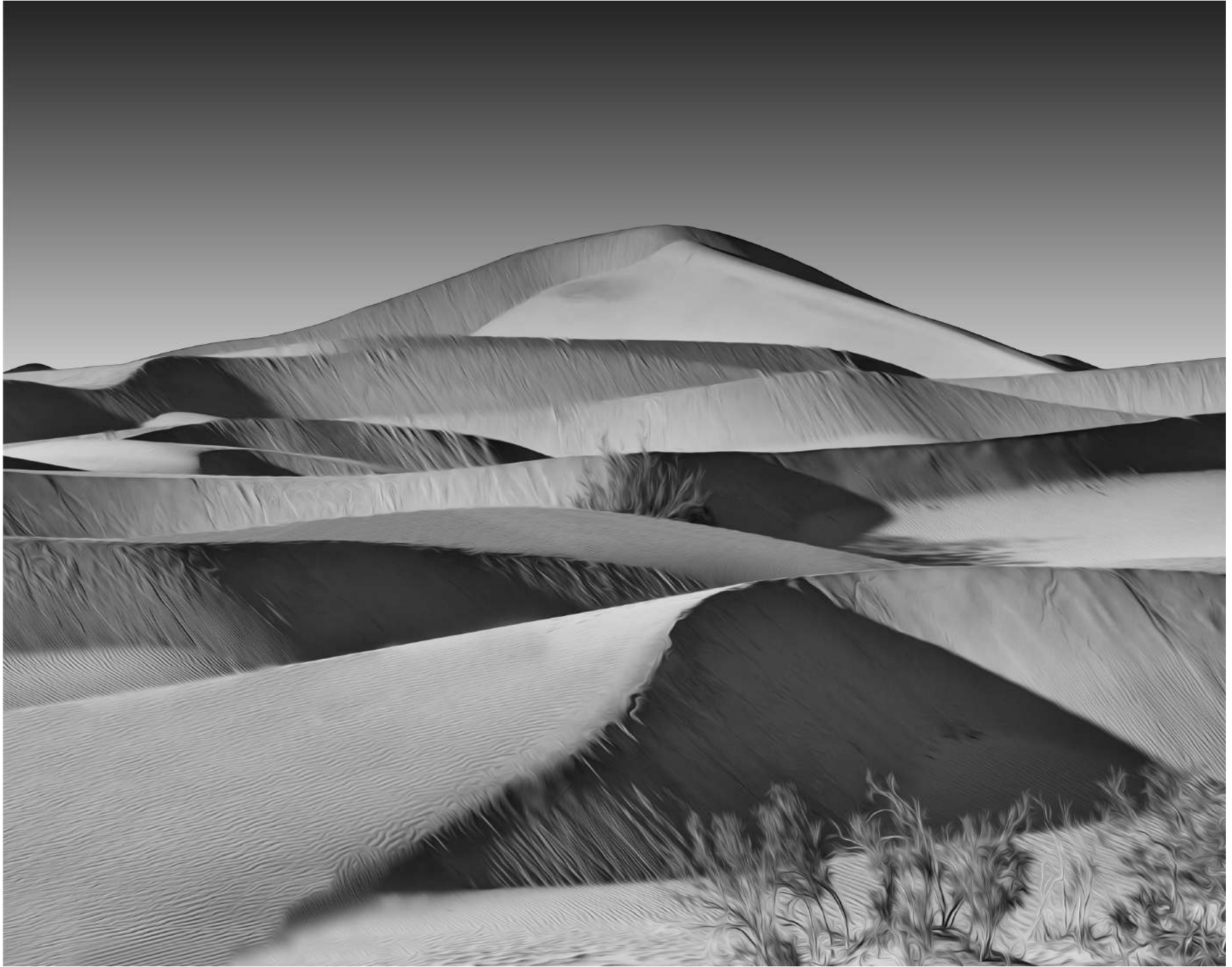
Route 190 in Death Valley, California, 2018



Cloud over Death Valley, California, 2018



Dawn, Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, California, 2018



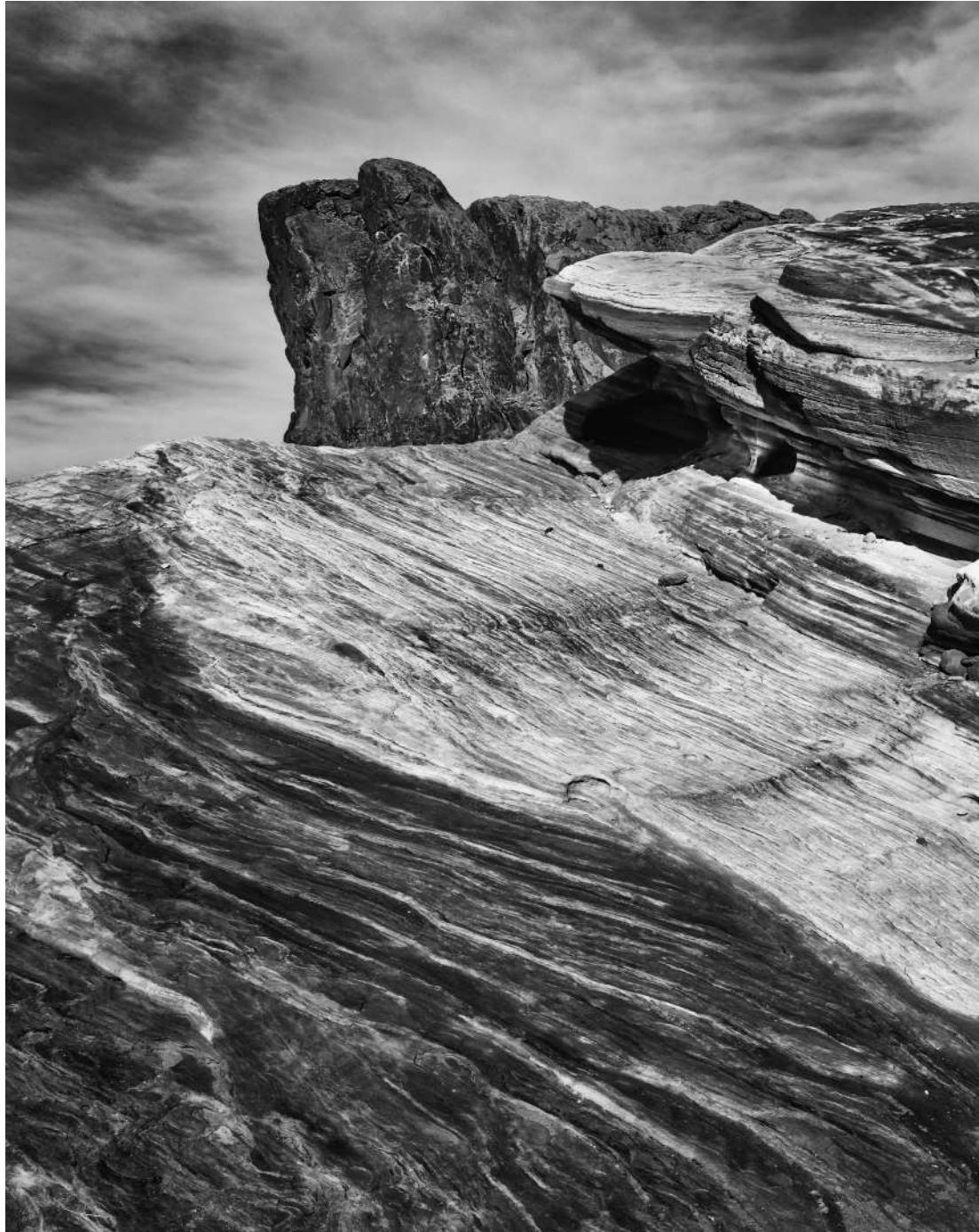
Sand dunes in Death Valley, California, 2018



A sand dune in Death Valley #1, California, 2018



A sand dune in Death Valley #2, California, 2018



Rock formation, Valley of Fire, Nevada, 2017



Hut, bridge and tree, Jeju island, South Korea, 2015



Tree, Ulleung-Do island, South Korea, 2015



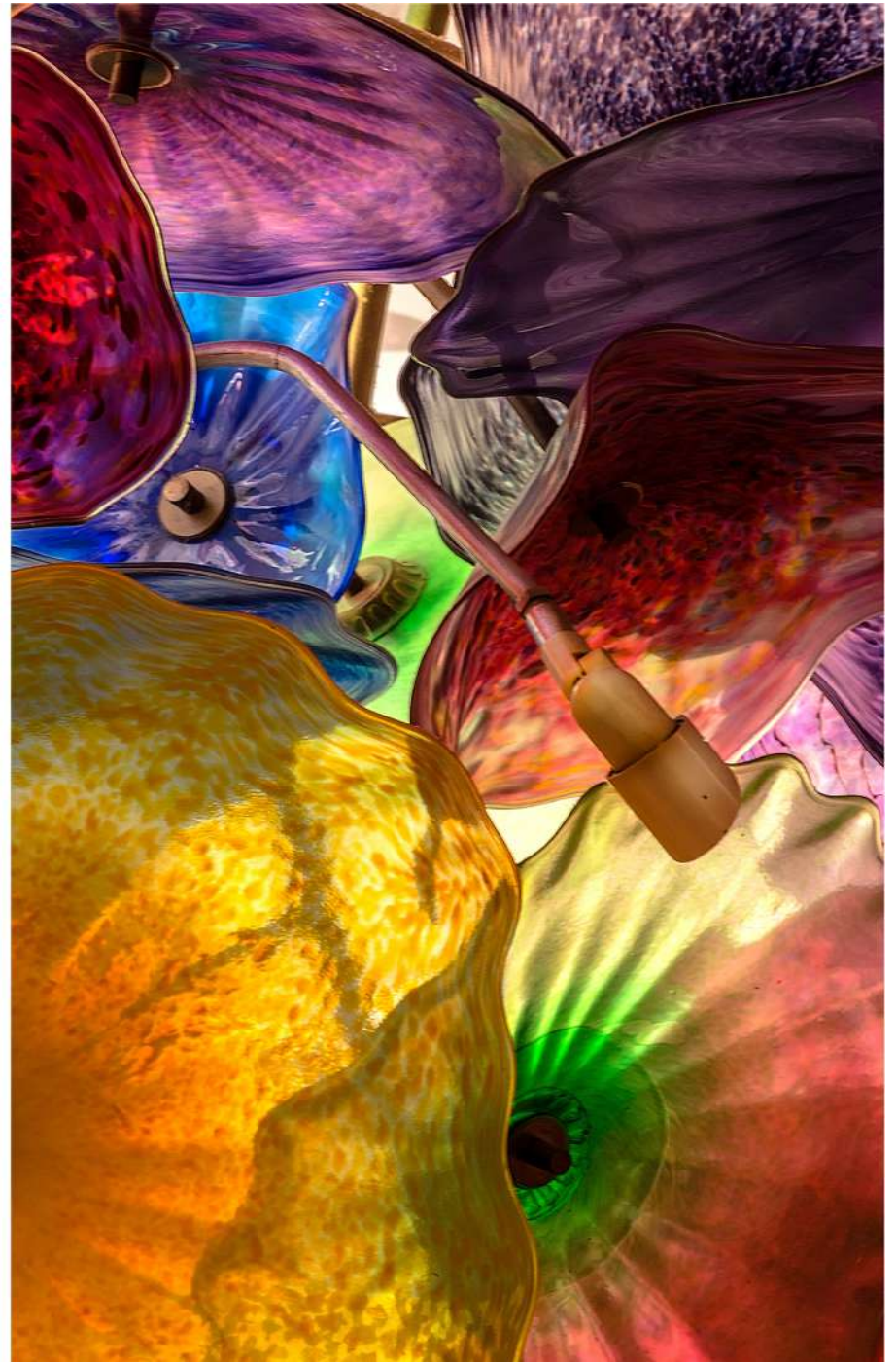
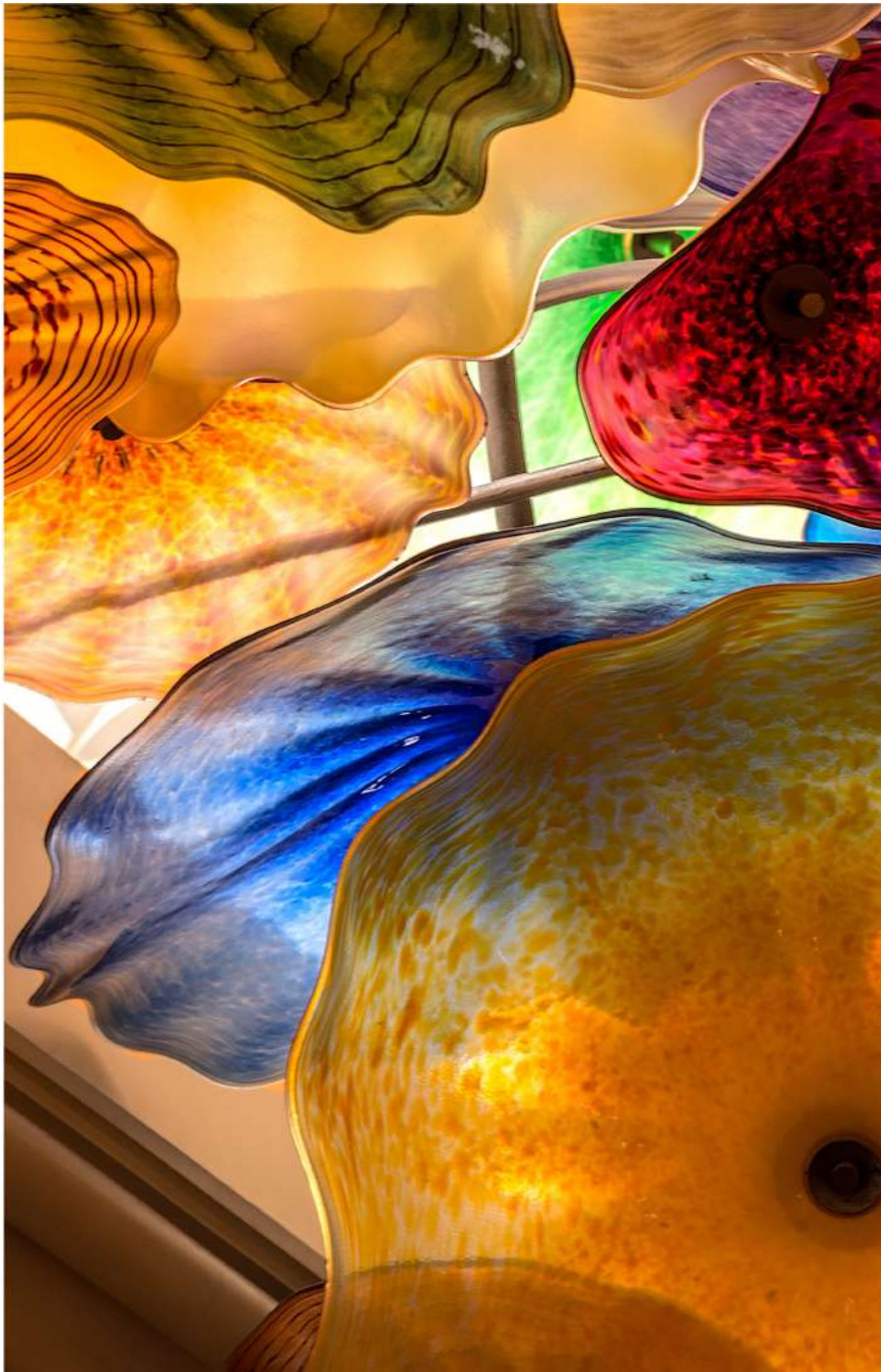
Old church steeple, Goodsprings, Nevada, 2019

Fiori di Como

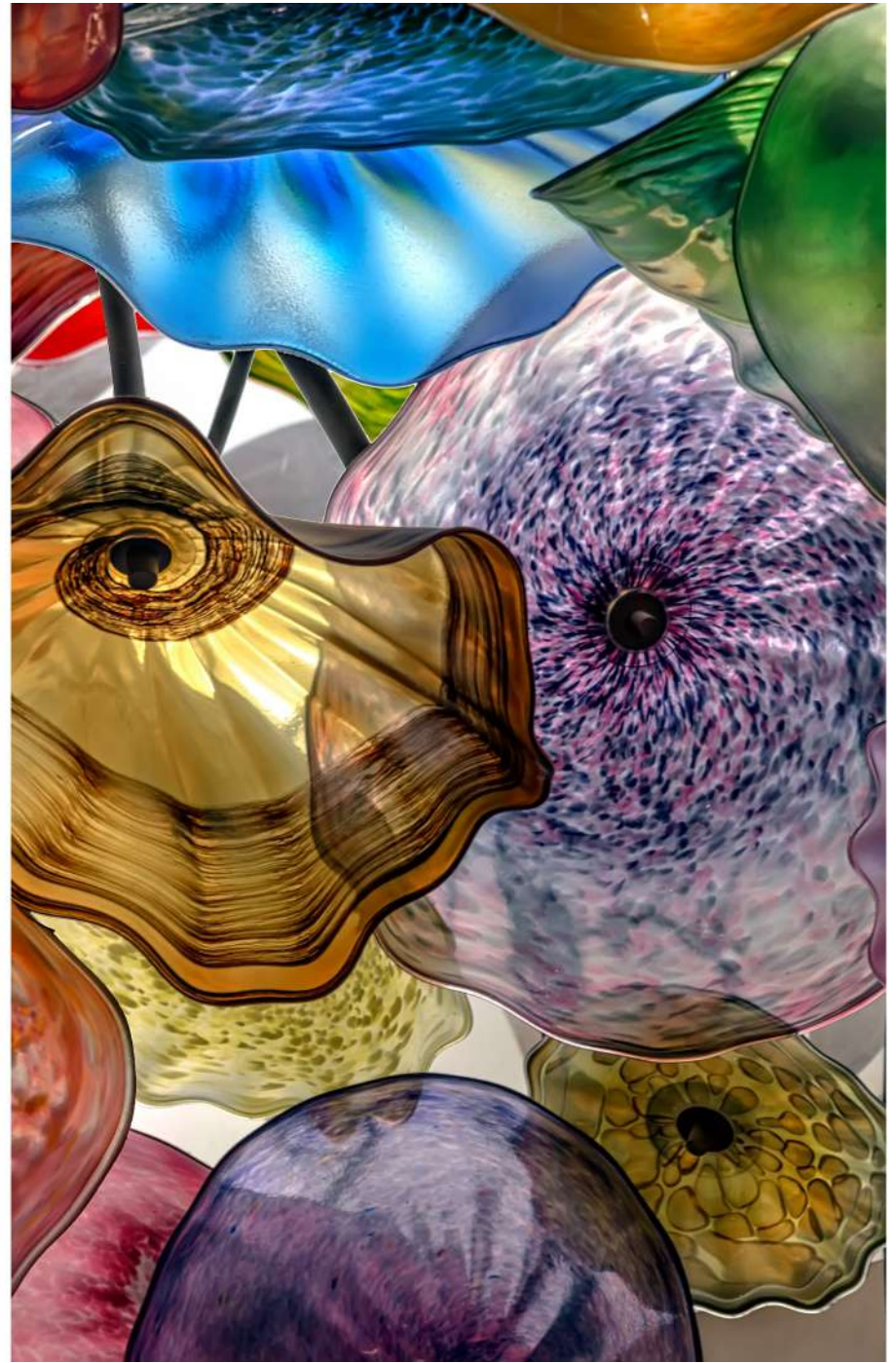
Flowers of Como (lakeside city in Italy)



Fiori di Como #25, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



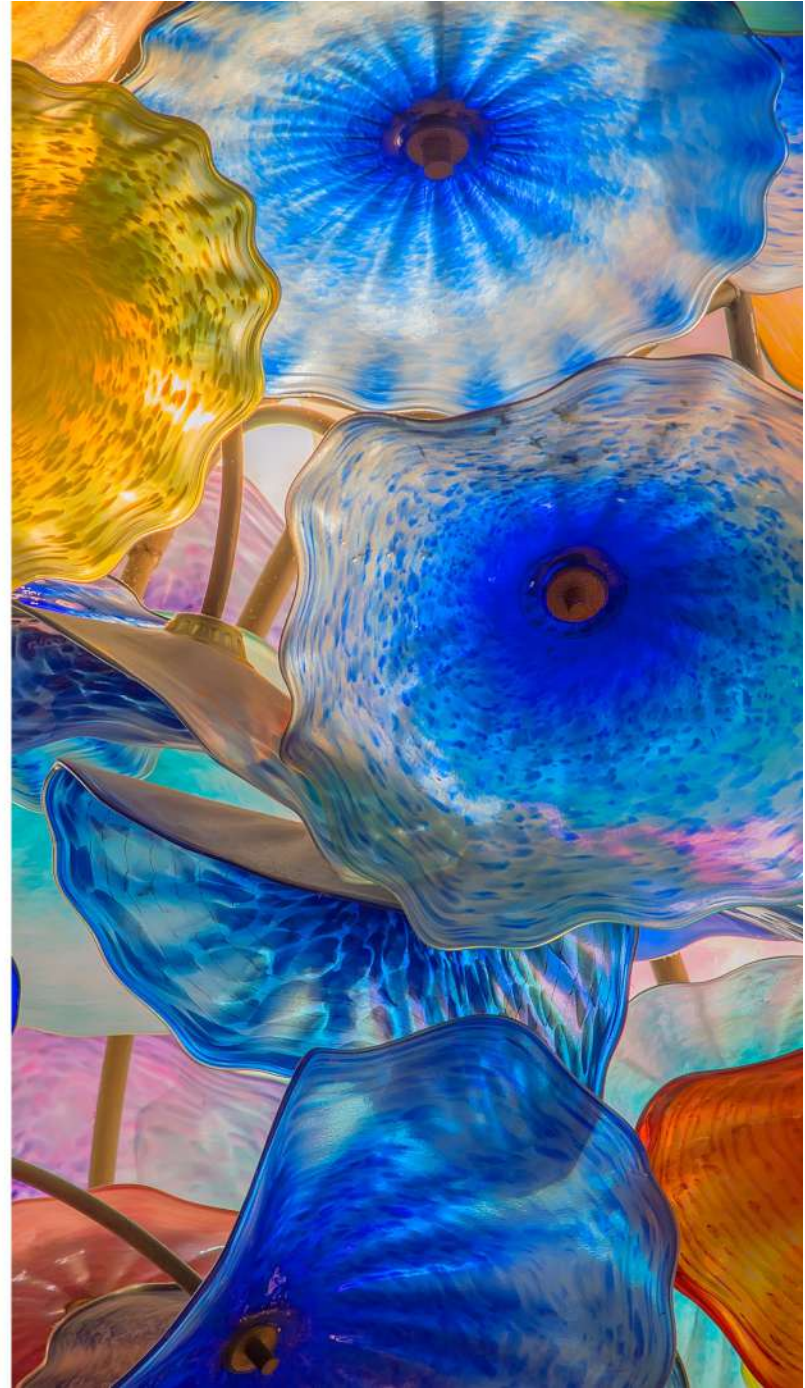
Fiori di Como #2, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



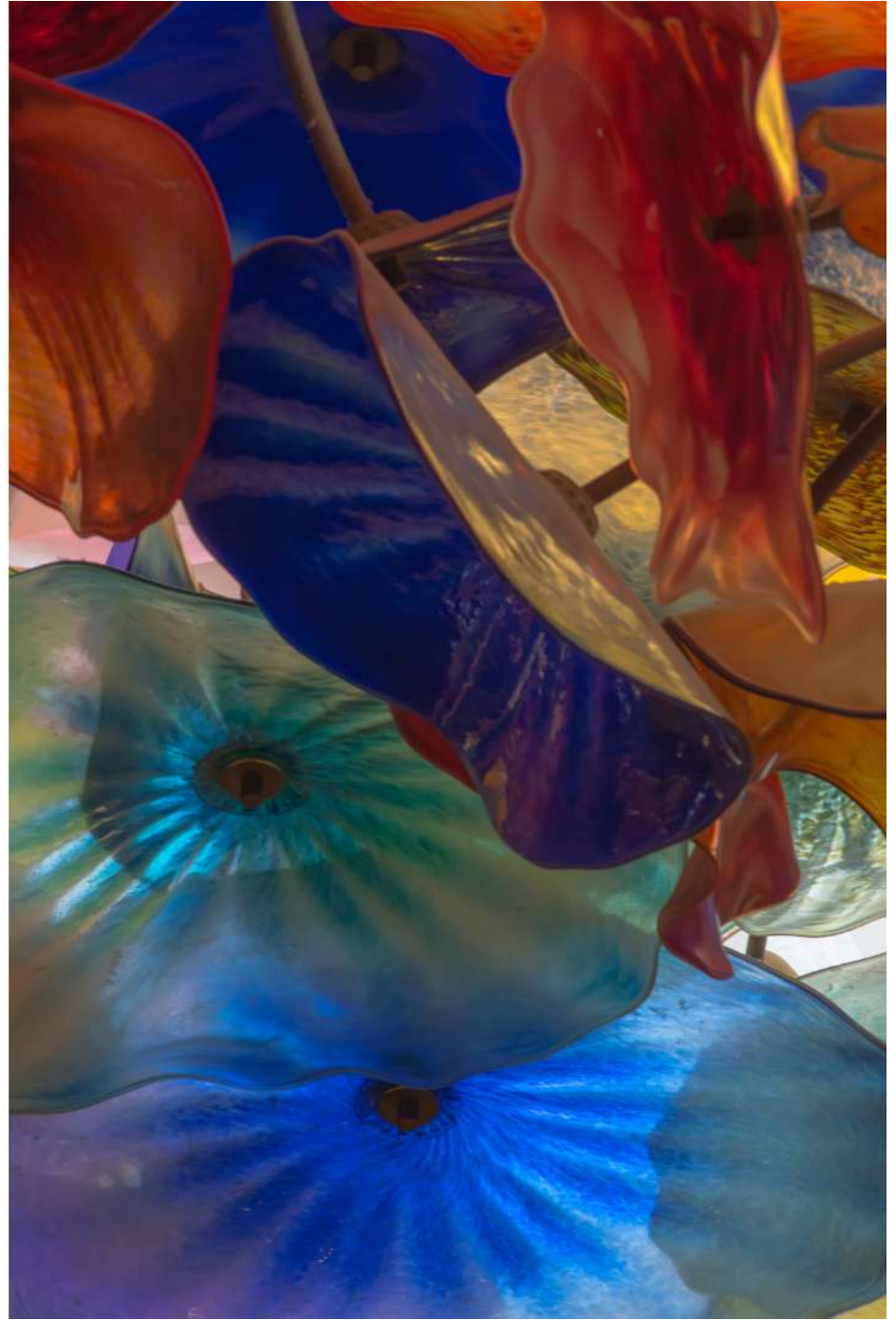
Fiori di Como #1, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



Fiori di Como #7, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



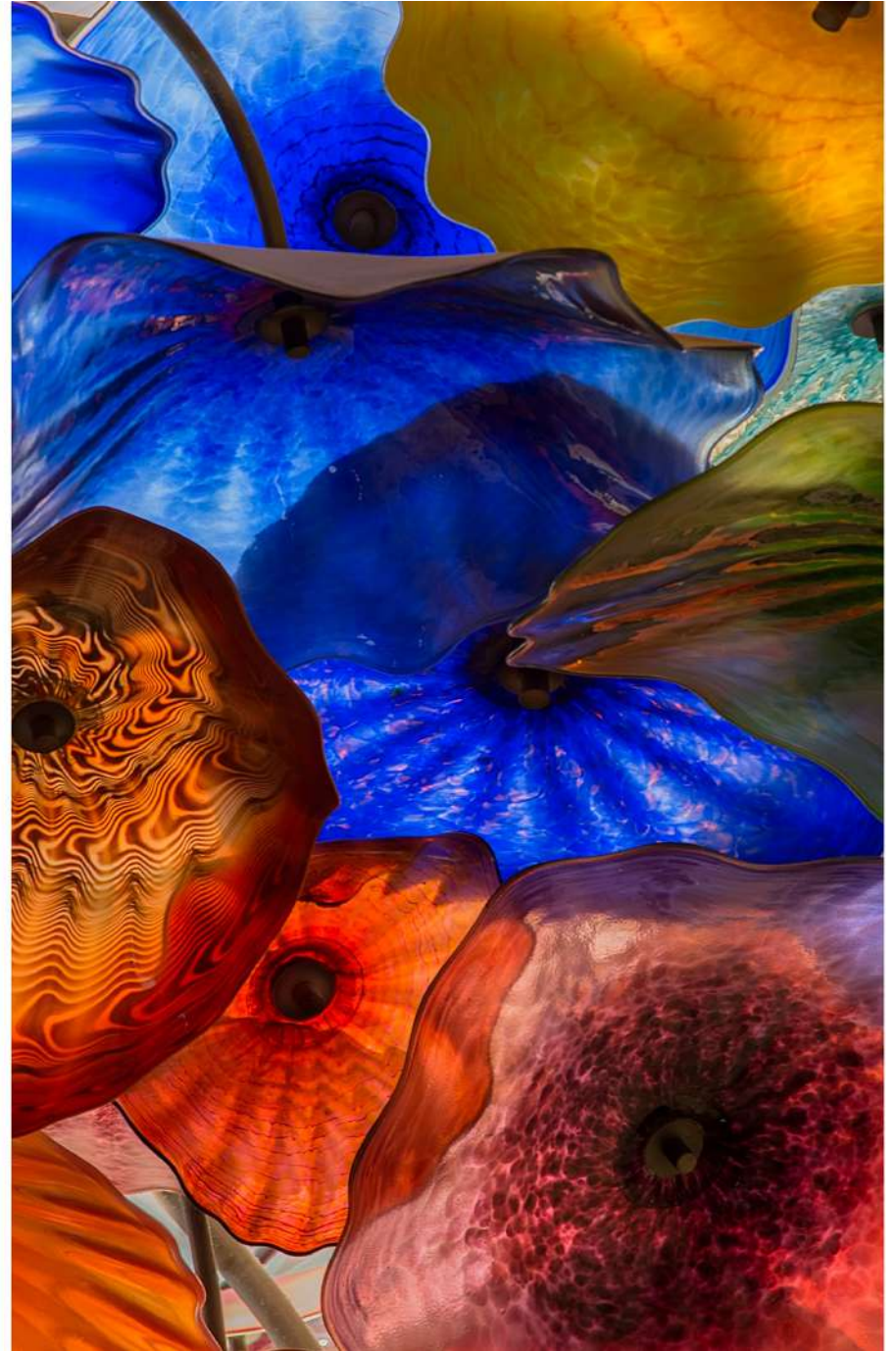
Fiori di Como #12, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



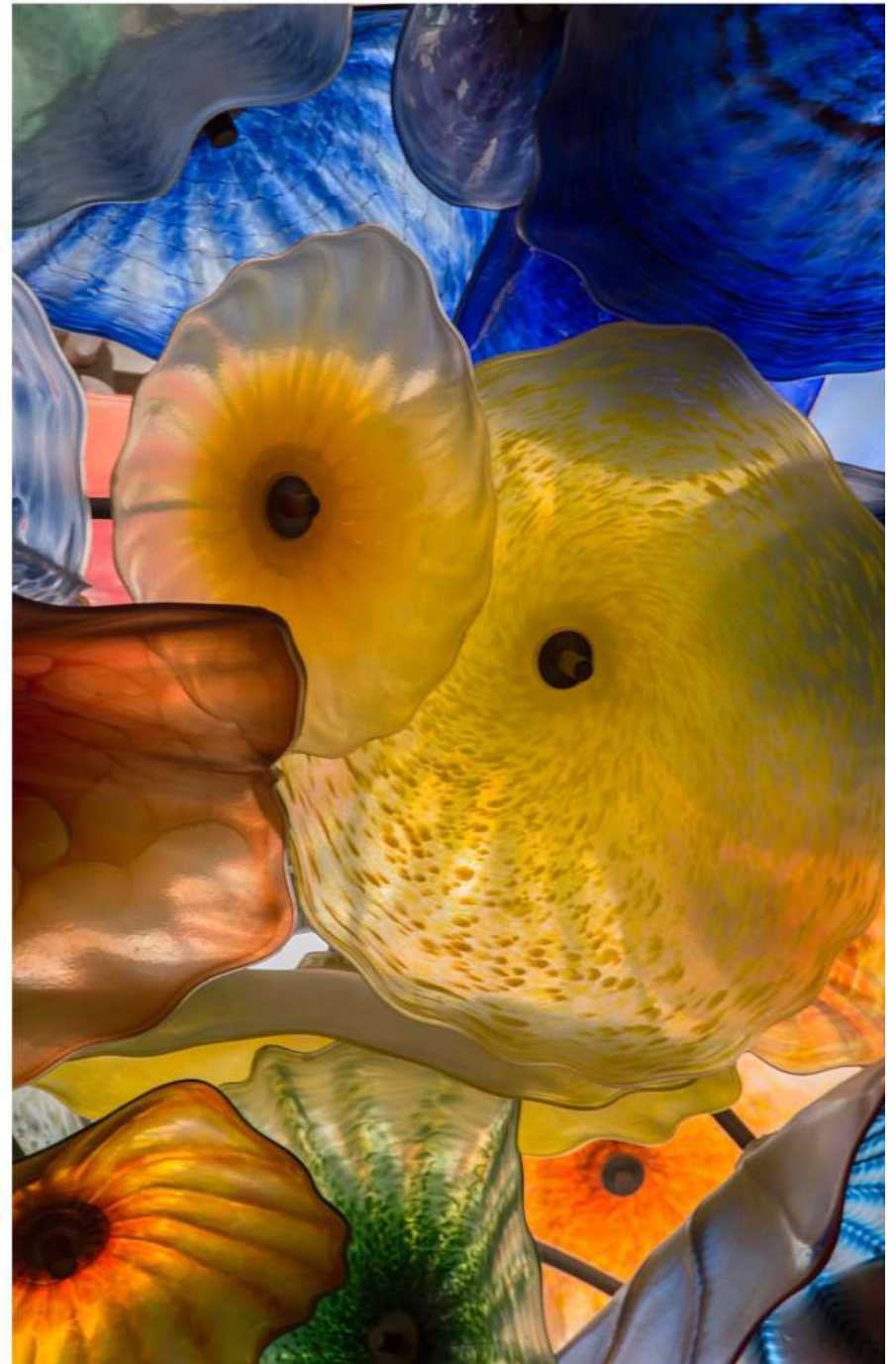
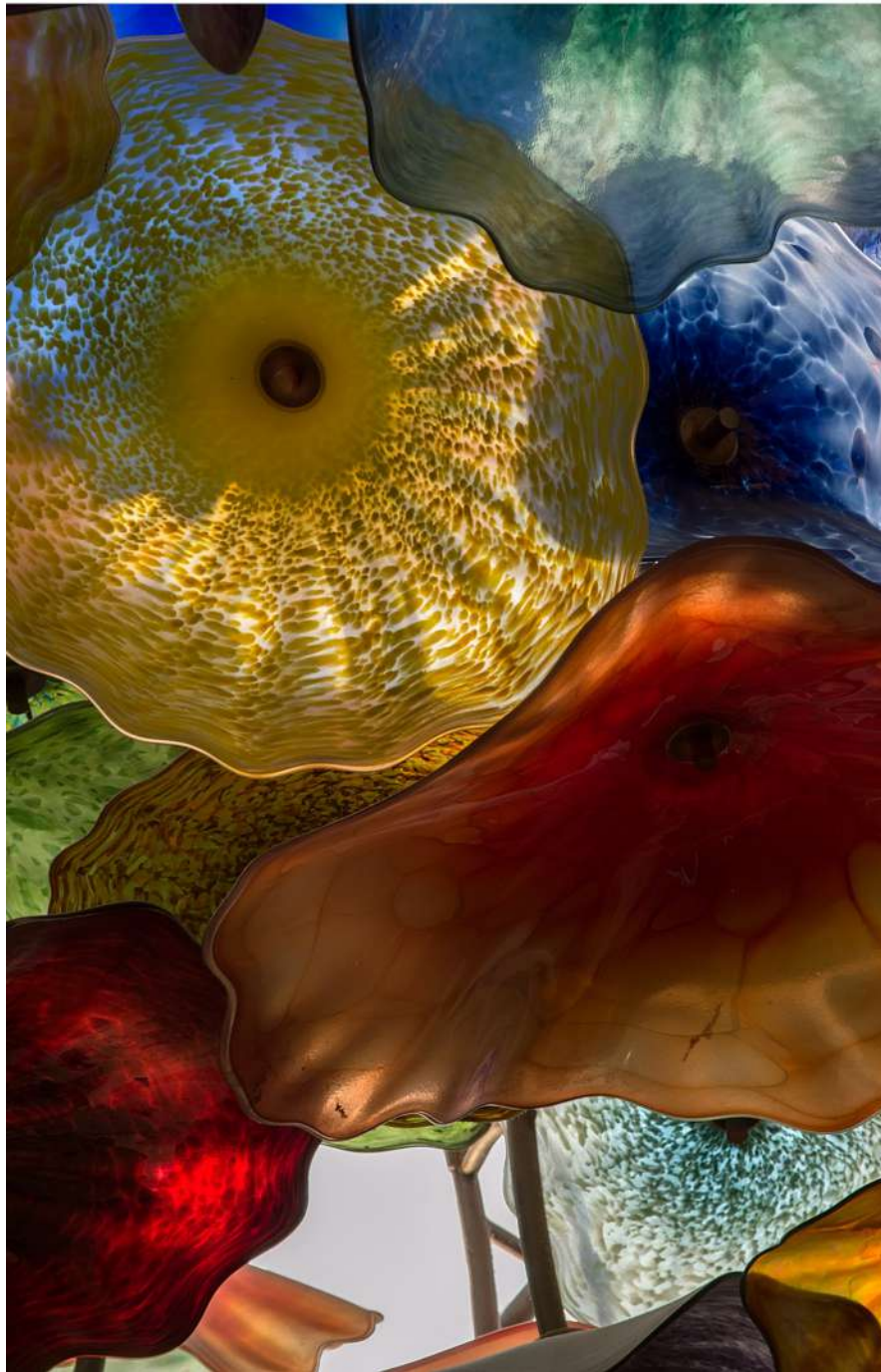
Fiori di Como #16, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



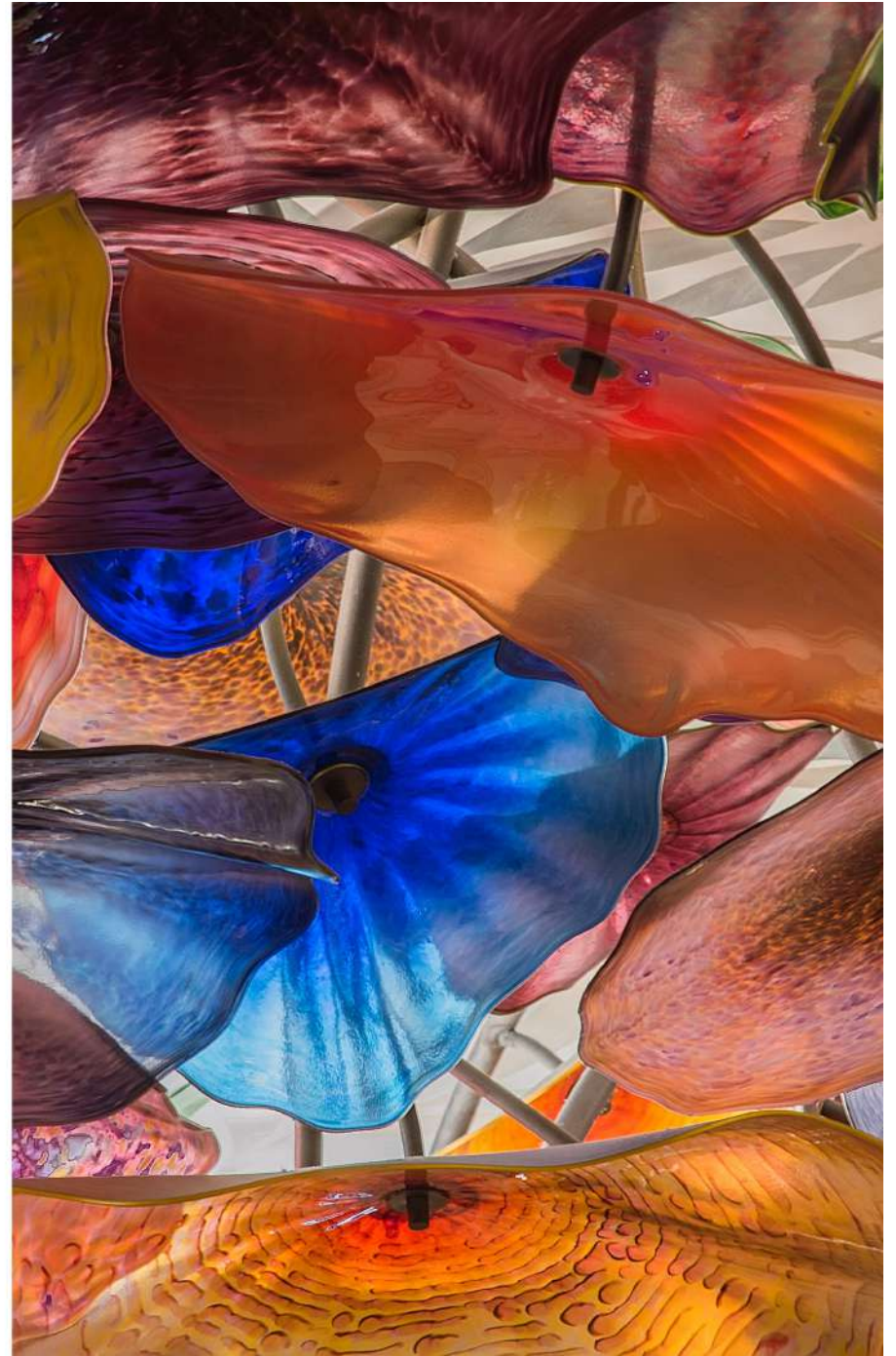
Fiori di Como #17, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



Fiori di Como #19, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



Fiori di Como #22, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017

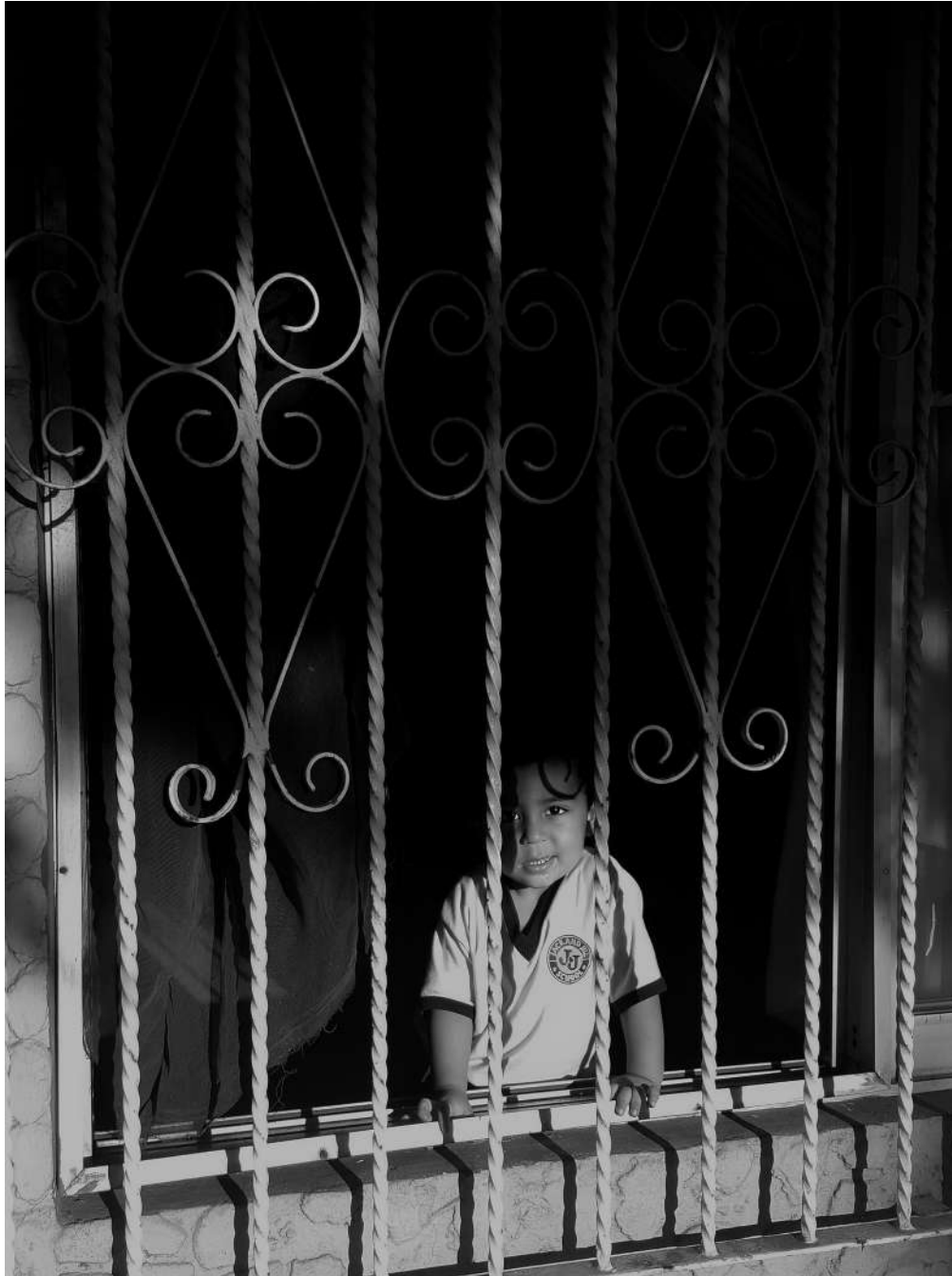


Fiori di Como #23, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017

People



When We Were Young, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 1983



Boy looking through barred window at home, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 2015



Gardener and stand attendant, Ulleung-Do Island, South Korea, 2015



Mother and child, South Korea, 1983



Banjo player in Virginia City bar, Nevada, 2016



Little girl looking at creek water, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 1982



Worker packaging dried squid, Ulleoung-Do Island, South Korea, 2015



Midnight Walk, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Nine Photographers, Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, Nevada, 2018



The Traveler, Incheon International Arpt, South Korea, 2015



Secretary in the Secretary of State Office, Nevada Capital Building, 2016



Mother and Daughter, Jeju International Arpt, South Korea, 2015

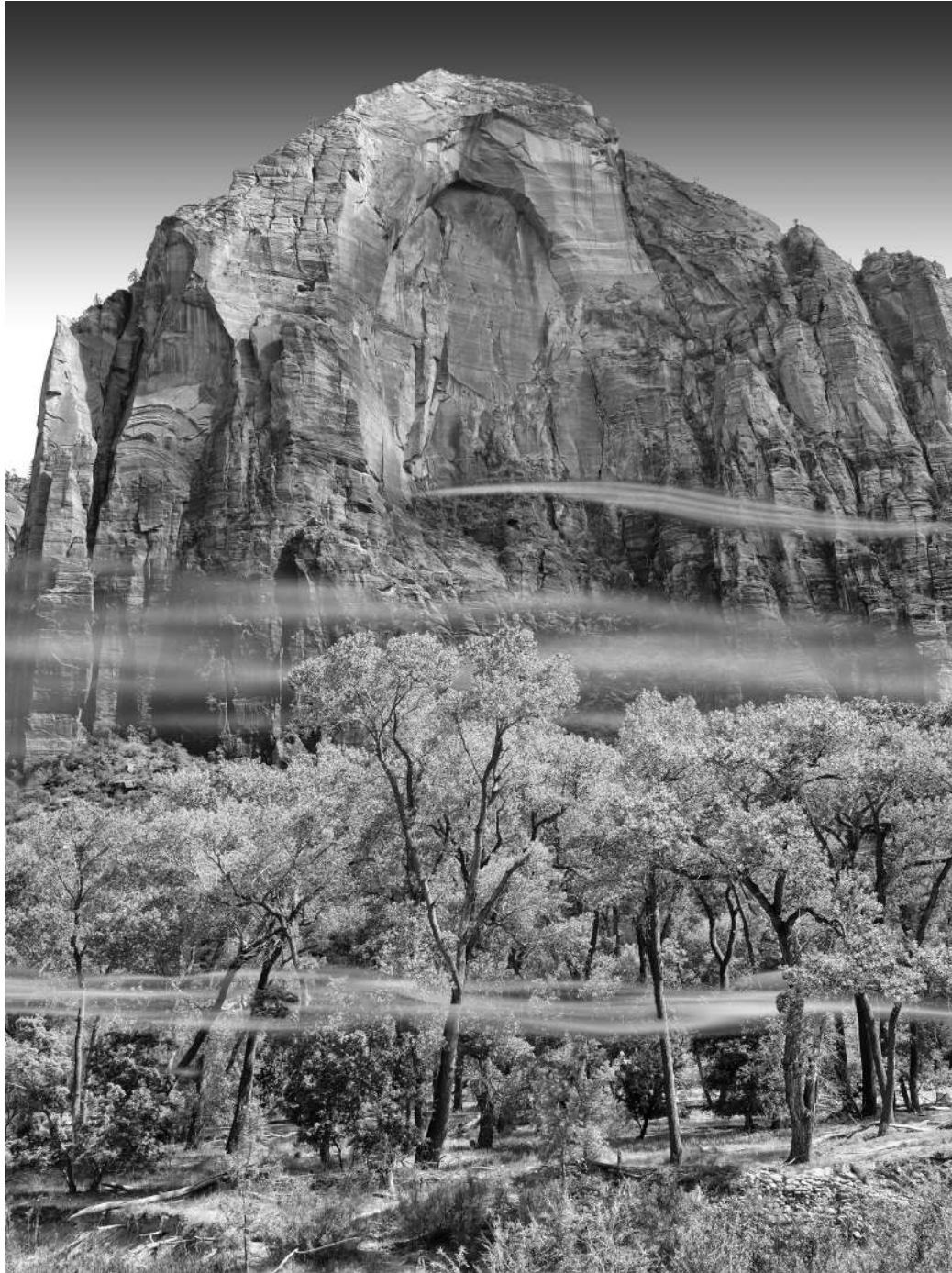


Girls dressed as showgirls on Las Vegas BLVD., Nevada, 2017



Vine Lady, Nashville, Tennessee, 2008

Interpretive Imagery



Trees in the mist, Zion National Park, Utah, 2018



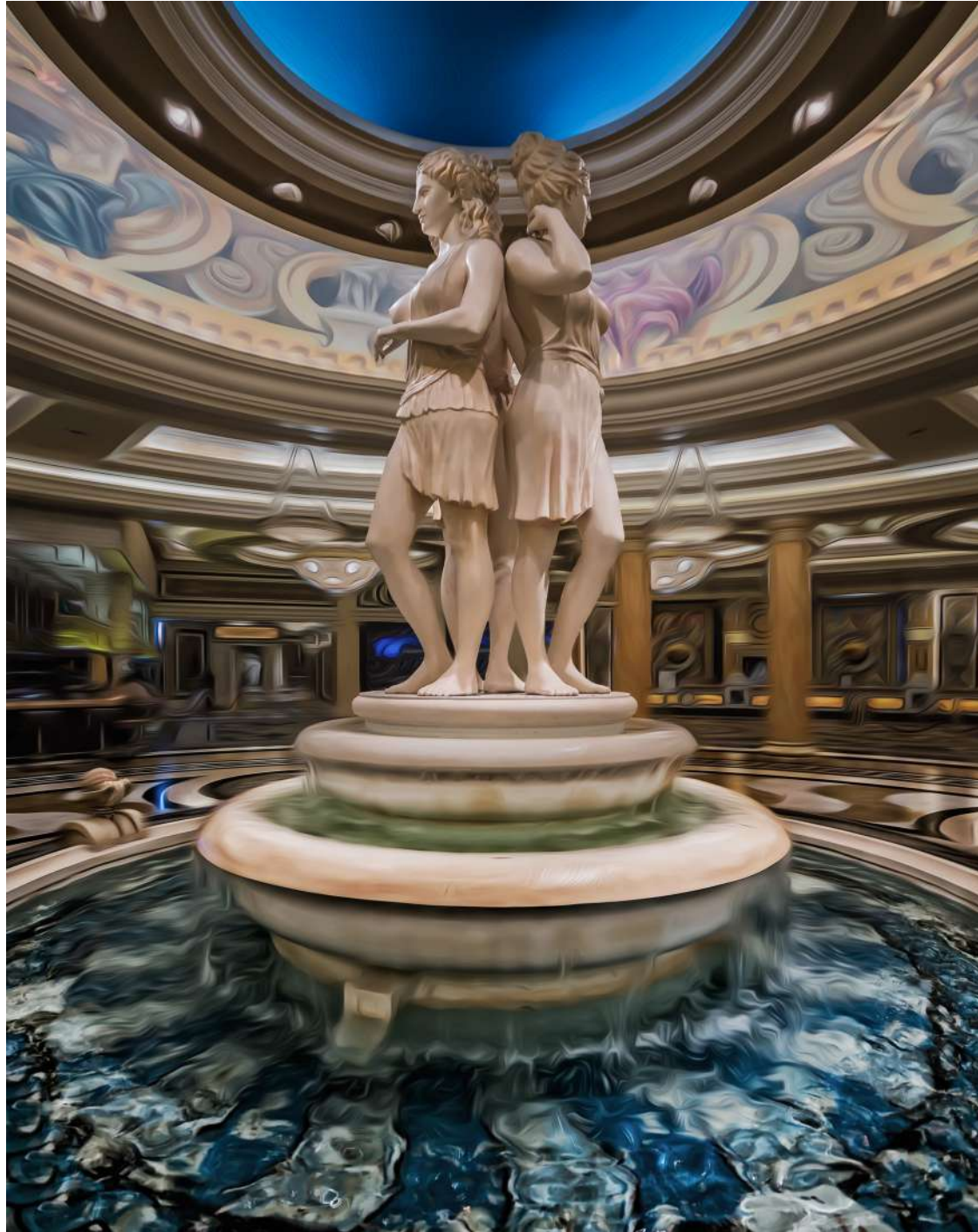
Weathered Stream, Death Valley, California, 2018



A Rose, Henderson Nevada, 2017



Mermaid Statue on shore of the Yellow Sea, Jeju Island, South Korea, 2015



Three Sisters statue in Caesars Casino lobby, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Purple Persuasion, Orchids of Olias series, 2018



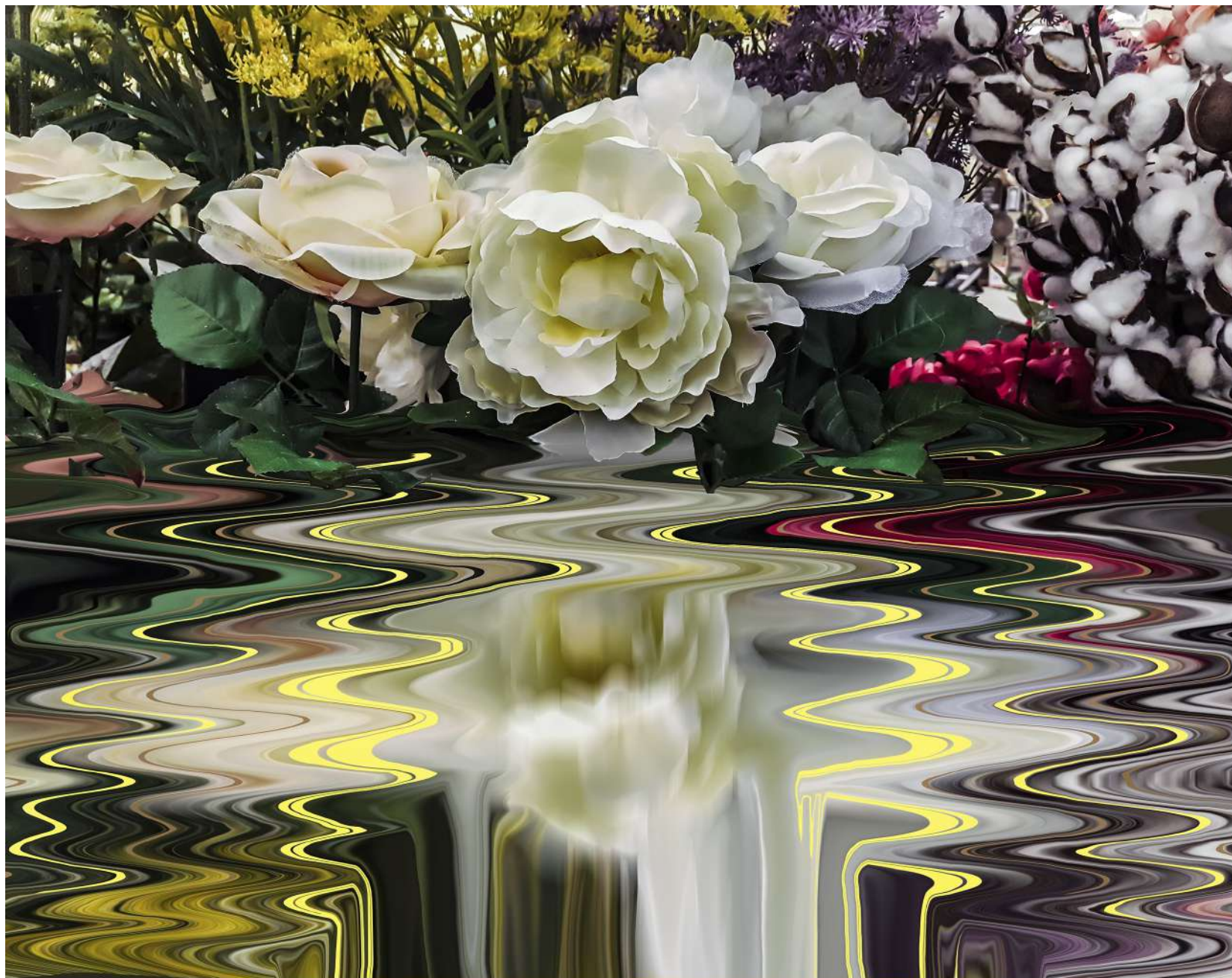
Atomic Orchid, Orchids of Olias series, 2017



The Four Tenors, Orchids of Olias series, 2018



White Orchid, Orchid of Olias series, 2018



Reflection, Orchid of Olias series, 2017



Symphonic Blossoms, Orchids of Olias series, 2017

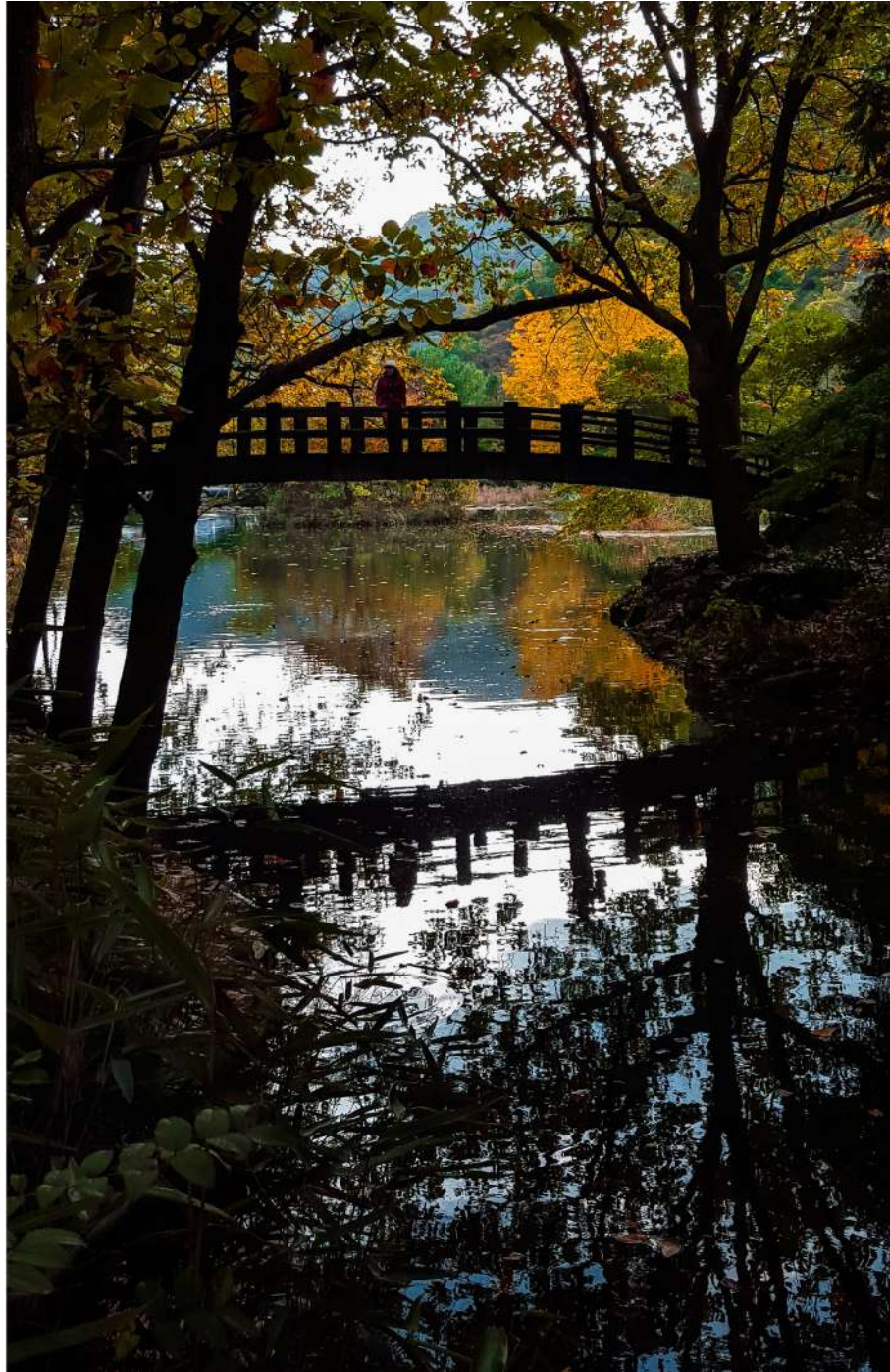


Blossom Dreams, Orchid of Olias series, 2017

Portraits: Korean Life



People enjoying a day at a local park, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Girl on bridge over pond, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Bridge over Han River, Seoul, South Korea, 2015



Worker hanging squid to dry, Ulleung-Do island, South Korea, 2015



Family enjoying the day at a local park, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Fisherman, Seaside Village, Ulleung-Do island, South Korea, 2015



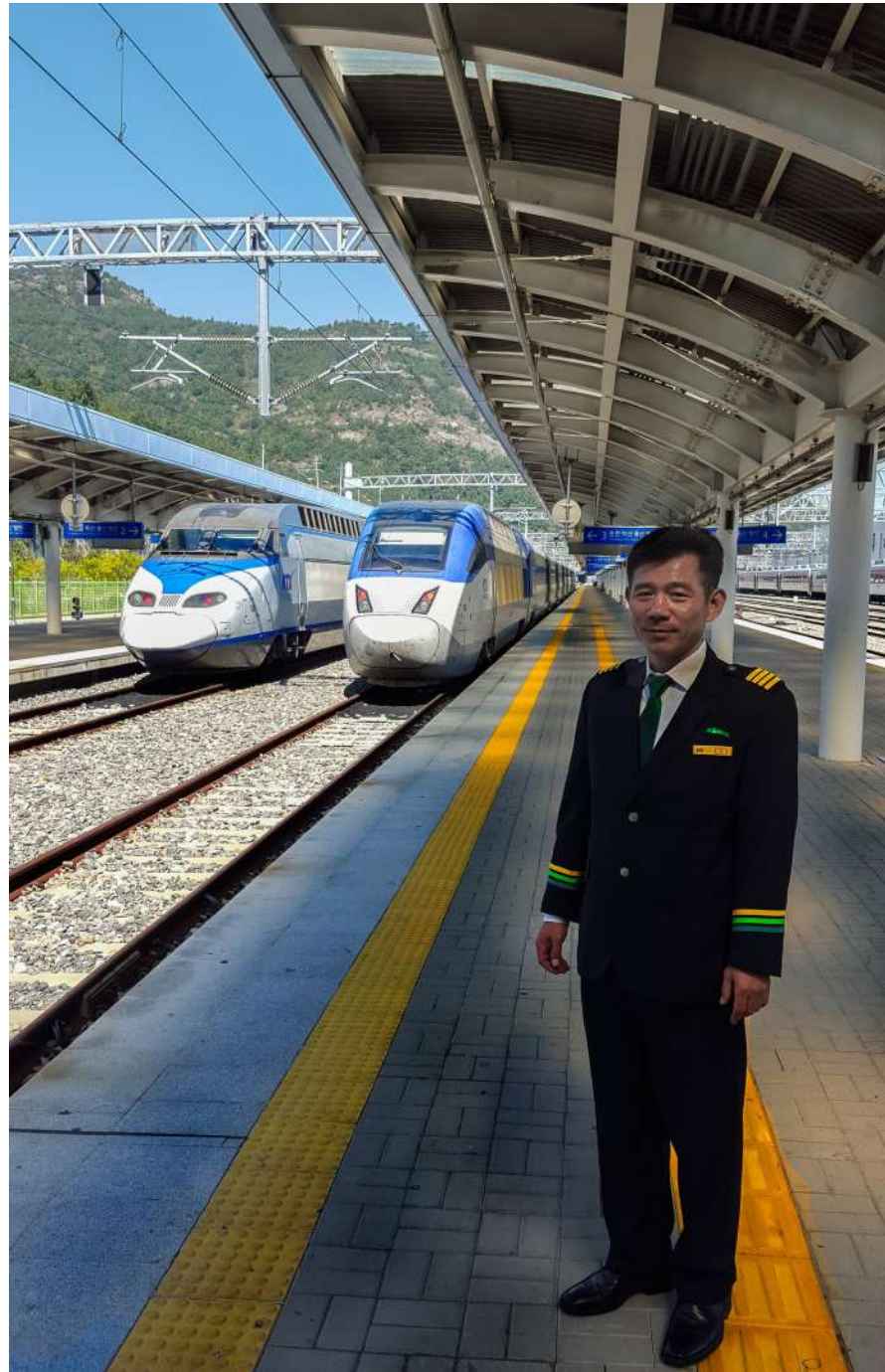
Little girl eating in middle of city, Yosu, South Korea, 2015



Young woman getting ready to open store, Yosu, South Korea, 2015



Kick demonstration, Seoul, South Korea, 2015



High Speed Train Engineer, Korea Train Express (KTX), Yosu, South Korea, 2015



Young lady taking a break, Jeju Island, South Korea, 2015



Man crossing street, Ulleung-Do island, South Korea,, 2015



Workers taking a break in Rice field, South Korea, 2015



School children at Yosu train station, South Korea, 2015



Attendant at an outdoor concession stand, Seoul, South Korea, 2015



Woman serving Jinppang (sweet red bean paste in steamed dough) at an outdoor food stand, Seoul, South Korea, 2015



Woman waiting for her order in a “Soju Tent”, Yosŭ, South Korea, 2015



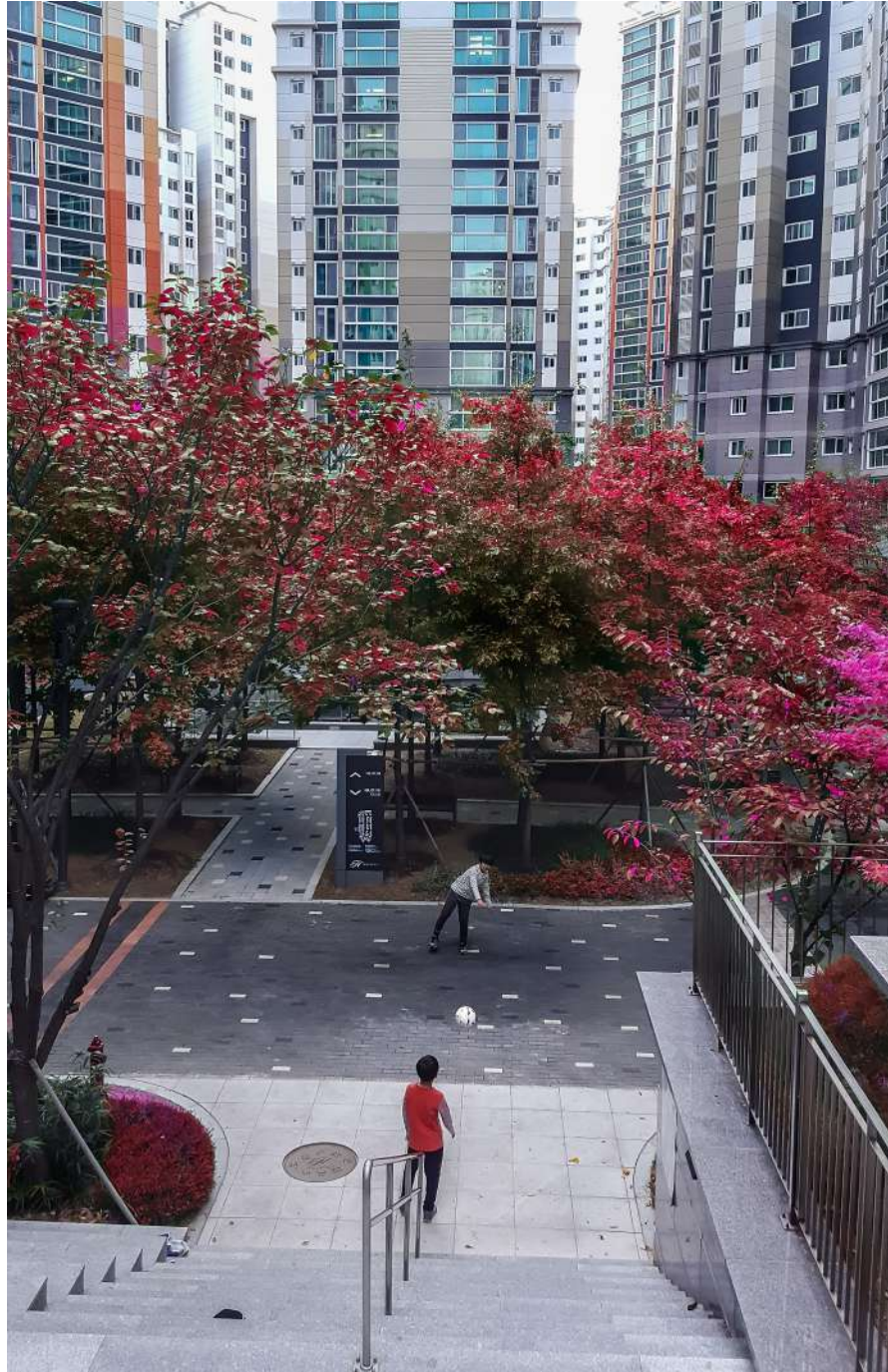
Small nursery shop owner and her daughter, Seoul, South Korea, 2015



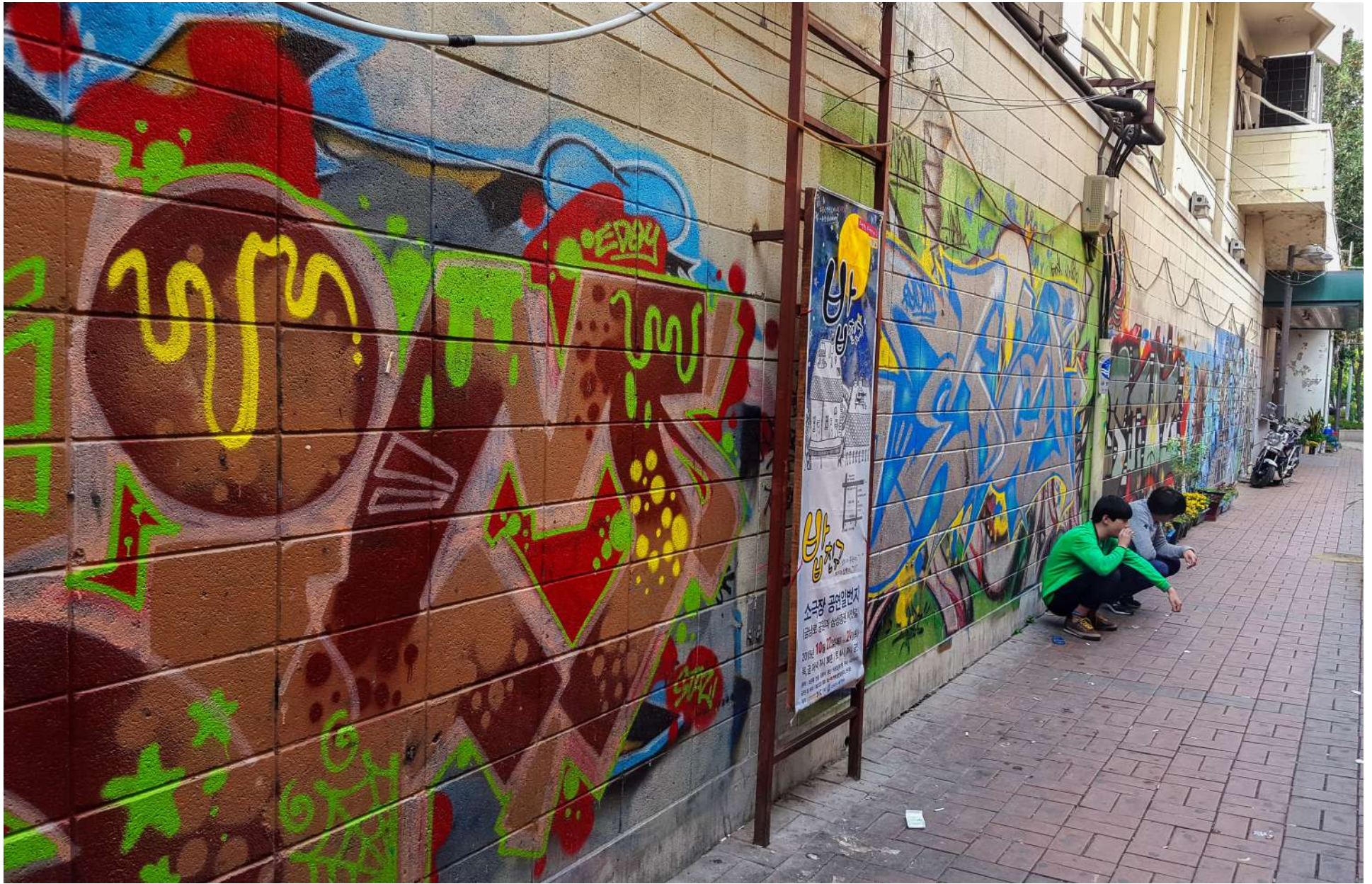
Temple artwork, Jeju Island, South Korea, 2015



Vender in a local marketplace, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Boys playing ball in an apartment complex, Seoul, South Korea, 2015



Boys sneaking cigarets in an alley, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Two ladies enjoying the day in a field of flowers, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Capturing the moment, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



Workers in a rice field, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015

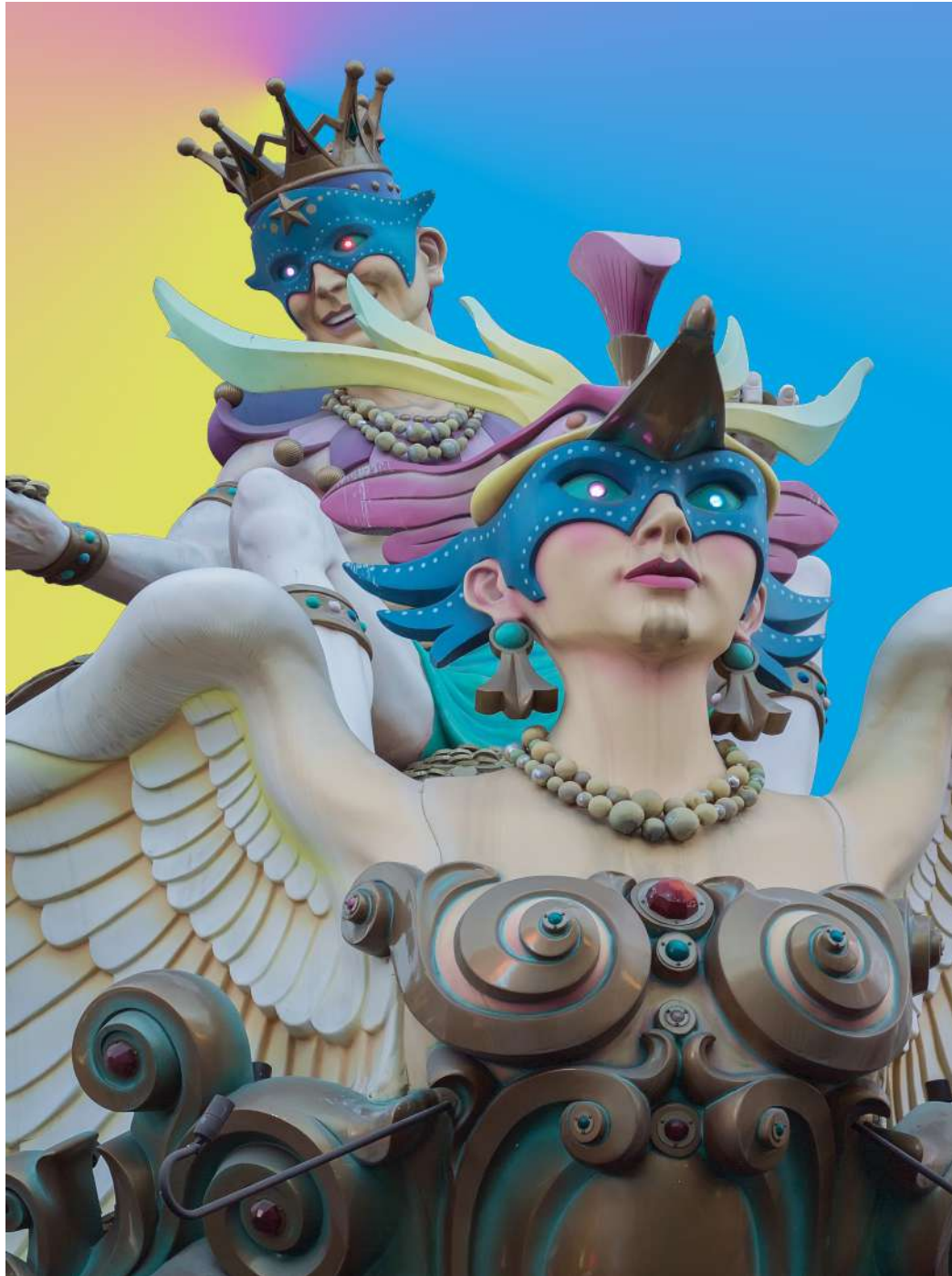
Vegas



Statue in front of display screen, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017



Three Sisters statue in Caesars Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Jester above casino entryway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Casino entryway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Venetian Casino clock, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Indoor entryway in the Venetian, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Terrace area in front of the Venetian Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Three Sisters statue in Caesars Casino lobby, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



The Canal in Venetian Casino #1, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



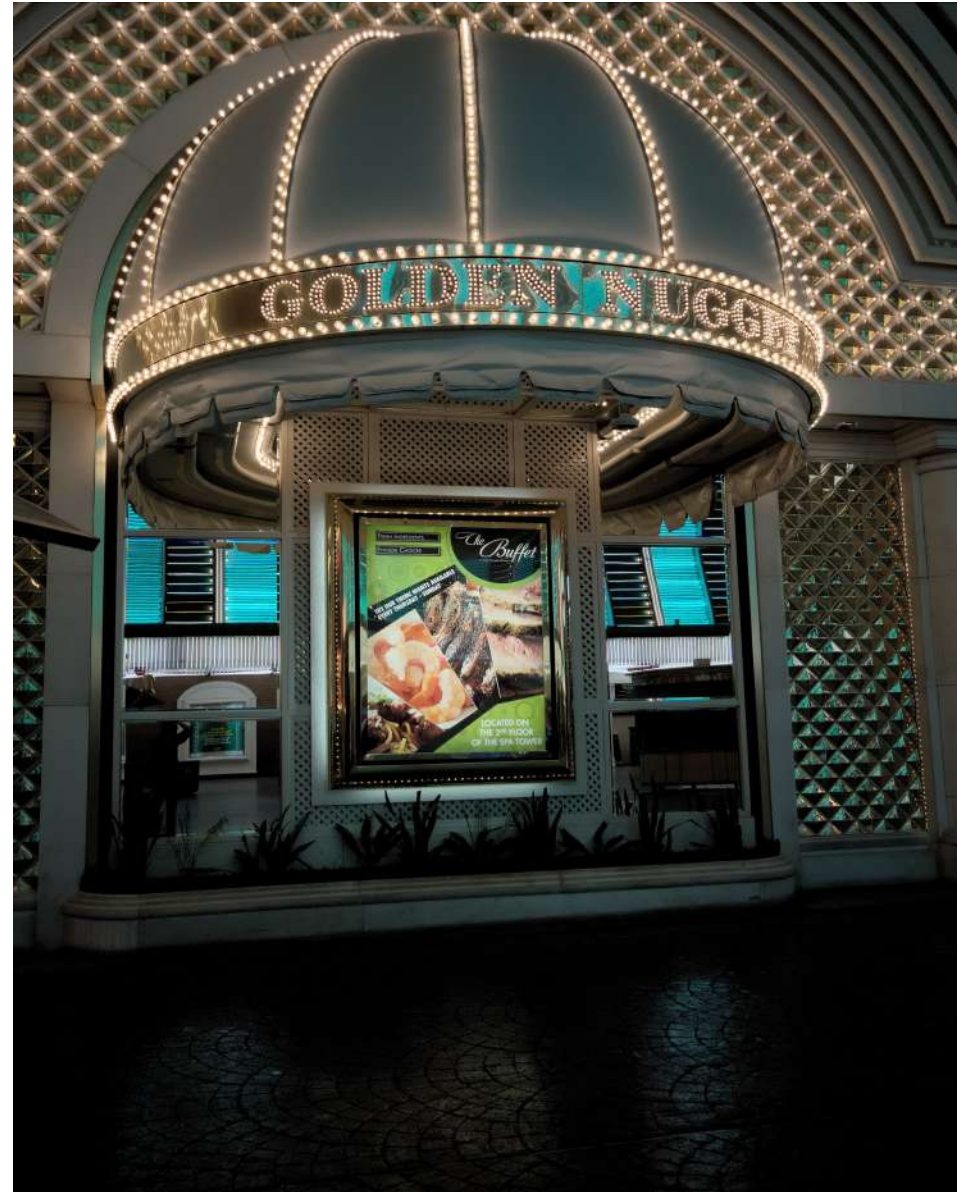
The Canal in Venetian Casino #2, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Dome and umbrellas display in casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Game room in Casino on Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Advertisement at Golden Nugget casino on Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018

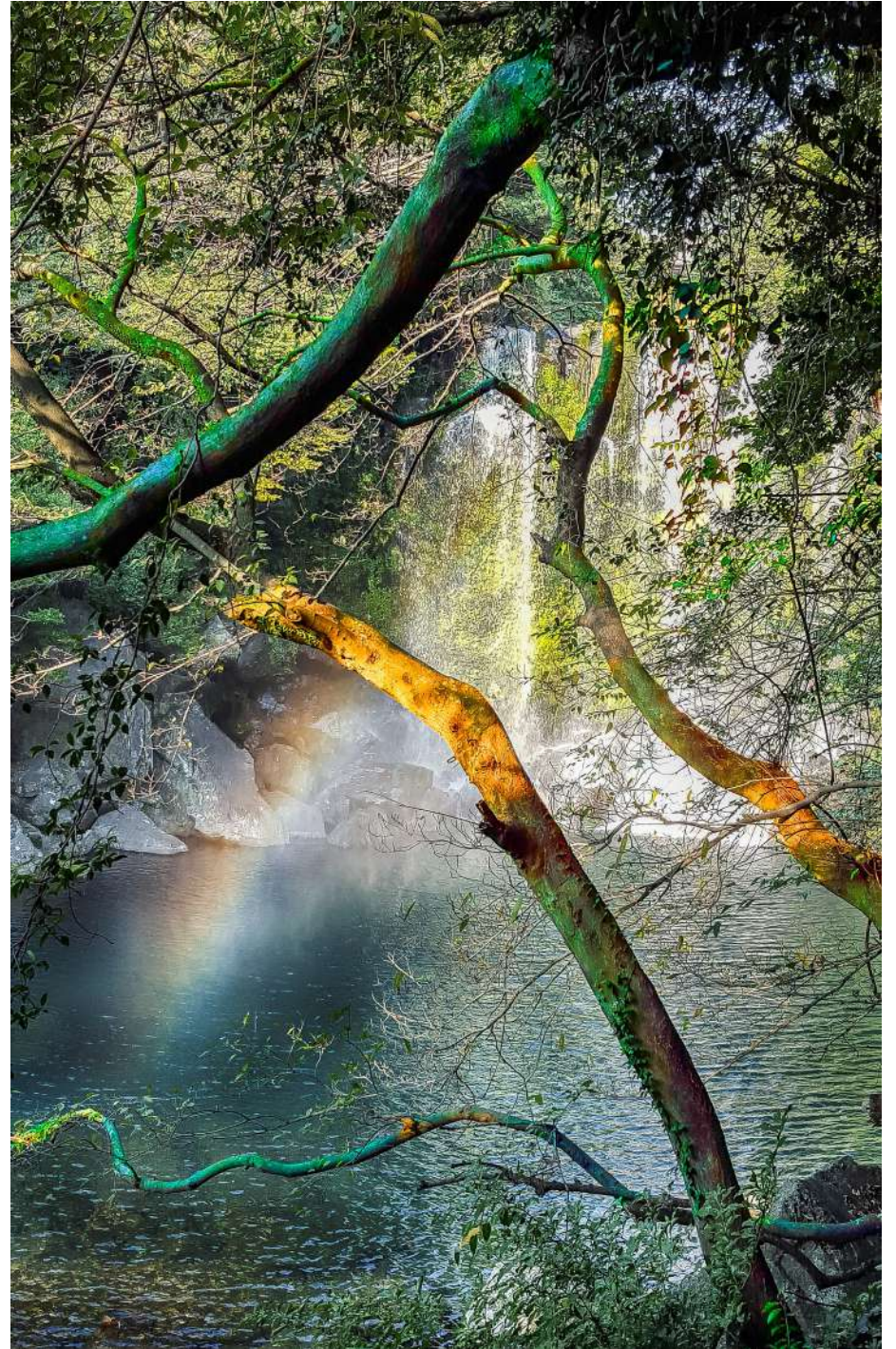


Craps game on the strip, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018

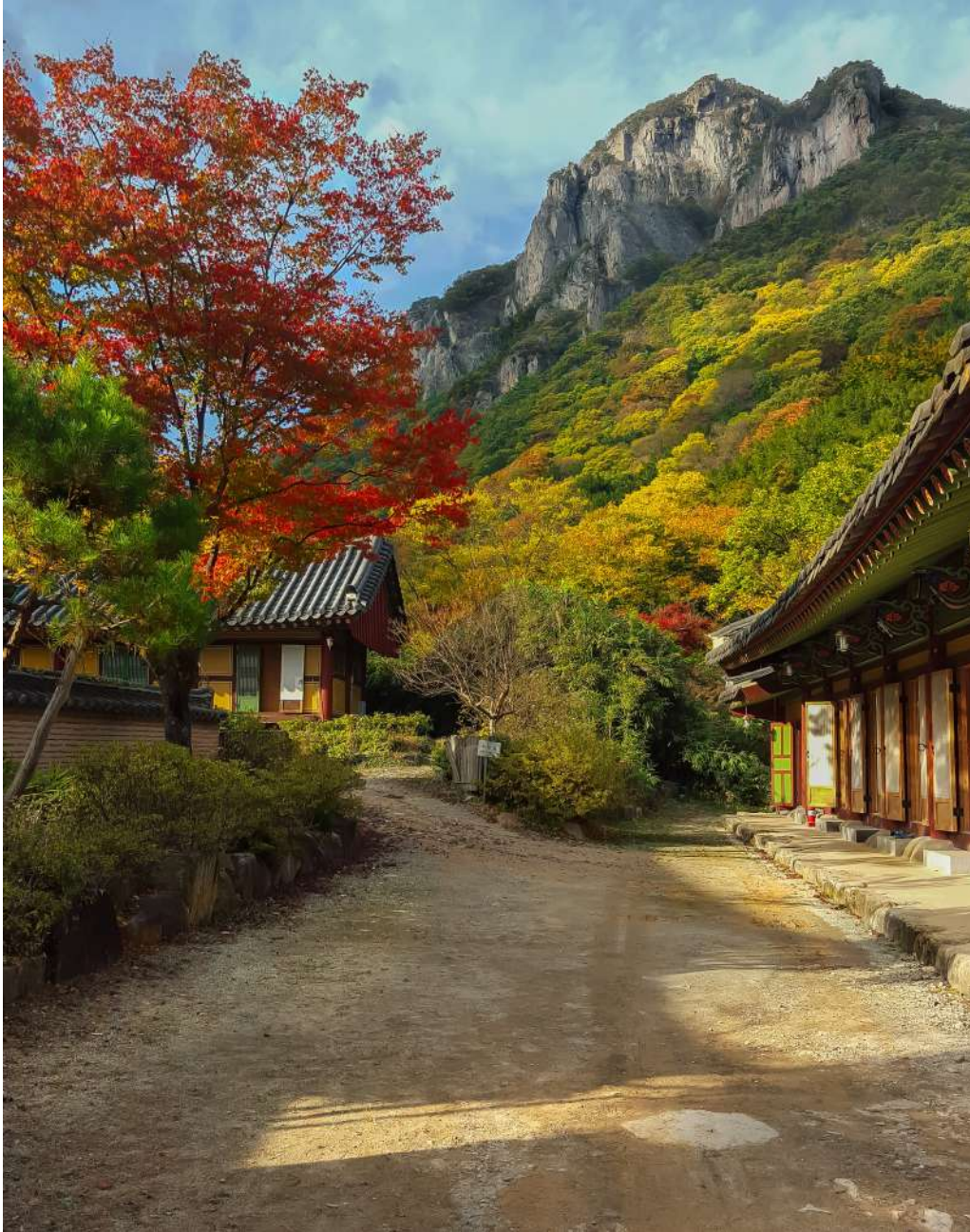
Autumn Landscapes



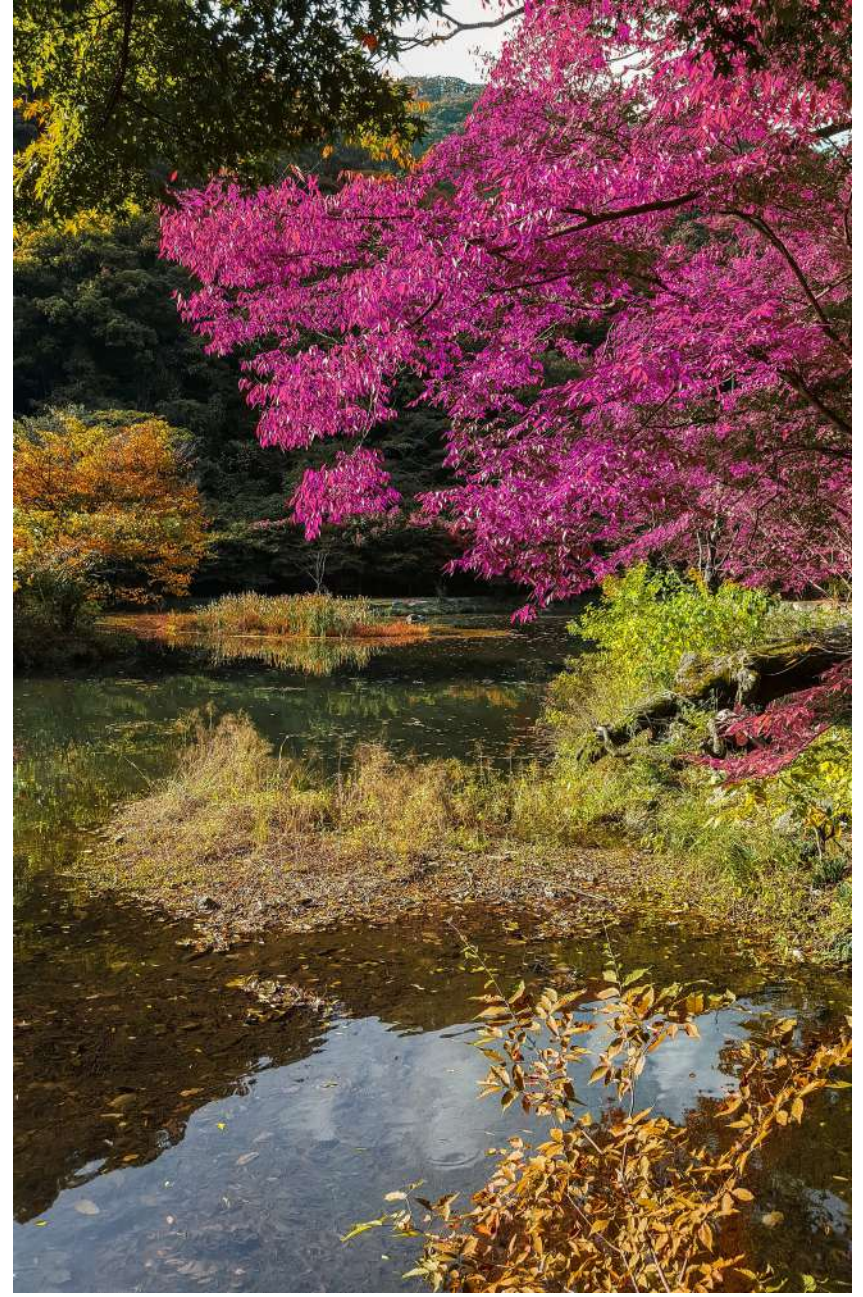
Bridge, Gwang-Ju Park, South Korea, 2015



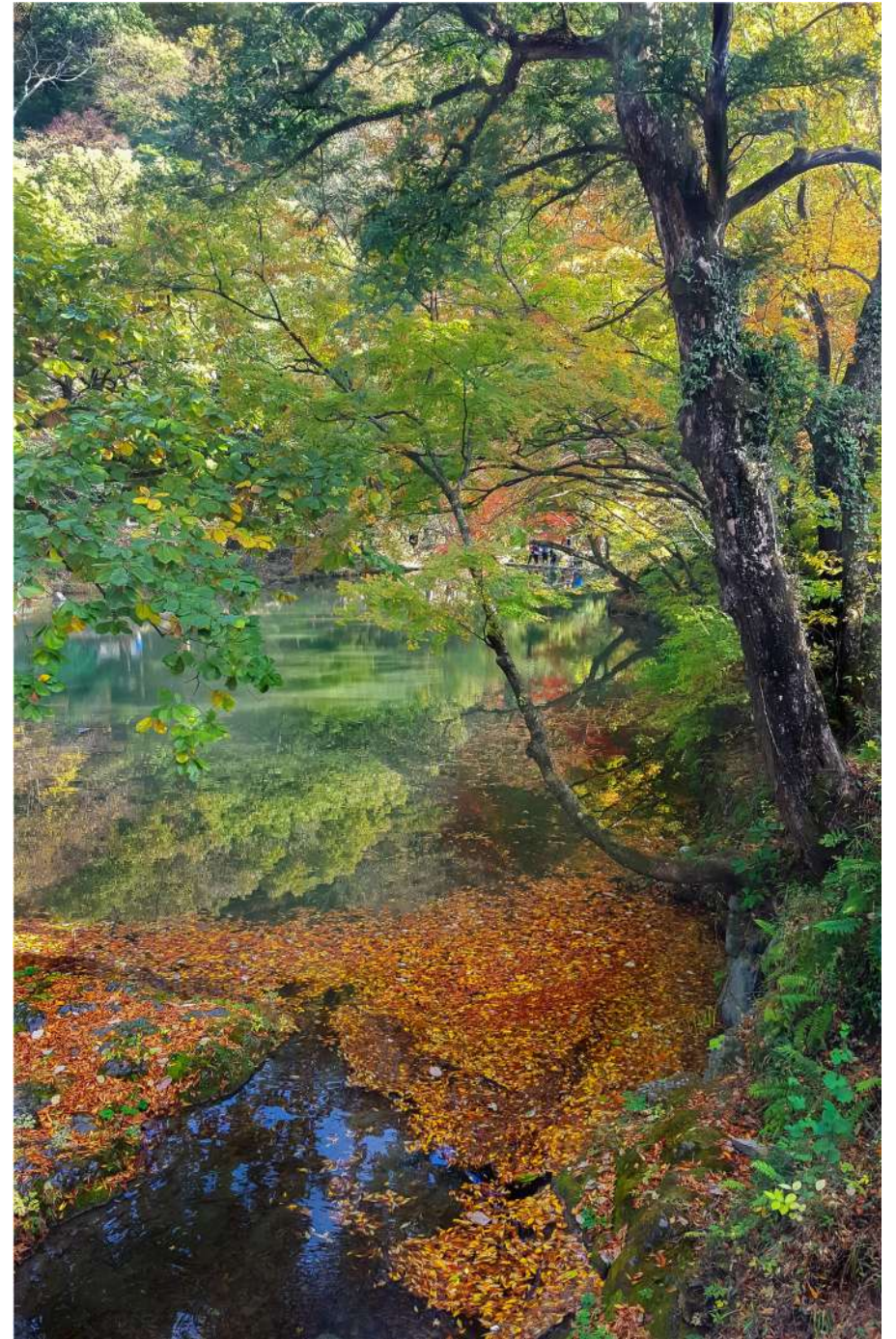
God's Promise, Jeju Island, South Korea, 2015



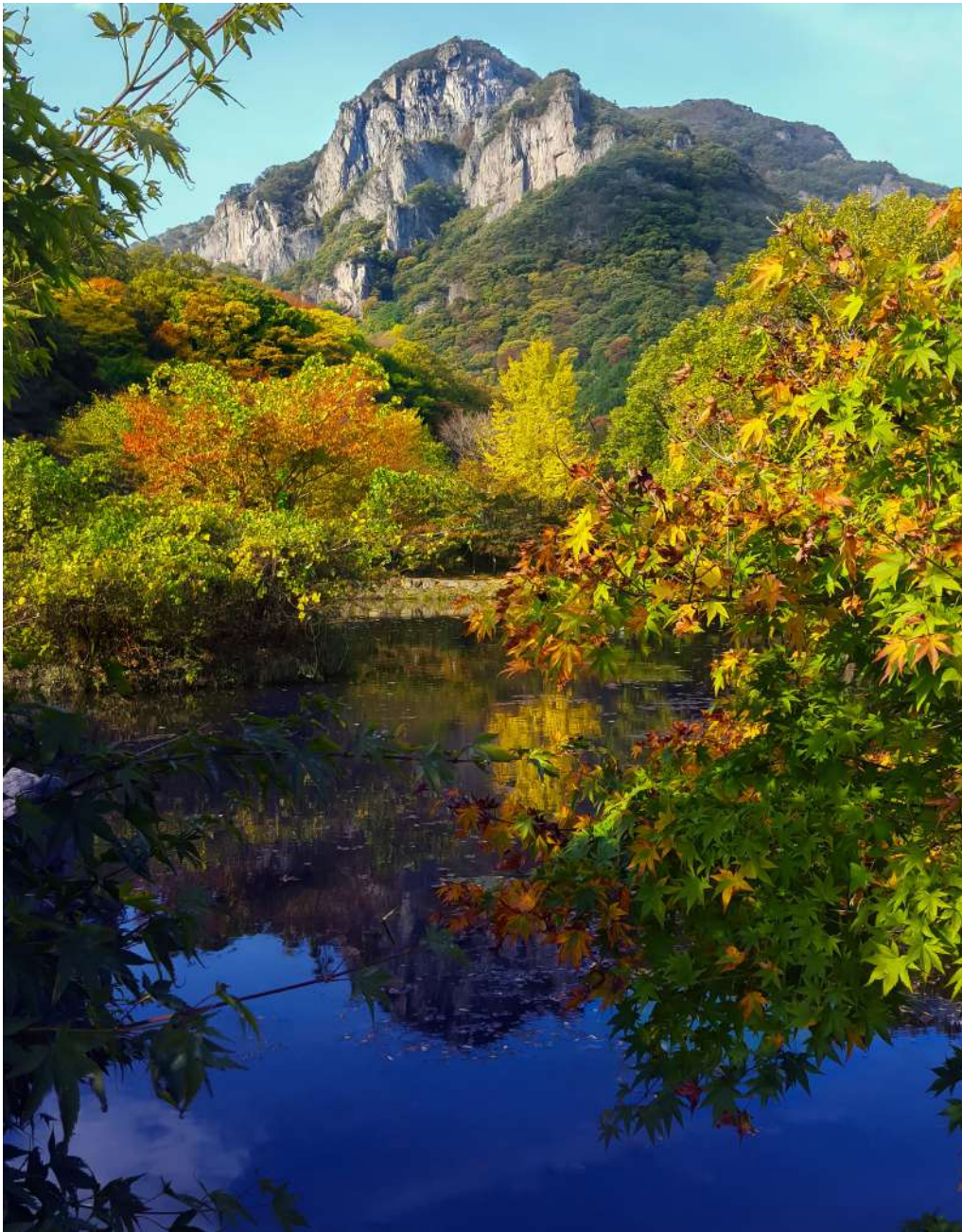
Village buildings, Gwang-Ju Park, South Korea, 2015



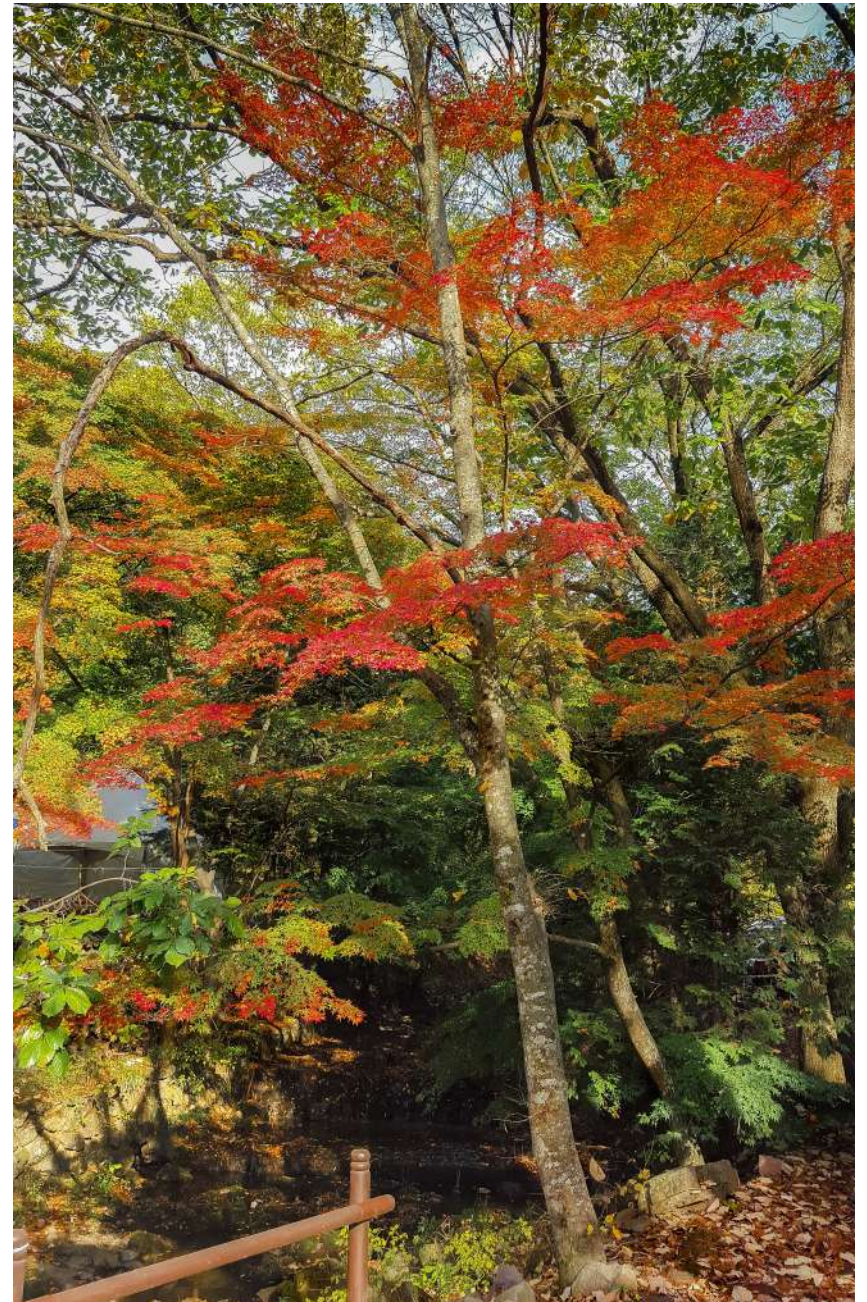
Trees and pond, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015



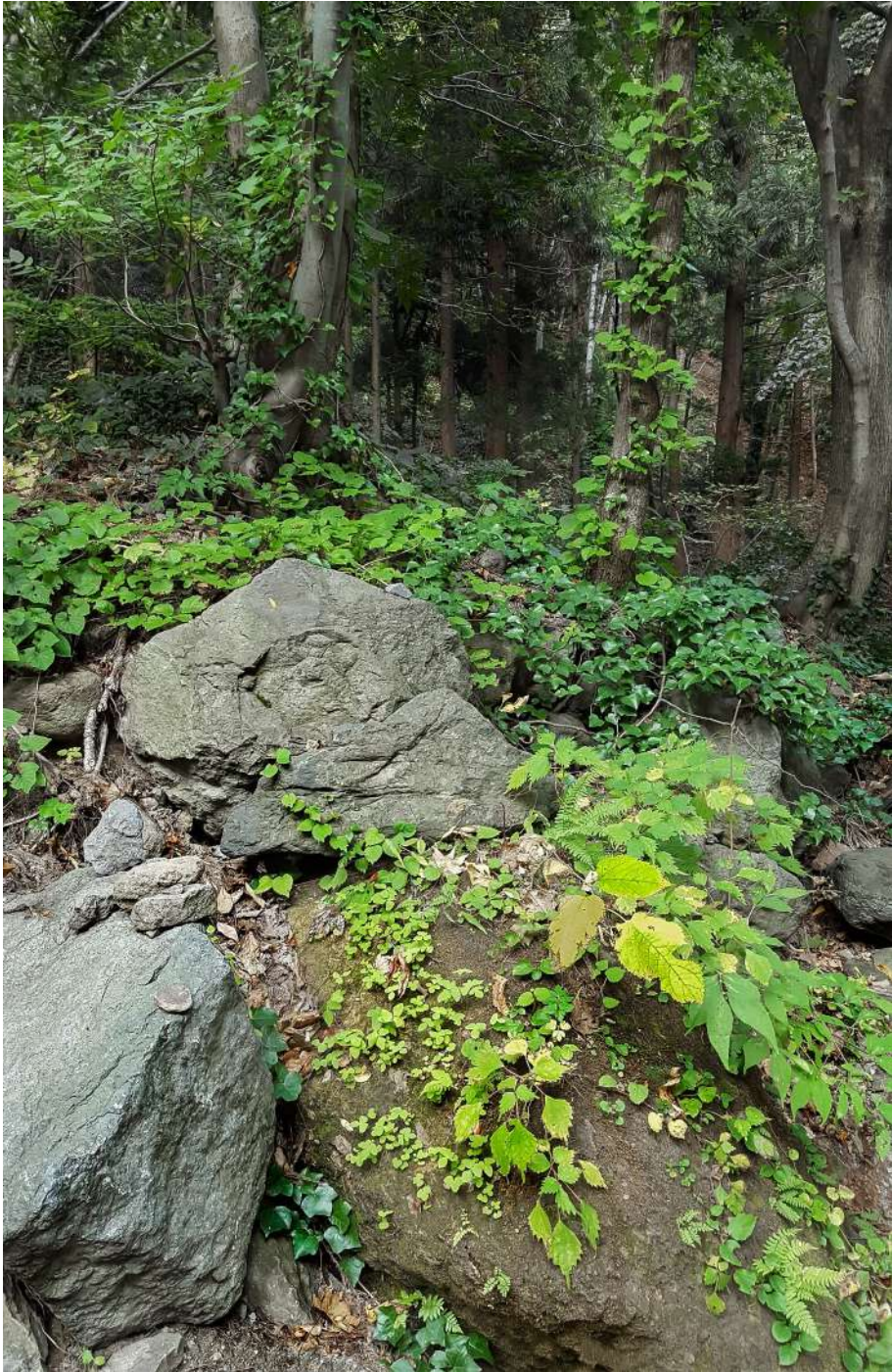
Autumn woodlands, Gwang-Ju park, South Korea, 2015



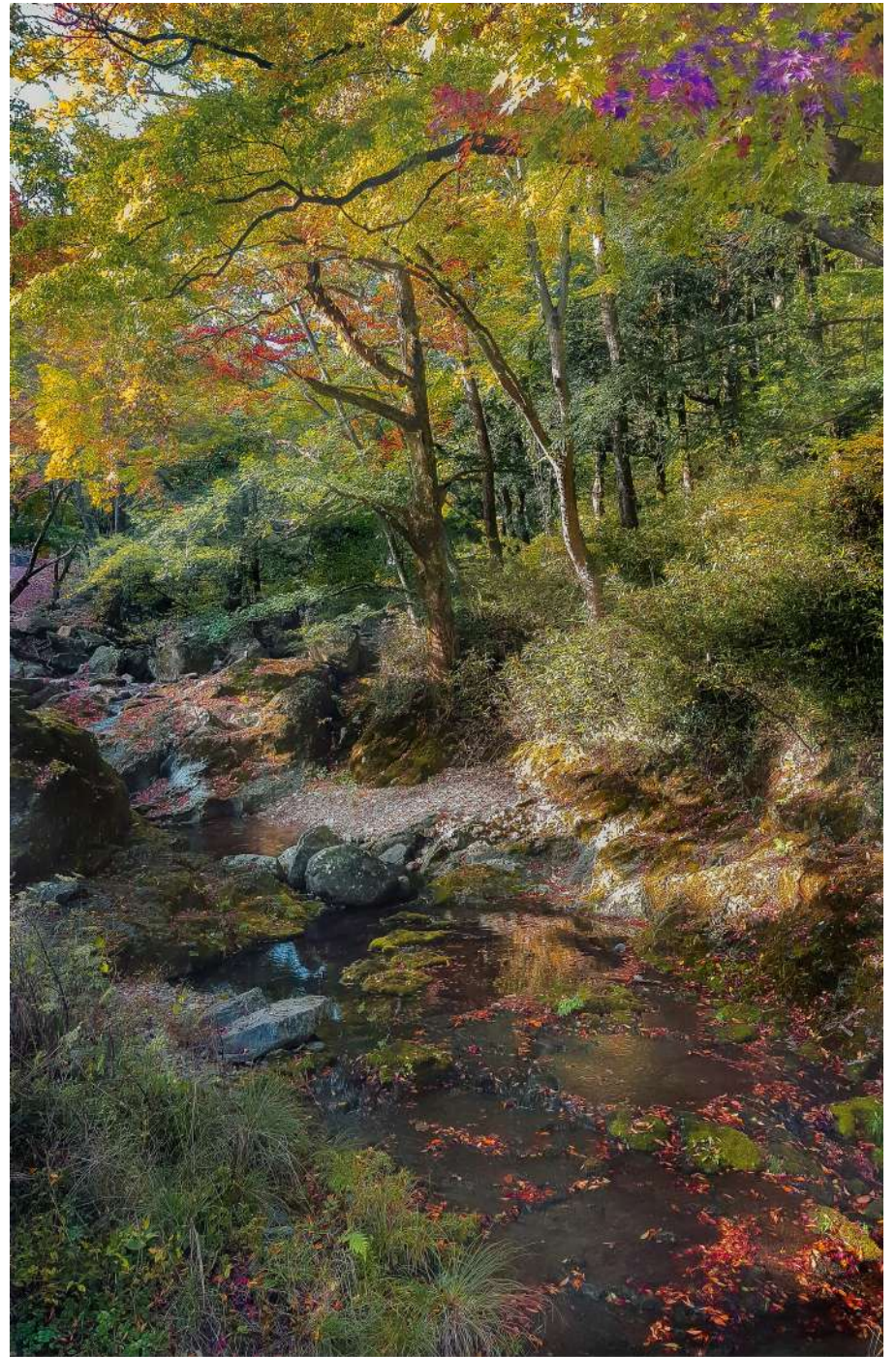
Pond and mountain in autumn, Gwang-Ju park, South Korea, 2015



Autumn tree, Gwang-Ju park, South Korea, 2015



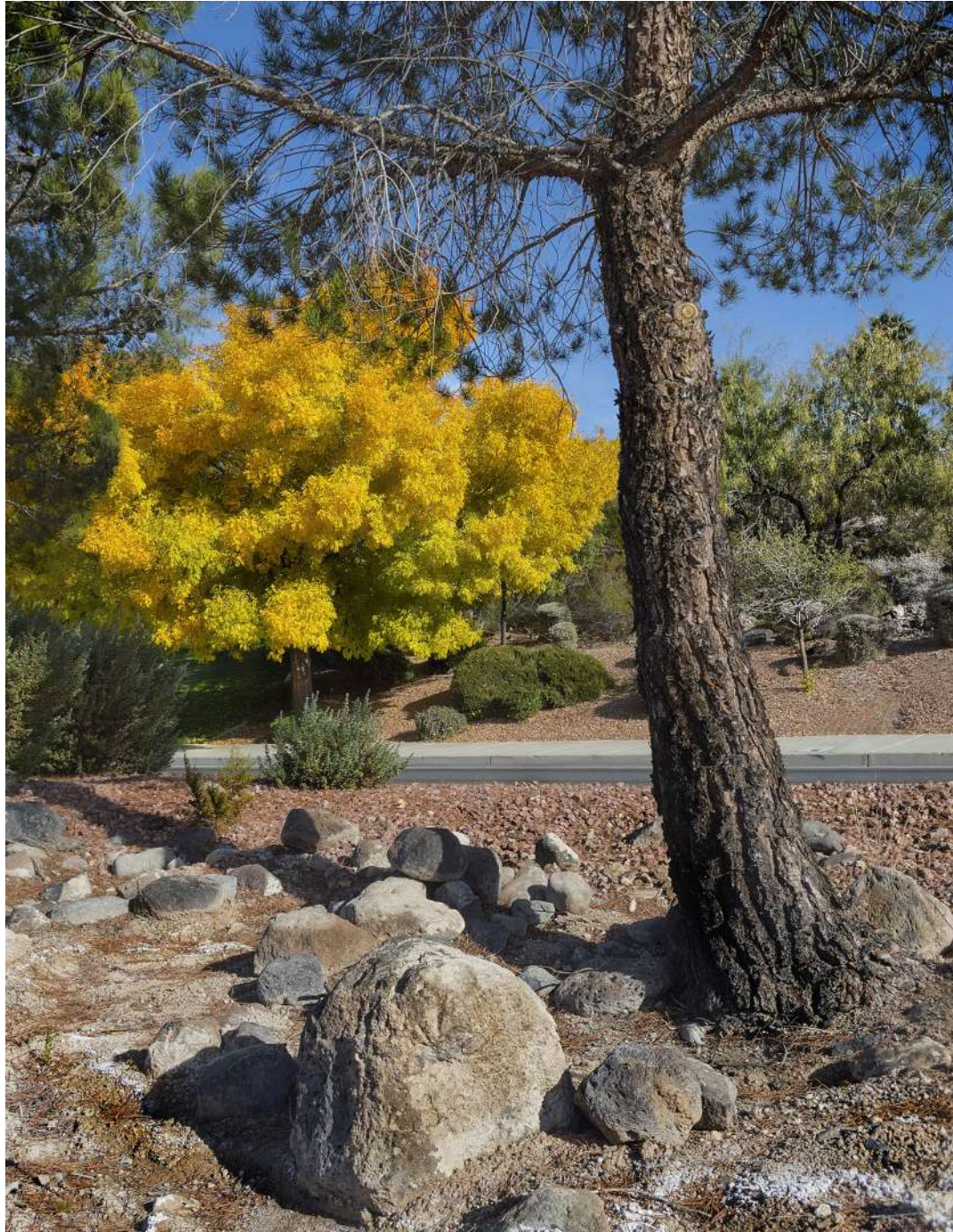
Rock & foliage, Jeju Island, South Korea, 2015



Autumn woodland, Gwang-Ju park, South Korea, 2015



Walking Bridge, Gwang-Ju park, South Korea, 2015

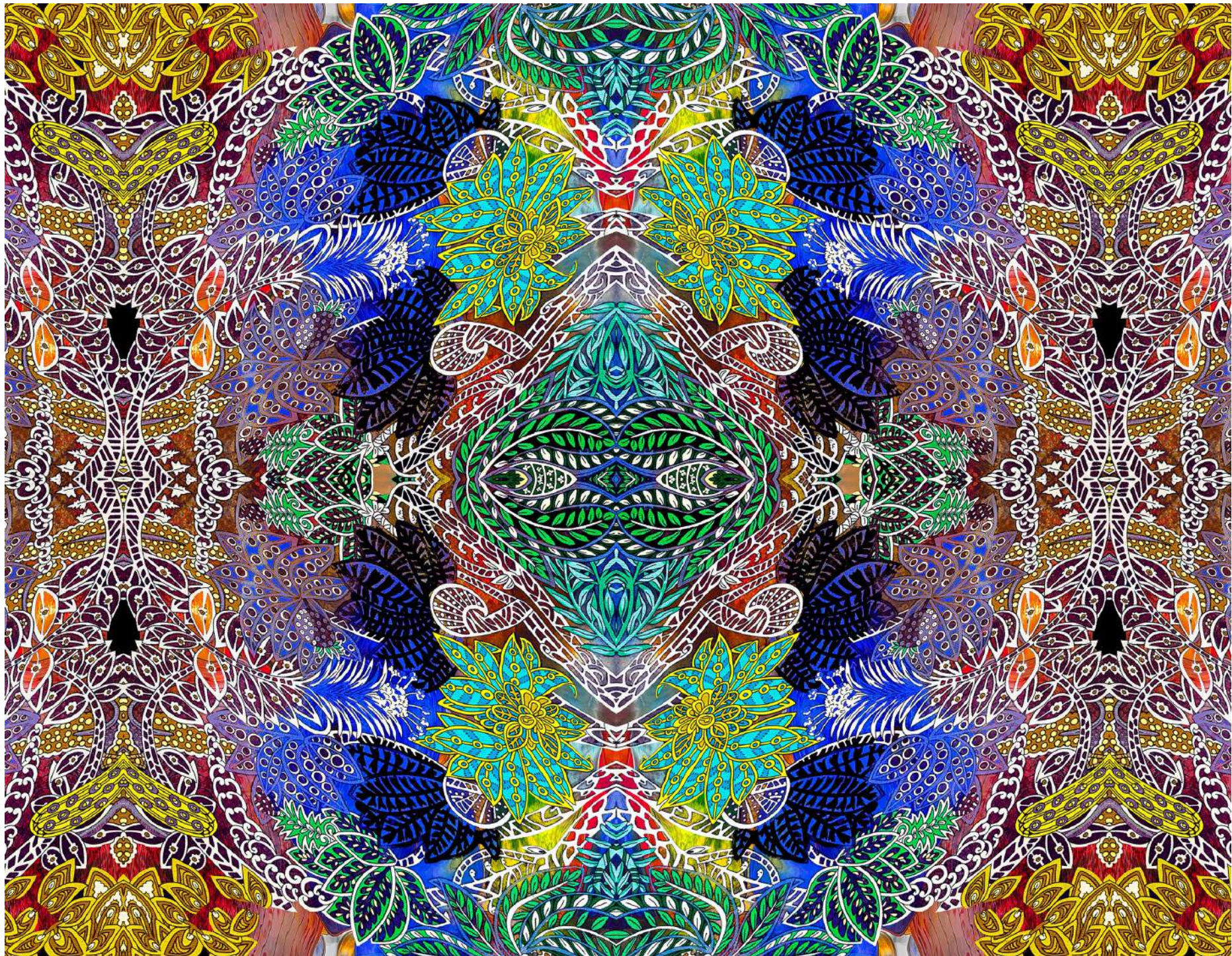


Autumn elm on Anthem Parkway, Henderson, Nevada, 2018



Autumn leaves, Gwang-Ju park, South Korea, 2015

Art From Photography





Temple artwork — 2019

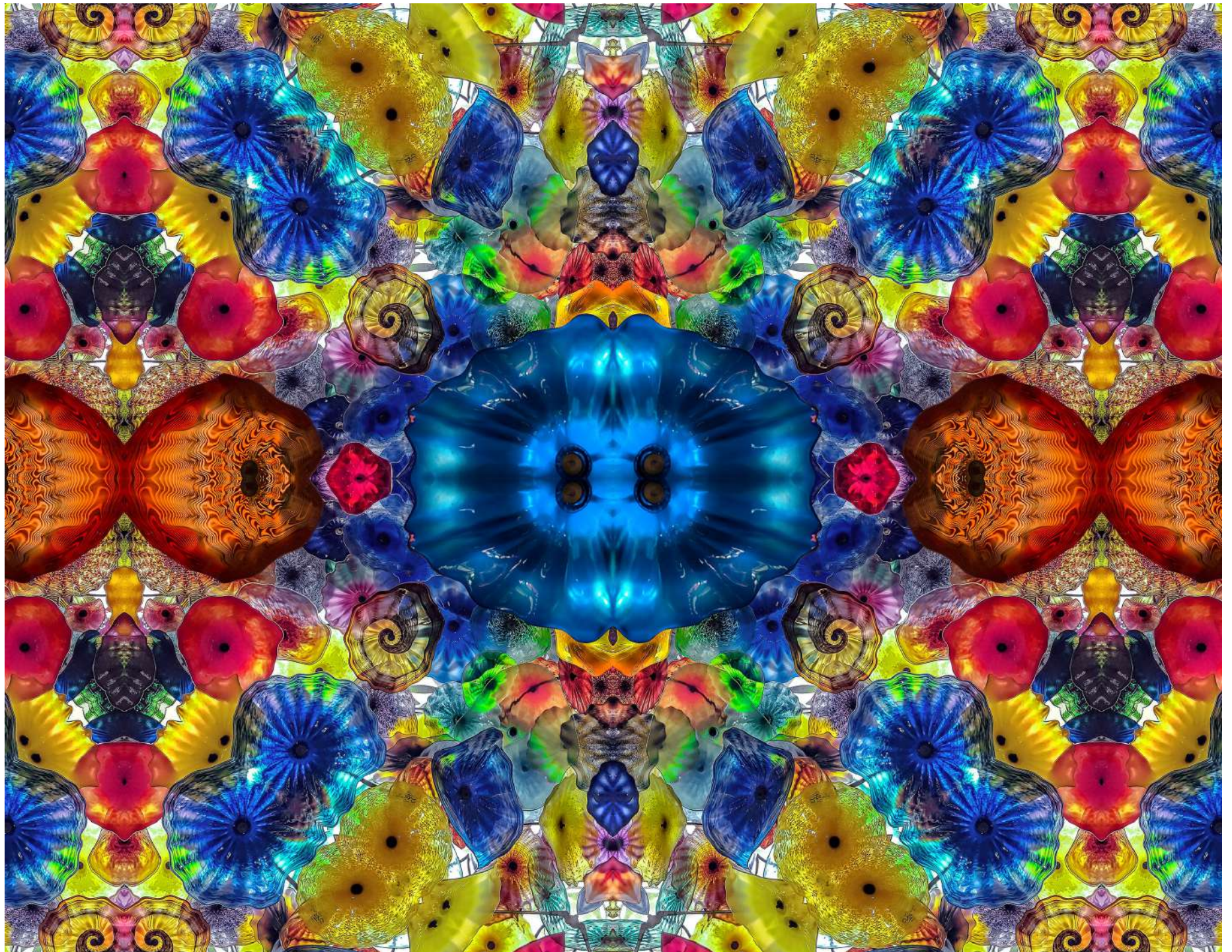




Rose & sunflowers — 2019



Psychedelic forest — 2019



Fiori di Como, Abstract — 2019



Fremont Street — 2019













Abstract Reality — 2019

Notes on Selected Photographs



Boy in Middle of Street, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 1983.

Page 36

I consider this image to be my first real photograph. While on a day off from duty with the Air Force in South Korea, I took an early morning photo walk through Gwang-Ju city in hopes of documenting Korean lifestyles. As I was walking the streets with my then-new

Canon A-1 camera loaded with Kodak ISO 400 B&W film, I saw this little boy walking from the storefront of his parents shop, who were cleaning it for another day's opening, and walked into the middle of the street carrying a wet mop. He didn't notice me. As he walked in front of me with the mop, I dropped to my knees to get eye level with him, he then looked at me and that's when I clicked the shutter. I didn't know what my camera settings were when I clicked the shutter but when I started to change the settings to make another exposure, he dropped the mop, cried, and ran back to his parents. I lost the scene. Luckily, my settings were almost good enough for a proper exposure and with some massaging, I was able to develop the film without losing too much detail—yes, I said “develop.” It was only dumb luck to get such a good composition from this image to include a triangle of people and dog looking back at me. In those days, we actually dealt with processing negatives and creating prints in darkrooms using chemicals in water trays. Those were the days, but we didn't know that then.



Vine Lady, Nashville, Tennessee, 2008.

Page 49

I was on a business trip to Nashville and stayed at the Gaylord Opryland hotel. In the evening, I was walking around the hotel property where a lady, dressed as a vine from head to toe and walking on stilts, was entertaining guests. I had a Fujifilm S5100 boasting 8 megapixels, mostly to take snaps during the trip. When the Vine Lady starting walking in my direction and posed for me, I shot about 12 different angles of her, all of which came out blurry except this one. A blurry photo is about as good as a Cuban cigar without a match —You can't do anything with it.



Worker Packaging Dried Squid, Ulleung-Do Island, South Korea, 2015.

Page 42

On a trip in South Korea, my wife and I visited Ulleung-Do Island which is famous for squid fishing. Walking about, I came upon this man packaging dried squid by hand in preparation for the market. As in most cases, I didn't realize it until after I saw the image on the computer for post-processing that his eyes were telling his story.



Fiori di Como #2, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2017.

Page 27

Working with the public relations office of a popular hotel and casino in Las Vegas, I received permission to bring a tri-

pod and my full camera gear to photograph this famous blown glass artwork in the ceiling of the reception desk area. The one caveat for safety was I had to do it around 3 in the morning when guest traffic was at its minimum and my tripod would not pose a hazard to people walking around in that area. Made sense to me because I've been there during the day and it is always extremely crowded. But I had carte blanche to photograph this great artwork and plenty of time which made it extremely fun. As you look at this artwork, it is extremely dark which forces the use of long shutter speeds to pull the detail out of the subject and along with heavy post-processing, you can get a good image.



Midnight Walk, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015.

Page 43

To me, this is the most peaceful street in the world. Lined by brick sidewalks, I was enjoying the fresh air of October around midnight on this street. I didn't have a DSLR camera with me because after all, who'd be out at midnight taking photos? In my mind, I saw a nice composition looking down this street but didn't think much of it until two young ladies passed me by as they were walking down the sidewalk. I grabbed my Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge, which I always have on me, and used its camera. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to set it to RAW imaging so I shot the image using its default JPG setting. You can acquire descent resolution from some cell phone cameras and this one didn't let me down.



A Rose, Henderson, Nevada, 2017.

Page 53

This is one of several images that are subjective, meaning, my interpretation to the viewer and required heavy post-processing to achieve. This was taken in my wife's rose garden in early evening and I thought the black & white version was more revealing than the original color straight photo. To me, this image draws the viewer's attention to the depths of the pedals without the distractions of outside elements. Hey! That's what art is, right?



Secretary in Secretary of State Office, Nevada, Capital Building, 2016.

Page 46

My wife and I were on a bus trip with my parents in upper Nevada and the capital building was one of its tour stops. There must have been about 60 people on our bus during this tour so I broke away from the group with my

Samsung camera and shot this image before the rest of them got to that point. I used every feature of my phone to garner the clearest photo I could possibly pull out resulting in good detail in this image. I find the main restriction using, even a 19 megapixel, phone camera is being restricted to prints no larger than 11x17. After that, it's a battle to maintain the clarity of the image.



Sand Dune, Death Valley, California, 2018.

Page 19

This image was also taken Jan. 30, 2018 during my first trip to Death Valley. Sand Dunes are difficult subjects to photograph and you have to

look for interesting compositions for each image. The best way to photograph these, and any image that requires clarity from front to rear, is make multiple exposures at various focal distances, then stitch (focus stack) all the images together to get front to rear focus. That's really the secret to good landscape photography.



Moonrise over Amargosa Range, Death Valley, California, 2018.

Page 4

This image was taken during moonrise Jan. 30, 2018. This was the first time I've been to Death Valley and my initial impression was, there wasn't much there. Later as I had the chance to explore more, I found plenty there. It was warm enough

at the end of January so I can't imagine how hot it gets in the middle of summer—and I plan not to find out. This photo was heavily burned to only highlight the moon, overcast and outline of the mountain making more dramatic than the straight image the camera captured.



Statue in Front of Display Screen, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2015.

Page 90

Walking the street on The Strip in Las Vegas is nothing short of a treasure trove of subjects to photograph. You can spend an entire

year picking out the smallest of subjects to create a photo that tells a story. This image was shot in front of The Venetian before the sun came up. The camera was focused on one of its statues with a large advertising display screen far off in the background. I only had to wait for the advertisements on the screen to recycle to this image of a woman, then click the shutter.



Route 190, Death Valley, California, 2018.

Page 14

This image was taken Feb. 8, 2018 while my wife and I were driving around Death Valley. The weather was gorgeous and we stopped the car and got out at this point. There was absolutely nothing interesting about this scene—

no dramatic clouds, no interesting terrain, nothing except a long road which, in itself, is not a big deal. Yet, I could envision a dramatic image as I was looking down the road and eventually came away with this image.



Weathered Stream, Death Valley, California, 2018.

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Another interpretive image. Black and white images are more challenging to me to manipulate than color. They also allow more opportunities to enhance as an art form but you have to deal with 11 grey zones and sometimes, you have

to work each zone to get the whole image to work right. The straight image out of the camera is probably the most boring picture you'll ever see and that's another reason converting images to black and white and massaging them can work in your favor.



Trees in the Mist, Zion National Park, Utah, 2018.

Page 51

It's very difficult to get dramatic photos at Zion unless you go there quite often when storms are in the area. I was there on a cloudless day during mid afternoon which most photographers know doesn't make for the best photographs.

Although the mountains and trees are true to the world as it really is, the mist is not. When I took this image, I thought to myself it would have been nice if there were some clouds or, in this case mist, in the area. Well, another learning curve at the computer.



Two Girls Enjoying the Day in a Field of Flowers, Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 2015.

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I selected this image to talk about because it's just a cute picture. The title says it all. This objective image, with minimal post-processing, just tells a wonderful story from half a world away. South Korea is a lovely, and accommodating, country to tourists interested in learning another culture. It's a much better choice than, say, North Korea as a destination to visit. This image reflects the attitude and appreciation Koreans have for people and nature around them.



Little Girl Looking at Creek water,
Gwang-Ju, South Korea, 1982.

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This image breaks one major rule—if you’re taking a photo of a person, consider including their face. I was walking around a small village in Korea and saw this little girl from a distance. I wondered to myself what she could possibly be contemplating as she was looking over this creek. She never noticed my presence when I photographed her. There’s something unique about this scene—but what exactly that may be, I may never know.



Gardener and Stand Attendant,
Ulleung-Do Island, South Korea,
2015.

Page 38

Ulleung-Do Island is about 80 miles off the east coast of South Korea. This island is small and a very unique place as much of the world’s squid derives from vast fishing that takes place from this island. It’s said that only 3 percent of the terrain on this island is flat—and after a lot of walking around there, I believe it. I make mention of this photo because there is a level of calmness looking at it revealing an aspect of Korean life.



Clouds over Walker Lake,
Nevada, 2016.

Page 3

This is a rare scene to see water this still, especially with clouds forming. These days, you can actually get this effect very easily in post-production but to take this objective image is a real treat. My wife, my parents and I were on a bus trip from Las Vegas to Reno when halfway to Reno, the bus drove by this scene. If someone on the bus hadn’t of asked the bus driver to pull over so we can get out and take photos, I never would have gotten this photographed.



Mother and Child, South Korea, 1984.

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I include this photo because I do very little portraiture. It’s not that I don’t want to do, but I haven’t had much opportunity to do so. I love the shadows and the story this photograph conveys to the viewer. To me, that’s what photography is about, even as an art form—more often, than not, a good photograph should convey some kind of a story and hopefully trigger some form of emotion from the viewer.

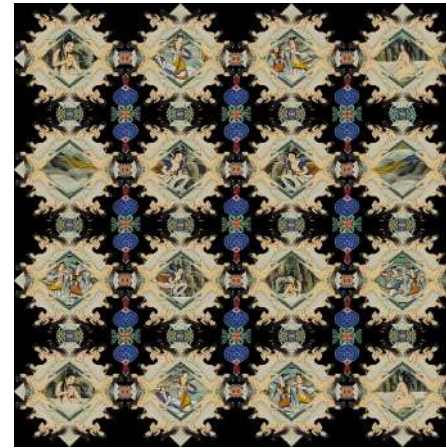


InDesign— 2019.

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During a photo walk down the Las Vegas Strip one day, I walked by one of the casinos that had a window with artwork on it. The basic artwork can be seen here but I elaborated

on the original artwork with a multitude of colors and design resulting in what is seen here which I refer to as InDesign because more design are within this one design.



Temple Artwork— 2019.

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This mandala is the culmination of various elements taken out of one photograph. I shot this photo in 2015 on the island of Jeju, South Korea, at a religious temple dedicated to, well, a religion. There were so many designs and colors just in this small section of the temple.



Fremont Street— 2019.

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This image is a composite of many photos I took on Fremont Street, Las Vegas. Of course gambling is the central theme with this image. If you like lots of lights, Fremont Street, along with The Strip, is the place to go.



Abstract Reality— 2019.

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This abstract image is a black and white version of a photograph taken in 2014 at Cloud Gate (also known as The Bean, because of its shape) in Chicago, Ill., located in Millennium Park in the Loop community area of the city.

