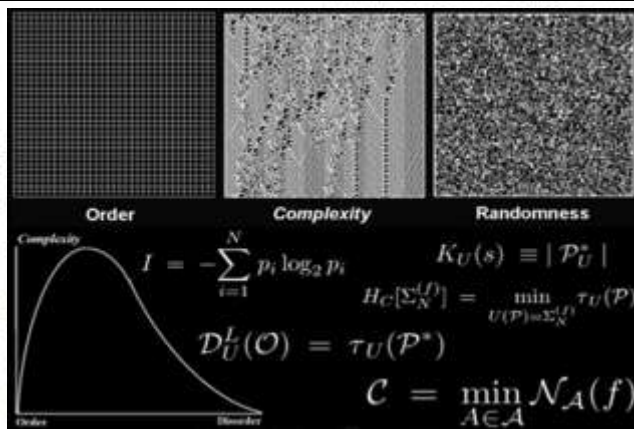


# Physics, Tao, and Fine-Art Photography

*Churchville Photography Club, June 2011*



...with just a little bit of *complexity* sprinkled in

Andy Ilachinski  
andy.ilachinski@gmail.com

<http://www.sudden-stillness.com>  
<http://tao-of-digital-photography.blogspot.com>

# Let's cut right to the chase

---

Physics and photography both define and revel in *categories, divisions, groupings, labels, orders, and partitions*; Tao reminds us of the fundamental absurdity of doing so! 😊

In a certain Chinese encyclopedia called the *Heavenly Emporium of Benevolent Knowledge*, (perhaps imagined, perhaps real), Jorge Luis Borges writes that

“...animals are divided into:

- (a) those that belong to the emperor;
- (b) embalmed ones; (c) those that are trained;
- (d) suckling pigs; (e) mermaids;
- (f) fabulous ones; (g) stray dogs;
- (h) those that are included in this classification;
- (i) those that tremble as if they were mad;
- (j) innumerable ones;
- (k) those drawn with a very fine camel's-hair brush;
- (l) etcetera; (m) those that have just broken the flower vase;
- (n) those that at a distance resemble flies.”

## Let's cut right to the chase

---

Physics and photography both define and revel in *categories, divisions, groupings, labels, orders, and partitions*; Tao reminds us of the fundamental absurdity of doing so! 😊

An artist is a *meta*-pattern  
of subjective order

Art is the transcendence  
of objective categories

# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? 😊
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- A sampling of portfolios

*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*

  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - *Tao*
  - “As Above; so Below” (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio

If time and  
interest  
warrants

- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
- Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
- Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

# Outline

---

- Who am I?
    - My approach to photography
      - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
      - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
    - A sampling of portfolios  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
      - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
      - *Micro Worlds*
      - *Abstract Glyphs*
      - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
      - *Tao*
      - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
    - So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
    - A sample print portfolio
- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
  - Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
  - Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

If time and  
interest  
warrants

# Timeline / Bio

Whatever I may know  
about light, tone,  
texture, form, and  
composition  
I learned by  
watching **my dad**

He was not a  
photographer,  
But was an artist  
*par excellence*

- **1960: Born / Glen Cove, Long Island, NY**

- **1970: First camera**

Polaroid instamatic / Christmas gift

First picture: (*abstract?*) *closeup of my right toe*

- **1978: First encounter with Tao**

*Chuang-Tzu: Inner Chapters*

- **1982: First “serious” camera**

*Canon AE-1*

- **1988: Ph.D. / theoretical physics**

*Discrete Complex Systems*

- **1998: First digital camera**

*Nikon Coolpix 950*

- **2001: First published book**

*Cellular Automata* (physics)

- **2002: First “serious” DSLR**

*Canon D60*

- **2007: First Solo Show**

*Coral Gables, Florida*

**First *Lenswork* portfolio**

*DVD Edition #71 / July-August*

- **2008: First self-published book**

*Hawaii, Blurb.com* (photography)

**First art co-op**

One of 14 founding members  
of *Lorton Arts*, Occoquan, VA

B&W / Darkroom

Photography: *Everything*  
(*that catches the eye*)

**Transition #1**

Color Slides

**Transition #2**

B&W / Photoshop

“Serious” printing: *outsourced*

Photography: *Things / Places*

**Transition #3**

B&W / Photoshop

“Serious” printing: *own*

Photography:  
*Feelings / Projects*

Started entering juried contests



My creative process is very simple:  
*I take pictures of what calms my soul.*

There may be other, more poetic words  
that may be used to define the “pattern”  
that connects my images, but the  
simplest meta-pattern is this:

I capture moments in time and space  
in which a peace washes gently over me,  
and during which I sense a deep  
interconnectedness between  
my soul and the world.

Not Cartier-Bresson’s  
“Decisive Moment,”  
but rather a...

***Sudden Stillness***



# Recent Photo Vitae

- **Spotlight Award Winner**  
*B&W Magazine* Portfolio Contest, Issue TBD, 2011-2012
- **Merit Awards (Animals & Pattern/Texture)**  
*B&W Magazine* Single Image Contest, Issue #80, 2011
- **Juried on-line exhibit**  
*F-Stop Magazine*, Abstraction, Issue #45, Feb 2011
- **Featured photo on music CD**  
*16:9*, Stuart Sweeney, debut album, 2011
- **Solo show, Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
Sponsored by the *Greater Reston Arts Center*, 2010
- **Curated Group Exhibit (1 of 3 artists)**  
*American Center for Physics*, College Park, MD, 2009/10
- **Small works exhibit , Belnavis Art Gallery**  
Springfield, VA, 2009
- **1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Juried photo exhibit**  
*RoHo Photo Gallery*, Cincinnati, OH, 2009
- **Photography Workhouse Society**  
*Lorton Arts*, VA, 2008/09
- **Finalist (Architecture)**  
*B&W Spider Awards*, 2009
- **Wall calendar and datebook**  
*Change Your Mind, Change Your Life*  
by Wayne Dyer (Amber Lotus Publishing, 2010)
- **Featured Artist / After Words**  
*Northern Virginia* magazine, August 2009
- **"Micro Worlds" portfolio**  
*Lenswork* magazine, Print & Extended Edition  
Issue #76 (May-June, 2008)
- **Merit award, single-image contest**  
*Black & White* magazine, 2008
- **Merit Award (Abstraction)**  
*B&W Magazine* Single Image Contest, Issue #56, 2008
- **Semi-finalist, *Photographer's Forum* magazine**  
Annual Contest , 2008
- **Honorable mention**  
*Photo Techniques*, portfolio contest, 2008
- **Solo Exhibit (32 Photographs, 2007)**  
*Books & Books / Gallery*, Coral Gables, FL
- **Honorable Mention**  
*Photo Techniques*, Portfolio Contest, 2007
- **"Spirit & Light" portfolio**  
*Lenswork* magazine, Extended Edition  
Issue #71 (July-August, 2007)
- **Winner of book contest**  
U.K. *B&W* magazine and *Envisage Books*, 2007
- **"Entropic Melodies Series" portfolio**  
*Focus Magazine*, April 2006
- **Merit of Excellence (Abstracts)**  
*2007 B&W Spider Awards*
- **Portfolio contest winner**  
*Black & White* magazine, Feb 2006
- **Merit award, *Abstract Exposure***  
Oct 2006 juried on-line exhibit
- **Finalist, *Photographer's Forum* magazine**  
Annual Contest , 2005
- **Third Place, photo contest**  
*Sybex Publishing* gallery contest, 2005



# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- **My approach to photography**
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? 😊
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- A sampling of portfolios  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - *Tao*
  - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio

If time and  
interest  
warrants

- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
- Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
- Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

# A Lesson from a *Physicist*

---

“Thought creates the world,  
and then says,  
‘I didn’t do it.’”

— DAVID BOHM  
*Physicist* (1917 - 1992 )



# A Lesson from a *Photographer*

---



“There is no closed figure in nature  
Every shape participates with another.  
No one thing is independent of another,  
and one thing rhymes with another,  
and light gives them shape.”

— HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON, *Photographer / Artist* (1908 - 2004 )

# A Lesson from *Taoist Master*



“Before I had studied Zen for thirty years,  
I saw mountains as mountains, and waters as waters...

When I arrived at a more intimate knowledge, I came to the point where I saw  
that mountains are not mountains, and waters are not waters.

But now that I have got its very substance I am at rest.  
For it's just that I see mountains once again as mountains,  
and waters once again as waters.”

— Ching-te Ch'uan Teng-lu (*“Transmission of the Lamp”*)

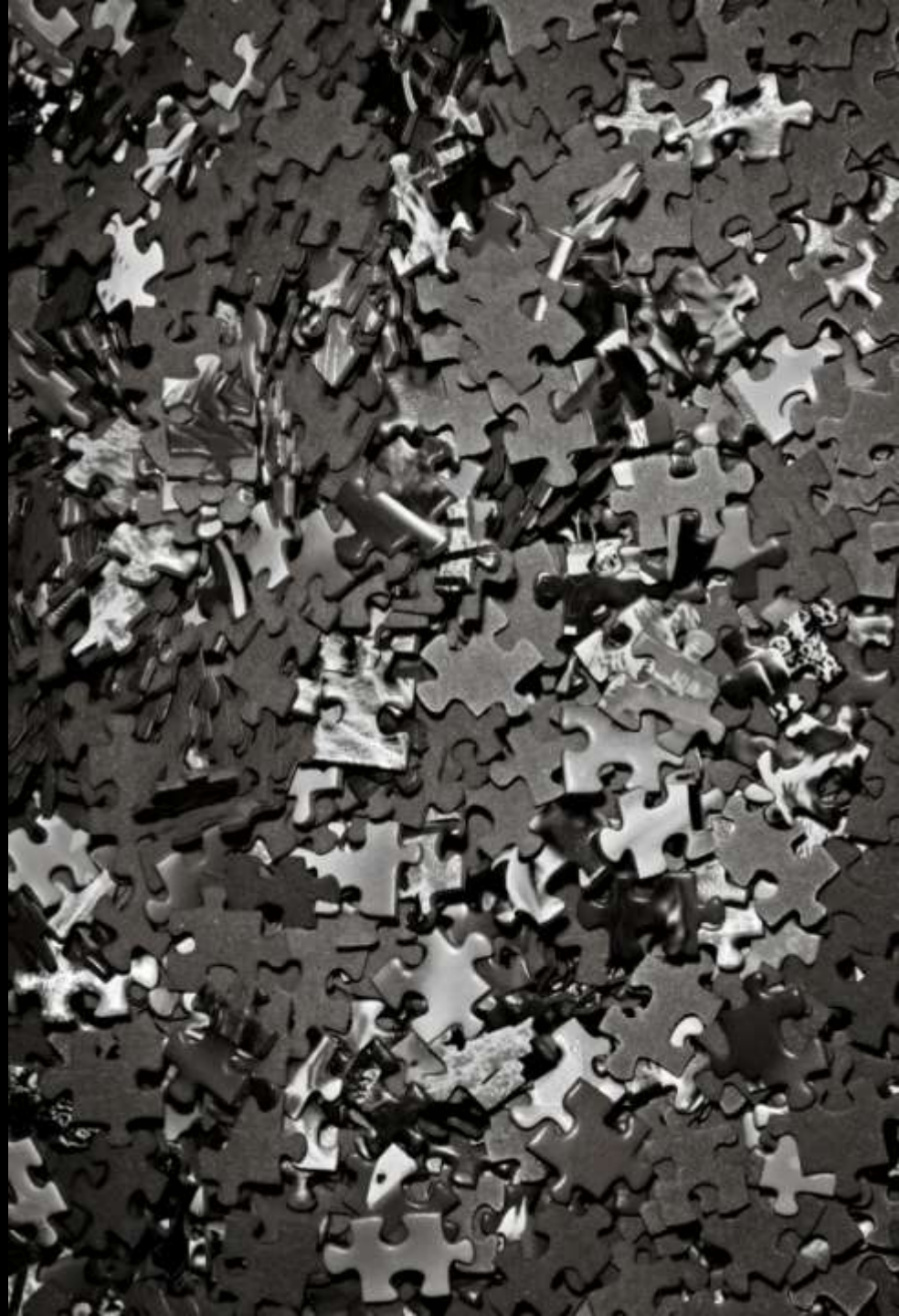


## Takeaway #1

*All partitions are arbitrary*

“The division of the perceived universe  
into parts and wholes is convenient  
and may be necessary,  
but no necessity determines  
how it shall be done.”

— GREGORY BATESON  
(*Anthropologist*, 1904 – 1980)



## Takeaway #2

*There are no things, just processes*



“All is process. That is to say, there is ‘no thing’ in the universe. Things, objects, entities, are abstractions of what is relatively constant from a process of movement and transformation.

They are like the shapes that children like to see in clouds..”

— DAVID BOHM  
(Physicist, 1917 – 1992)

## Takeaway #3

*All is organized energy*

“Science shows us that  
the visible world is  
neither matter nor spirit;  
the visible world is the  
invisible organization of energy.”

— HEINZ PAGELS  
(*Physicist*, 1939 – 1988)





# At first, the *photographer* finds the *picture*...

Something about the *photographer* draws him to it



# At first, the *photographer* finds the *picture*...

Something about the *photographer* draws him to it

## Physicist

Light,  
Entropy,  
Geometry

## Poet

Romance,  
History,  
Culture



## Photographer A

Textures,  
Landscape

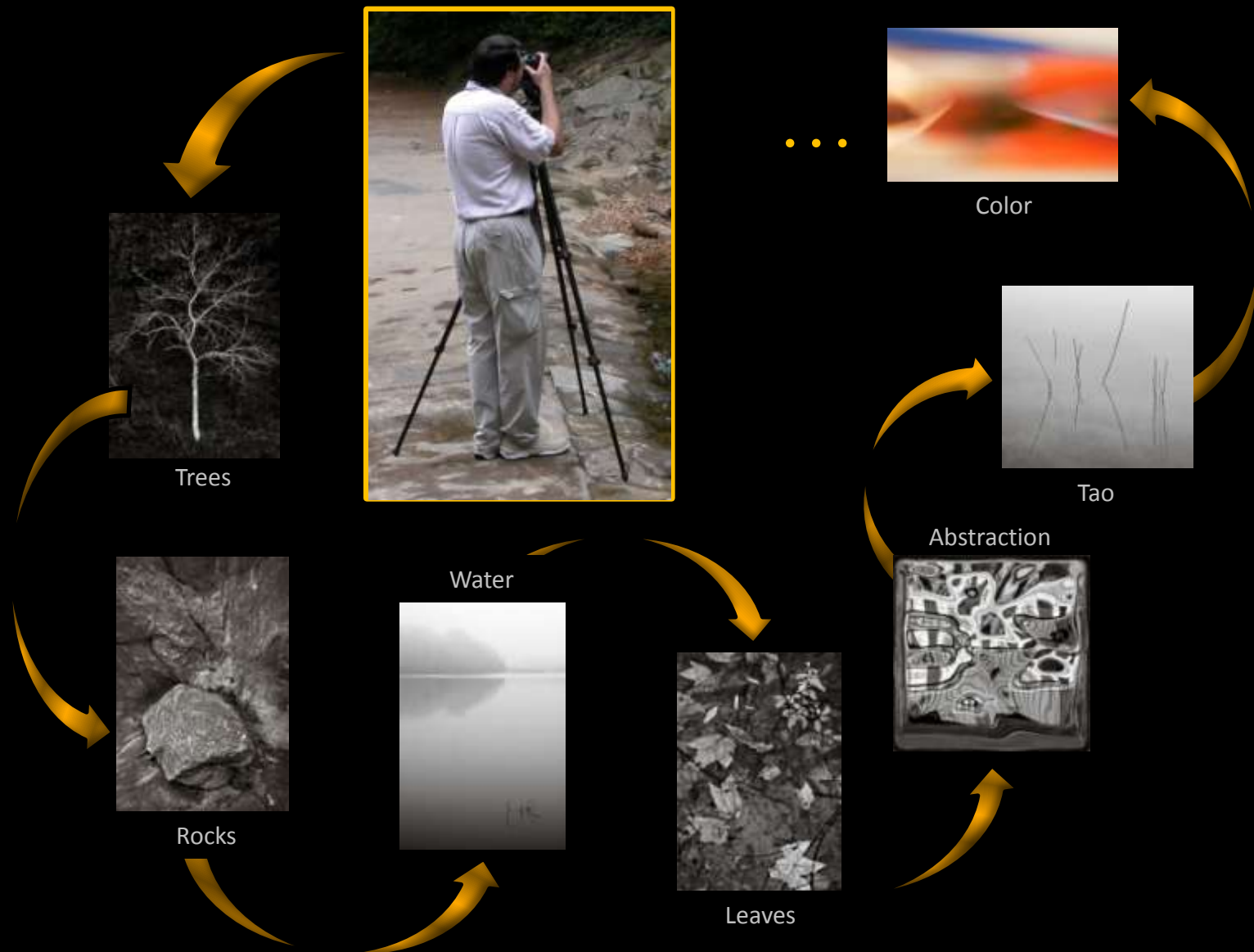
## Photographer B

Dilapidated door,  
Contrast

## Photographer C

Tones,  
Forms

...the *pictures* discover a *path*...



# ...the path *assembles* itself...

**Physics**

**Tao**  
("Path")

**Photography**

## Common Theme

*Relationship between  
the Whole and its Parts*

**Physics**

*Micro ↔ Macro*

**Tao**

*"I" ↔ Cosmos*

**Photography**

*Compositional  
Elements ↔ Image /  
Meaning*

*Emergence,  
Transcendence*

## A collage of various black and white photographs arranged in a circular pattern around a central image of a person on a tripod. The central image is framed in yellow. The surrounding images include landscapes, buildings, and nature scenes, connected by yellow arrows indicating a sequence or flow.

Shortly before his death,  
he discovers that the  
patient labyrinth of lines traces  
the image of his own face.”

— Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986)





## Tao of Photography by Andy Hachinski

MUSINGS, SPECULATIONS, AND LINKS RELATING TO  
PHOTOGRAPHY, SCIENCE, ART, AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS  
(AND AN OCCASIONAL IMAGE OR TWO)

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2011

### Luray Caverns Portfolio



This is a short note to announce the availability of my self-published portfolio of 66 duotoned black and white images from a photo-shoot at *Luray Caverns* (in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley). I have written about my adventure there in posts a couple of weeks ago; here are links to part 1, part 2, and part 3. A mini on-line portfolio of 16 select images is also available here.

I will always remember my experience in Luray as (the title of my first blog entry about it suggests) was a joyous meditation in a subterranean cosmos. Luray is truly an otherworldly place, particularly so when (as I was privileged to be, by the generosity of the Luray staff, to whom the book is dedicated) one is an almost lone observer, displaced and cocooned in time and space. Motion and sound are nonexistent, except for the eerie echoes of the "plop-plops" of water droplets slowly, ever so slowly, adding to Luray's vast storehouse of stalactite / stalagmite forms; one's own breathing is the only reminder of "life on the outside." Alone, wandering around Luray's preternaturally beautiful, underground vistas of rock and space, it is easy to forget one's normal bearings in space and time. It is, in the end, a timeless void of mystery and wonder.

Thank you, Luray, for your kind hospitality in welcoming this awed photographer (and amateur philosopher of life)!

4 COMMENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011

### It's Not About the Images



While there is perhaps a province in which the photograph can tell us nothing more than what we see with our own eyes, there is another in which it proves to us how little our eyes permit us to see.  
- Dorothea Lange (1895 - 1965)

"Writing is not about words.  
Painting is not about pigments.  
Music is not about tones.  
As long as photographers insist that photography is about photographs, the art is limited and self-containing."  
- Brooks Jensen, *Lenox* (Issue 18, Summer 1997)

3 COMMENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

### Quiet Mind



SLIDESHOW



INFORMATION FIELD

Abstracts id-mendels  
Aesthetics Jim Voss Ansel Adams  
Autism Burt Books Book  
Review Borges Cameras Luray Caverns  
Dance The Clouds Color  
Creative Process Two Doors  
Entrap Melodies Epiphanous  
Photos Exhibits Florida Flow ing  
Geometry Hawaii ice Landscapes  
Use the Leaves Lenox Moore  
White Wine Musings Photo Safari  
Photographs Portfolios  
Quotes Books Science  
Science Speculation Scotland  
Seascapes Swiss Spirit Still Lives  
Survival Story Behind Photo  
Synesthesia Travel Trees  
Water Windows from Zen

SEARCH THIS BLOG



BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2011 (50)  
▼ May (6)  
Luray Caverns Portfolio  
It's Not About the Images  
Quiet Mind  
Seeing is Forgetting the  
Name of the Thing One  
Saw...  
Self-Same Distinctions  
Nature's Dance  
► April (10)  
► March (8)  
► February (9)  
► January (17)  
► 2010 (45)  
► 2009 (27)  
► 2008 (19)  
► 2007 (26)  
► 2006 (57)  
► 2005 (11)  
► 2004 (2)

RECENT PORTFOLIOS

Sudden Stillness (My Web Gallery)  
Luray Caverns (As Above, So  
Below: A Harmony of  
Contrasts)  
Synesthetic Landscapes  
Scotland  
Swiss, Whorls, and Tendrils  
Abstract Glyphs  
Ice Abstracts  
Mythic Flame  
Micro Worlds  
Sanctuary, Greece  
Tao  
3rd-gallery (Flash) Portfolio  
Tao of Photography Gallery  
Facebook Portfolio  
Piazza Web Portfolio  
Piazza Web Portfolio SLIDESHOW  
Washington Project for the Arts

BOOKS / PAPERS /  
PRESENTATIONS BY AUTHOR

Hachinski Studios Bookstore  
Abstract Glyphs  
As Above, So Below: A Harmony of  
Contrasts (Luray Caverns)  
Epiphanous

<http://tao-of-digital-photography.blogspot.com>

## Most popular entries...

- *Ergodicity and (Abstract) Art*  
May 2006
- *Learning to See from the Blind*  
January 2009
- *Unconscious Influence and the Creative Process*  
February 2009
- *Sting, Goethe, and the Creative Process*  
August 2010
- *Implicate Order, Enfolded Centers*  
January 2011
- *Toward an Aesthetic Grammar*  
April 2007
- *Traversing an N-Dimensional Aesthetic Space*  
March 2009
- *The Click of the Shutter Button...  
and A Deep Mystery*  
November 2008

# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- **A sampling of portfolios**  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - ***Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy*** (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - *Tao*
  - “As Above; so Below” (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio
  - East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
  - Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
  - Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

If time and  
interest  
warrants



# Sudden Stillness / U.K. Black & White Magazine Book Contest (2007)



*Chaos*



*Order*



*Complexity*



*Entropy*

The book is a meditation on using photographs as tokens of a visual grammar to communicate one photographer's fragmentary impressions of some of nature's basic patterns; partly as a physicist (with a physicist's eye and understanding of chaos, order, complexity and entropy), and partly as an artist (with an appreciation of the subjective character of each of these four rhythms).

I am hoping that the book can also serve as a palimpsest of the author's – and reader's – process of self discovery: as nature is quietly revealed, through four "movements" of snapshots of its timeless rhythms, the reader will discover visual echoes of herself experiencing nature, as *sudden stillness*.



# Chaos

*“To divine the significance of pattern is the same as to understand beauty itself.”*

— Yanagi Soetsu, *Philosopher* (1889 – 1961)

















# Order

---

*“We have to remember that what we observe is not nature in itself  
but nature exposed to our method of questioning.” — W. Heisenberg, Physicist (1901 – 1976)*

















# Complexity

*"I've always been fascinated with the idea that complexity can come out of such simplicity."*

— Will Wright, *Game Designer / Systems Theorist* (1960 – )





















# Entropy

---

*"Only entropy comes easy."* — Anton Chekov, *Author* (1860 – 1904)



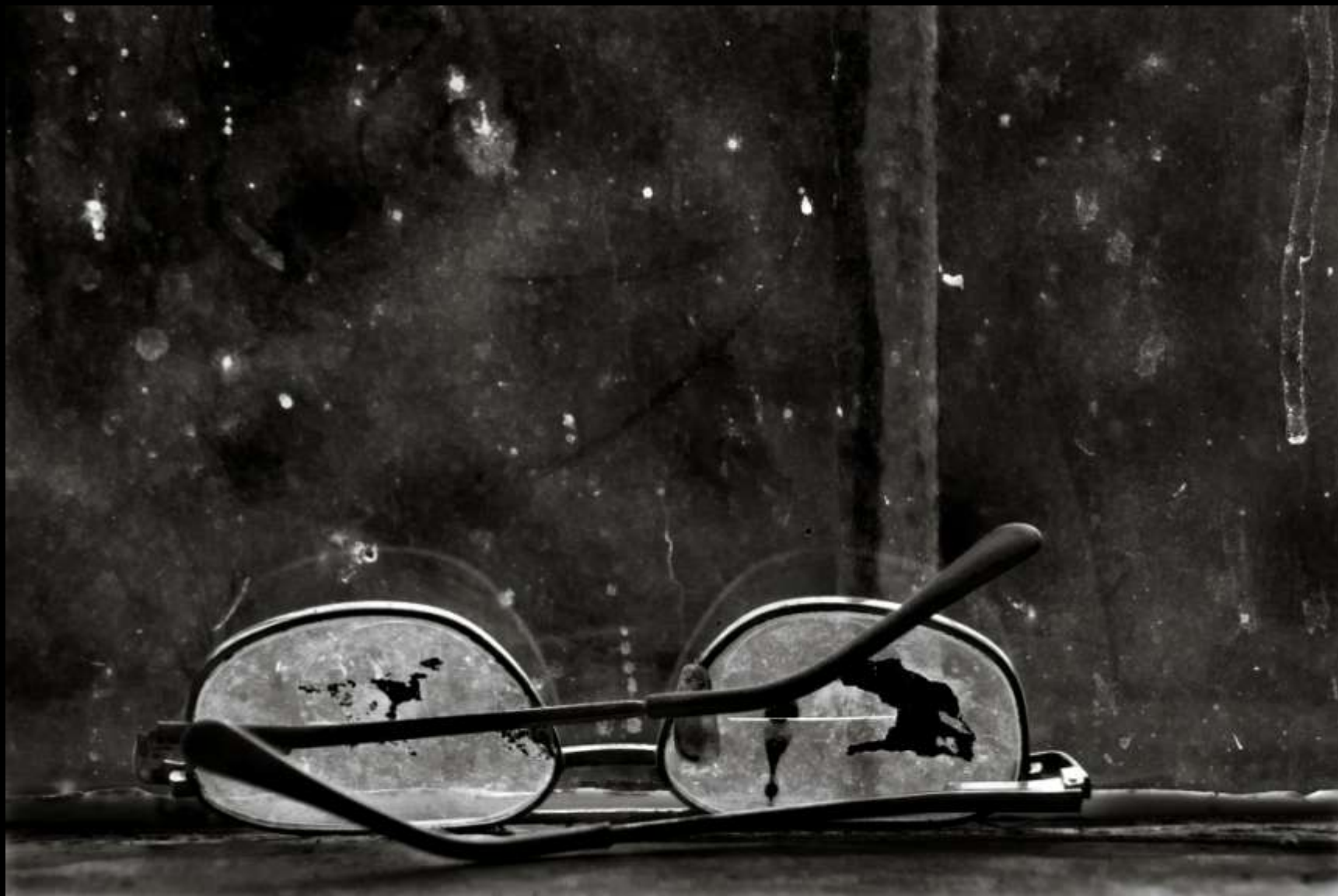
















# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- **A sampling of portfolios**  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - ***Micro Worlds***
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - *Tao*
  - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio

If time and  
interest  
warrants

- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
- Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
- Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

# A “planned” day of rocks & water variety

---



Came home from a long photo-safari at Great Falls, during which I took many soon-to-be-forgotten photos of the usual rocks-and-water variety

Sat down to dinner with my family

As my fork was about to pierce the skin of a potato, my wife nonchalantly placed two small acrylic candle holders with *trapped air bubbles inside* on the table

My “eye” was consumed for the next 4 months



“Micro Worlds” portfolio  
*Lenswork*, Issue #76 (May-June , 2008)















# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- **A sampling of portfolios**  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - ***Abstract Glyphs***
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - *Tao*
  - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio
  - East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
  - Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
  - Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

If time and  
interest  
warrants

# Abstract Glyphs

---



“Everything in the world  
has a hidden meaning. . .  
Men, animals, trees, stars,  
they are all hieroglyphics.

When you see them  
you do not understand them.  
You think they are really  
men, animals, trees, stars.

It is only years later  
that you understand.”

— NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS  
(1883 - 1957)

















# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- **A sampling of portfolios**  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - ***Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils***
  - *Tao*
  - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio

If time and  
interest  
warrants

- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
- Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
- Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

# “Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils”

---

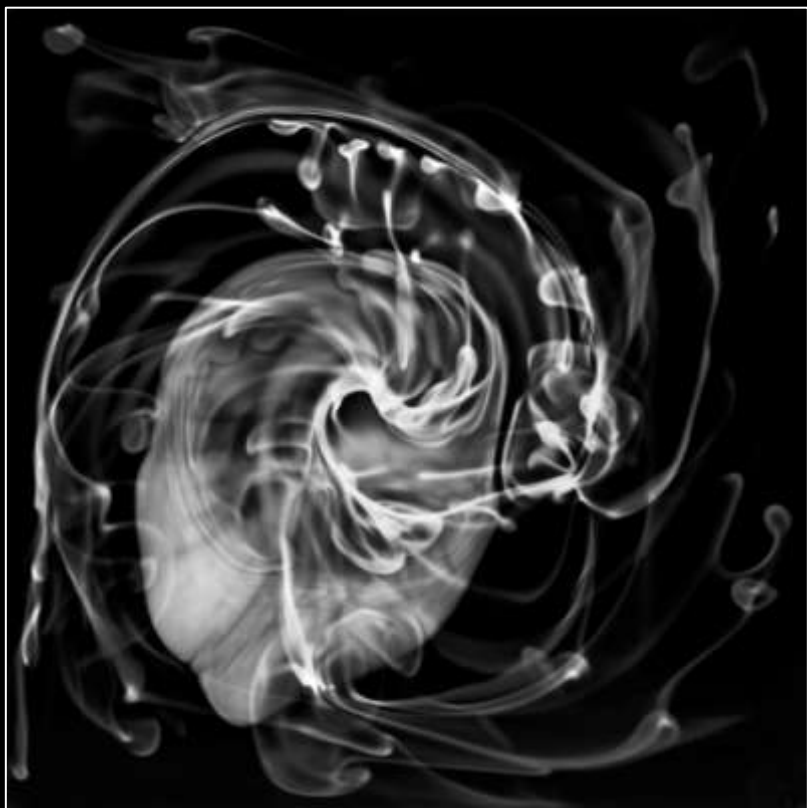


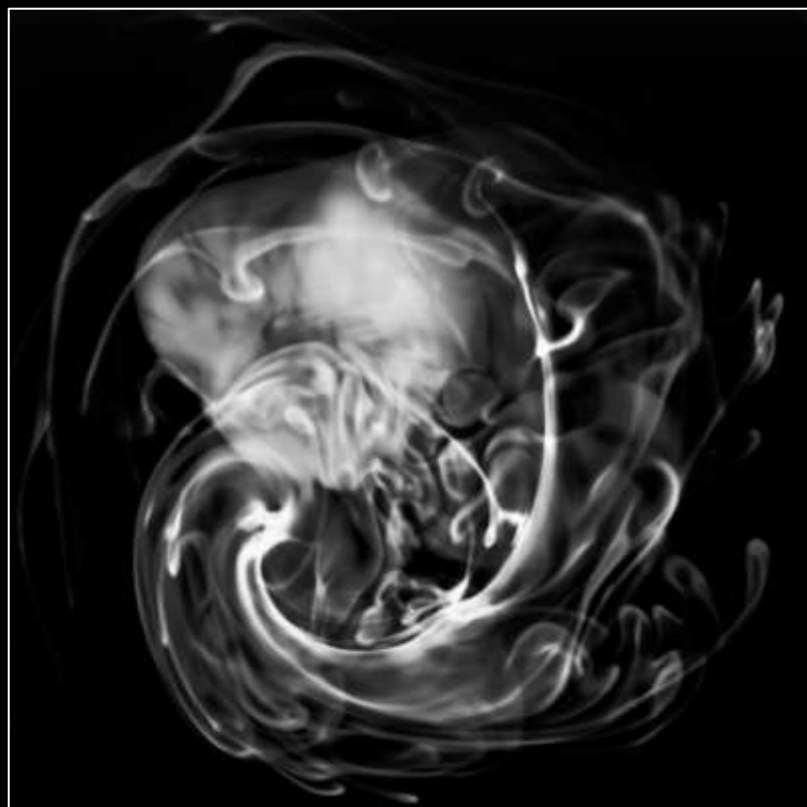
My younger son (Josh, 7) accidentally  
dropped a newspaper that I had written  
something on with a fountain pen  
into the sink

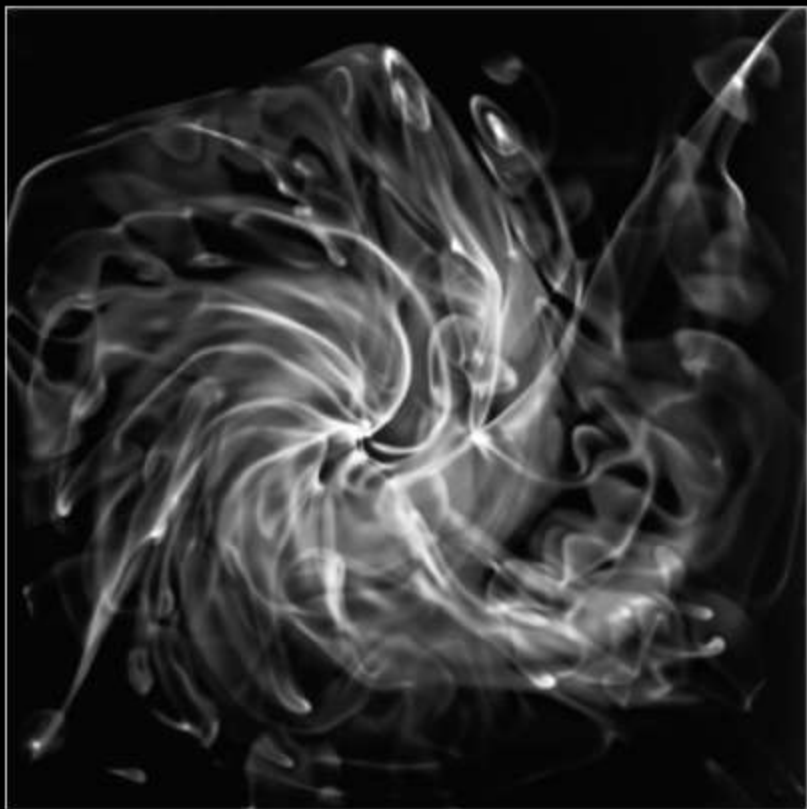
*I noticed an interesting pattern ...*

“Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils” portfolio  
(March 2009)

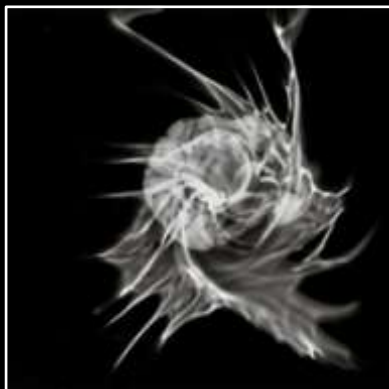
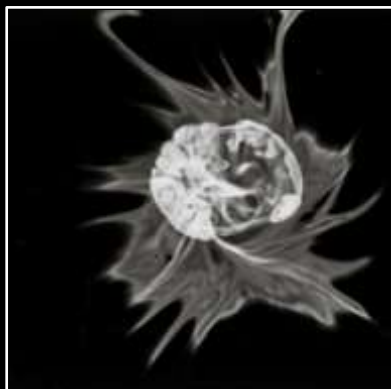


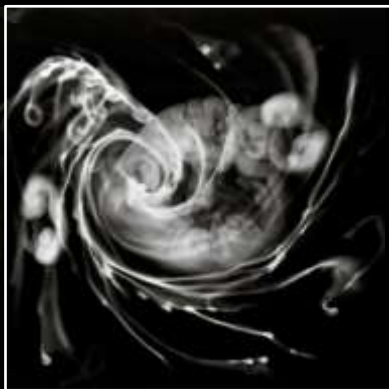






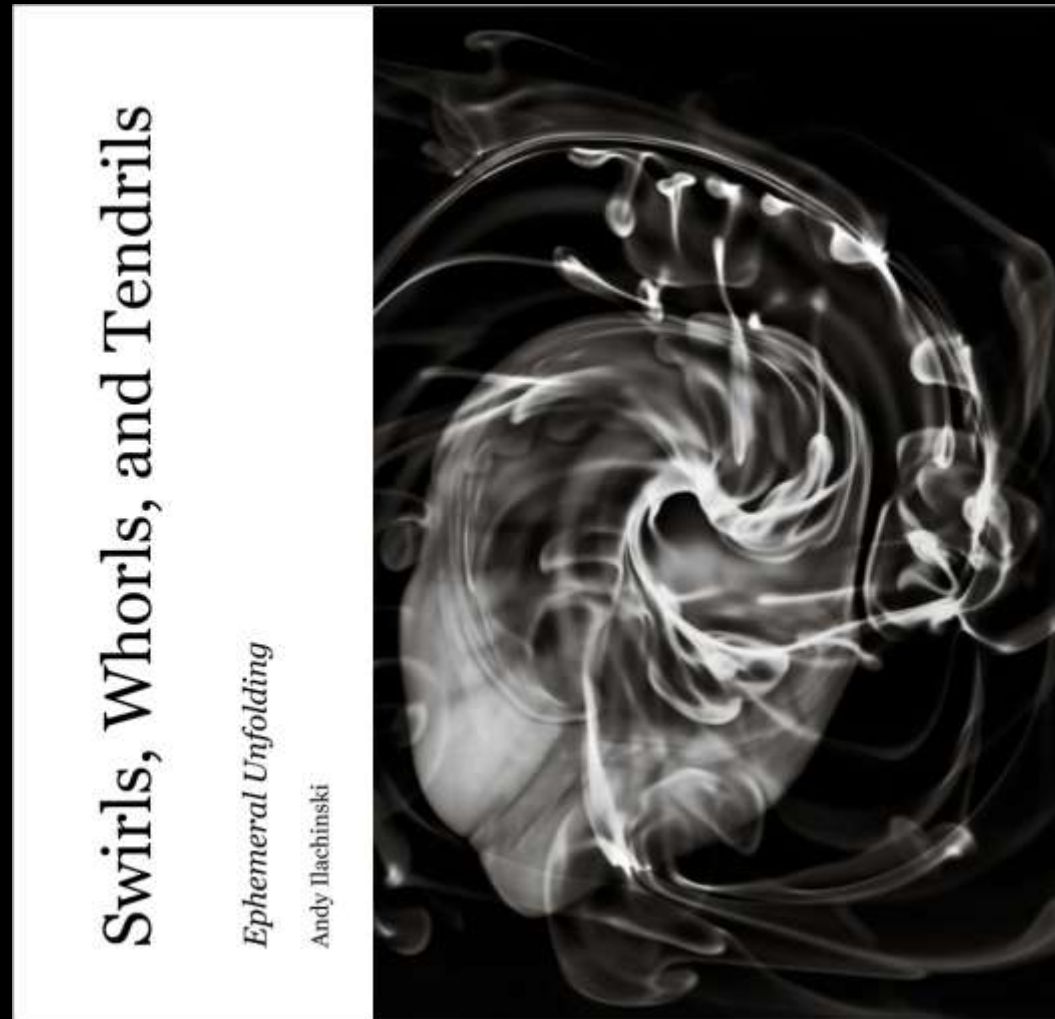






# “Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils”

---



<http://www.blurb.com/my/book/detail/874142>



# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- **A sampling of portfolios**  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - ***Tao***
  - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio

If time and  
interest  
warrants

- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
- Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
- Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

# Tao



“The use the order of words to try to explain life is really as clumsy an operation as trying to drink water with a fork.”

— ALAN WATTS, Philosopher (1915 – 1973)

















# Outline

---

- Who am I?
  - My approach to photography
    - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
    - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
  - **A sampling of portfolios**  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
    - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
    - *Micro Worlds*
    - *Abstract Glyphs*
    - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
    - *Tao*
    - **“As Above; so Below”** (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
  - So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
  - A sample print portfolio
- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
  - Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
  - Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

If time and  
interest  
warrants

# “As Above, So Below”

---



Despite having visited *Luray Caverns* countless times...

I never took anything other than a small “point and shoot” camera, relegating family picture taking chores to my wife.

Until earlier this year, when I finally got the nerve to ask (and be granted!)  
*a full day in the caverns!*



**Will appear in *Lenswork***  
(Issue #95, July / August 2011)  
Print & Extended DVD Editions

















# Sneak Peek: *Work in Progress* ...

---



Synesthetic Landscapes

# Outline

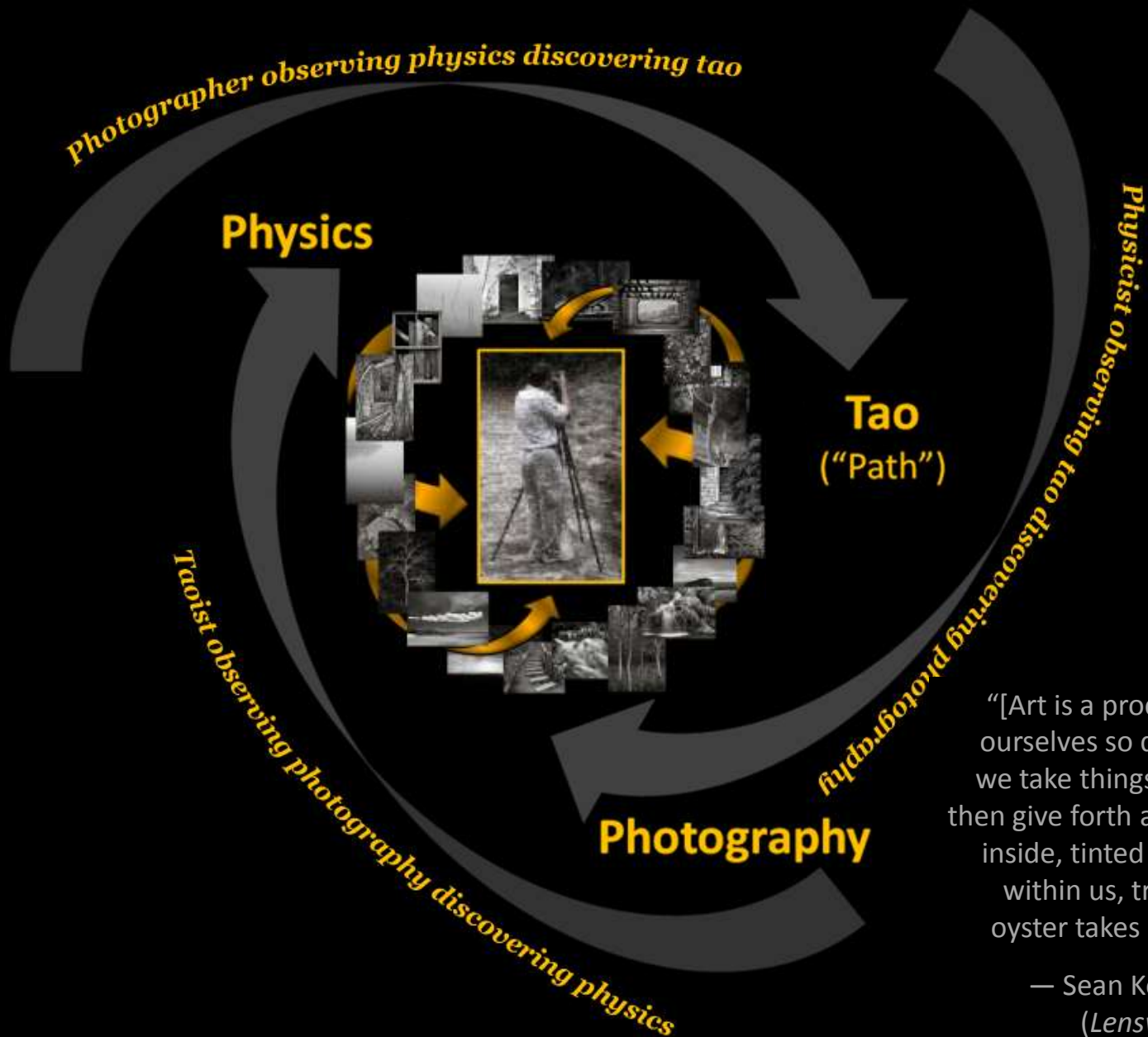
---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- A sampling of portfolios  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - *Tao*
  - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio
  - East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
  - Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
  - Search for meaning – *universal grammars*

If time and  
interest  
warrants

So, am I a photographer-*physicist*, a physicist-*photographer*, or ...

---



"[Art is a process] ... in which we give ourselves so deeply to our seeing that we take things right into ourselves and then give forth a new version of them from inside, tinted by all of the possibilities within us, transformed the way an oyster takes grit and makes a pearl."

— Sean Kernan, *Photographer*  
(*Lenswork*, May 2004)

“Whether you are going or staying or sitting or lying down,  
the whole world is your own self.

You must find out  
whether the mountains, rivers, grass, and forests  
exist in your own mind or exist outside it.

Analyze the ten thousand things,  
dissect them minutely,  
and when you take this to the limit  
you will come to the limitless,  
when you search into it you come to the end of search,  
where thinking goes no further and distinctions vanish.

When you smash the citadel of doubt,  
then the Buddha is simply yourself.”

— DAIKAKU  
*Zen Master* (1213 – 1278)



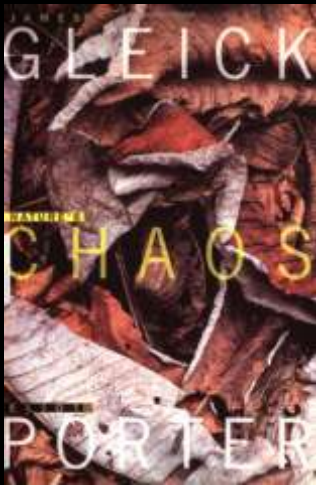


“When words become unclear,  
I shall focus with photographs.  
When images become inadequate,  
I shall be content with silence.”

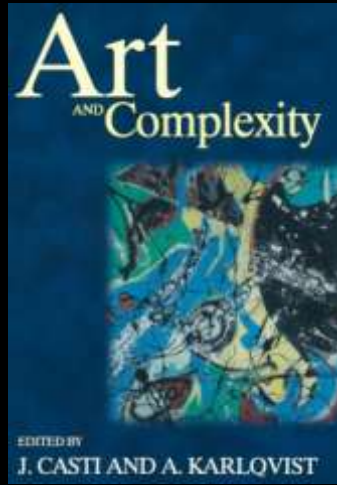
— ANSEL ADAMS

# References

Some books on *physics / complexity / tao / photography / art*



*Nature's Chaos*  
J. Gleick, Eliot Porter



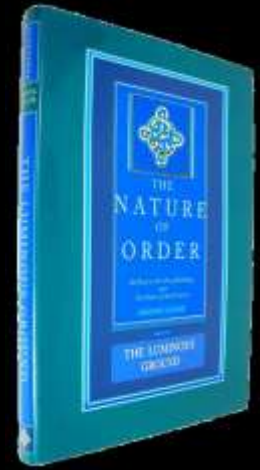
*Art & Complexity*  
J. Casti, A. Karlqvist  
(editors)



*The Great Image  
Has No Form*  
Francois Jullien



*Exploring the Invisible*  
Lynn Gamwell



*Nature of Order*  
Christopher  
Alexander

Please visit my website...  
<http://www.sudden-stillness.com>

[home](#)

[gallery](#)

[older portfolios](#)

[books](#)

[links](#)

[about](#)

[contact](#)

## Sudden Stillness

*Fine-Art Photography by Andy Ilachinski*



Scotland



Whorls



Micro



Flame



Color



Glyphs



Ice



Greece



Tao

[PORTFOLIOS](#) | [FEATURED PORTFOLIO](#) | [BLOG](#) | [SOUND](#)

# Outline

---

- Who am I?
- My approach to photography
  - *Physics / complexity / Tao / photography*  
Strange bedfellows... what do they have in common? ☺
  - My blog – *public dialectic on physics and photography*
- A sampling of portfolios  
*Examples of how one “photographic eye” is informed / guided by physics and Tao*
  - *Chaos, Order, Complexity, Entropy* (“Sudden Stillness” book)
  - *Micro Worlds*
  - *Abstract Glyphs*
  - *Swirls, Whorls, and Tendrils*
  - *Tao*
  - *“As Above; so Below”* (latest project: Luray caverns, VA)
- So, am I a photographer-physicist, a physicist-photographer, or ...
- A sample print portfolio

If time and  
interest  
warrants

- East & West – *aesthetic lessons*
- Parts & wholes – *insights from complexity*
- Search for meaning – *universal grammars*