

Camera Sonata Nos. 6, 7, 15 & 16

By Ron Johnson

A Violet Crown Photographs Publication



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Welcome to my first e-Portfolio. Photography books or normal paper portfolios are expensive, so I decided to publish an e-Portfolio simply to make these images more affordable; art must be accessible if its to have any value.

Let me explain briefly what I am trying accomplish artistically. My web site uses a quote from William Blake: "As a man is, so he sees." This quote recognizes the difference between seeing, a purely physical act, and perceiving, a mental-spiritual act based on the totality of a person's life experience.

I am *not* merely a documentarian. Rather, I create an image of what I perceived, extracting it

from the clutter of the totality of the data captured by the camera, which is something quite different. To do this, I remove my subject from its context by shifting the scale, depth of field, contrast, saturation, view angle, etc., to strip the viewer of his or her prejudice about what the subject is supposed to look like so they can look afresh at the world; the beggar and the poet may look at the same tree, but only the poet sees the miracle that is a tree.

This approach is not new, although the level of control offered by digital capture allows a more adventurous approach. Ansel Adams, who is famous for landscapes that most consider "realistic," was not a mere documentarian either. In *Examples: The Making of 40 Photographs* he wrote:

Most photographers realize that in their art, above all other graphic arts, subject can both dominate and restrict if the essential elements of creative expression are not clearly applied. The function of abstract art is to free the qualities of form, line, value, and color from the usually imperative domination of subject. A photograph can never be as free of the entanglements of subject as can a painting, *but the medium does permit a wide range of points-of-view and nonrealistic values.* [emphasis added]

Finally, where practical I display my images in what I call "Camera Sonatas." In the world of music a composer juxtaposes and contrasts movements thereby enriching the listening experience, *e.g.*, fast versus slow, bright versus sad, 4/4 time versus 3/4 time, etc. I do the same thing with my images for the same reasons.

I invite you to visit the [Blog](#) section of my web site for much more in depth discussions of art and photography.

Let me close with a favorite quote of mine:

Thus I live at leisure, brandishing my wine cup and sounding my lute. I unroll paintings and face them in solitude; seated, I plumb the four ends of the earth...simply responding to the uninhabited wilderness, where grottoed peaks tower on high and cloudy forests mass in depth. The sages and virtuous men shed reflected light from the distant past and myriad delights are fused with their spirits and their thoughts. What should I do then? Freely expand my spirit, that is all. What should be placed higher than that which expands the spirit?

Tsung Ping



Coral and lava rocks

Camera Sonata No. 6

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ◀ ▶



Lava rock at Sunset Beach, HI

Camera Sonata No. 6

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



Bird Sanctuary, Port Aransas TX

Camera Sonata No. 6

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



African Iris

Camera Sonata No. 6

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



Sunlit Curtains

Camera Sonata No. 7

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

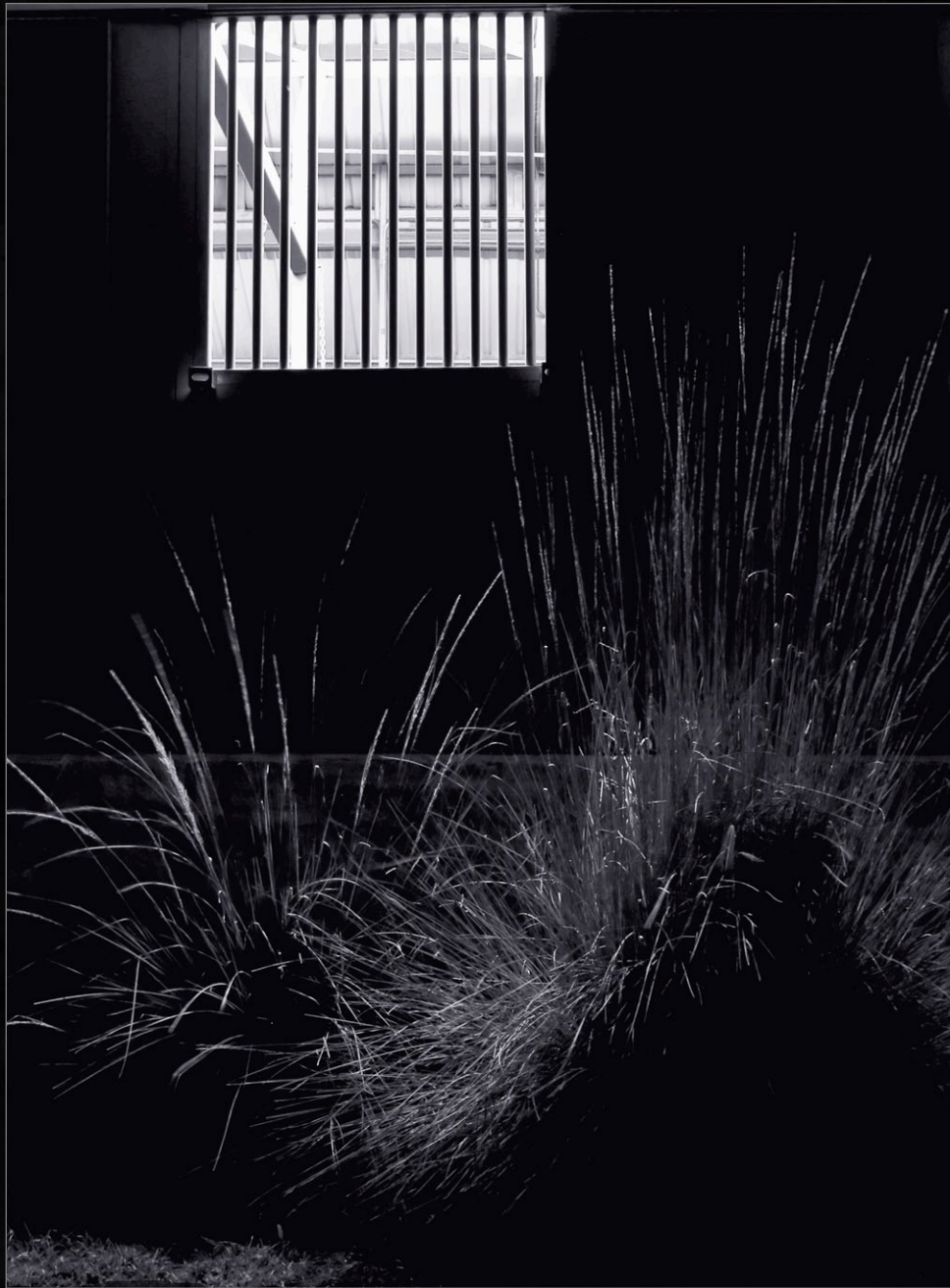


Morning sun

Camera Sonata No. 7

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



Barn light

Camera Sonata No. 7

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



View from Palazzo Massimo, Rome

Camera Sonata No. 7

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



Cellar window, Germany

Camera Sonata No. 7

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



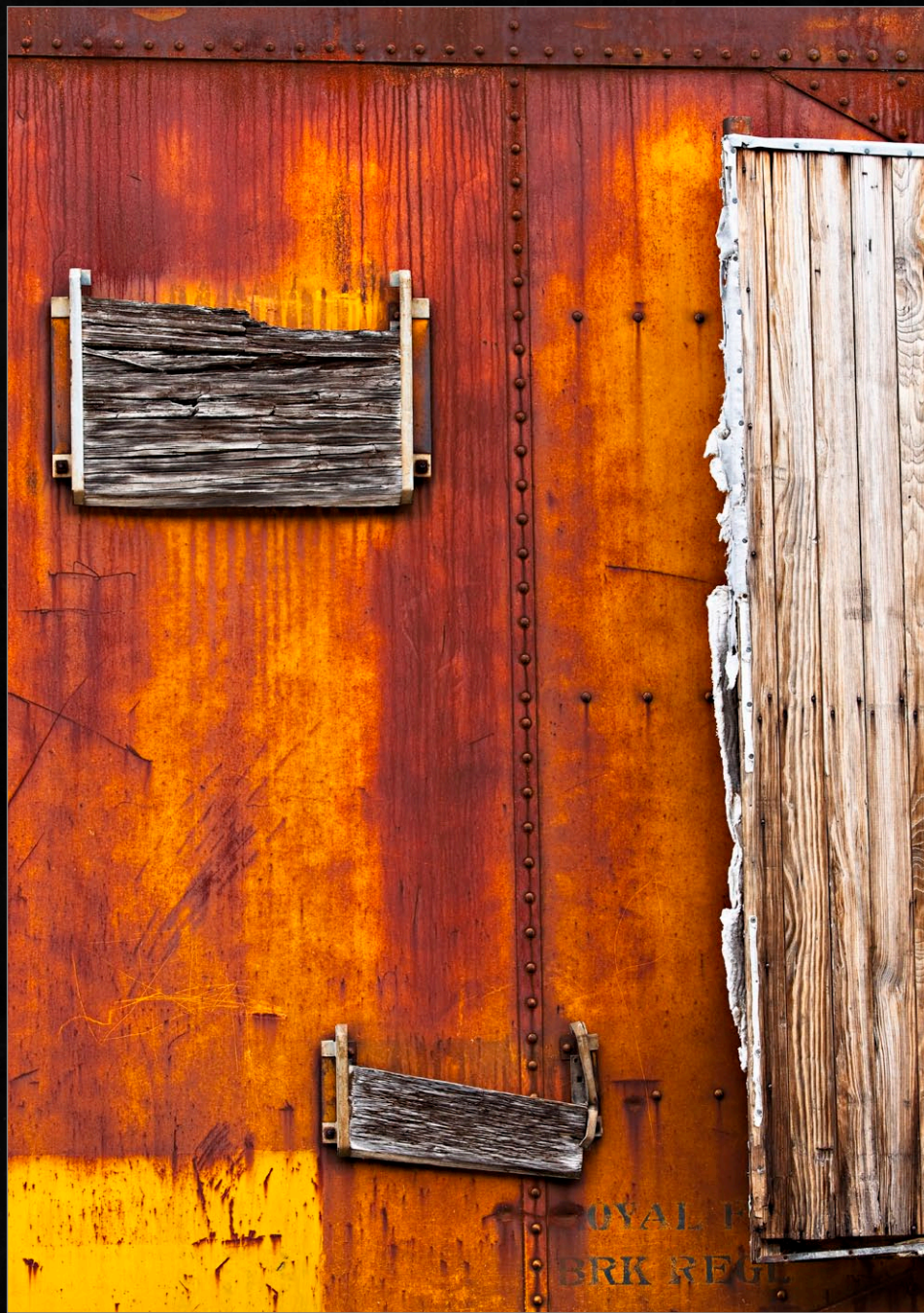
Portrait of a box car

Camera Sonata No. 15



Refrigerator car door

Camera Sonata No. 15

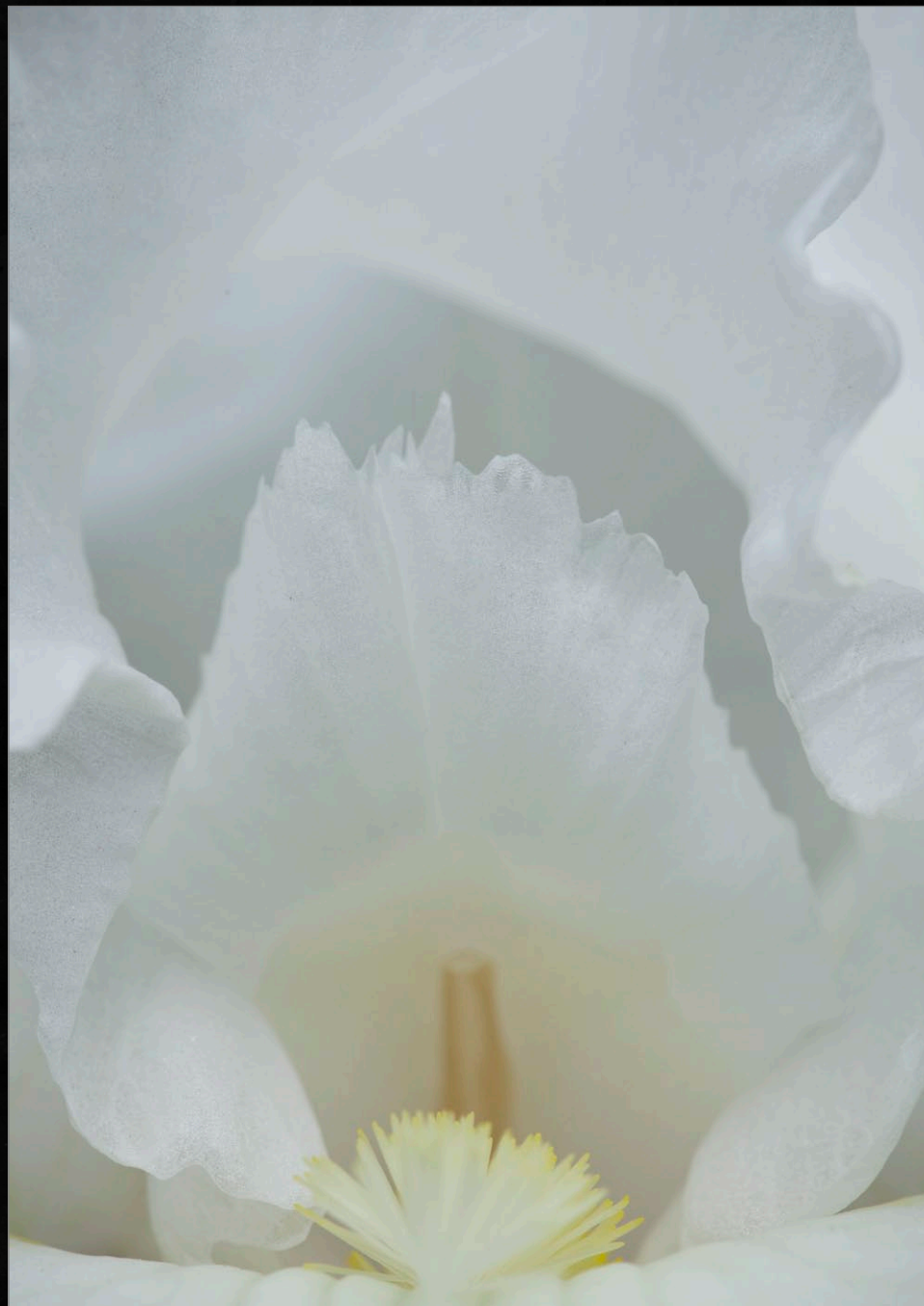


Refrigerator car door II

Camera Sonata No. 15

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

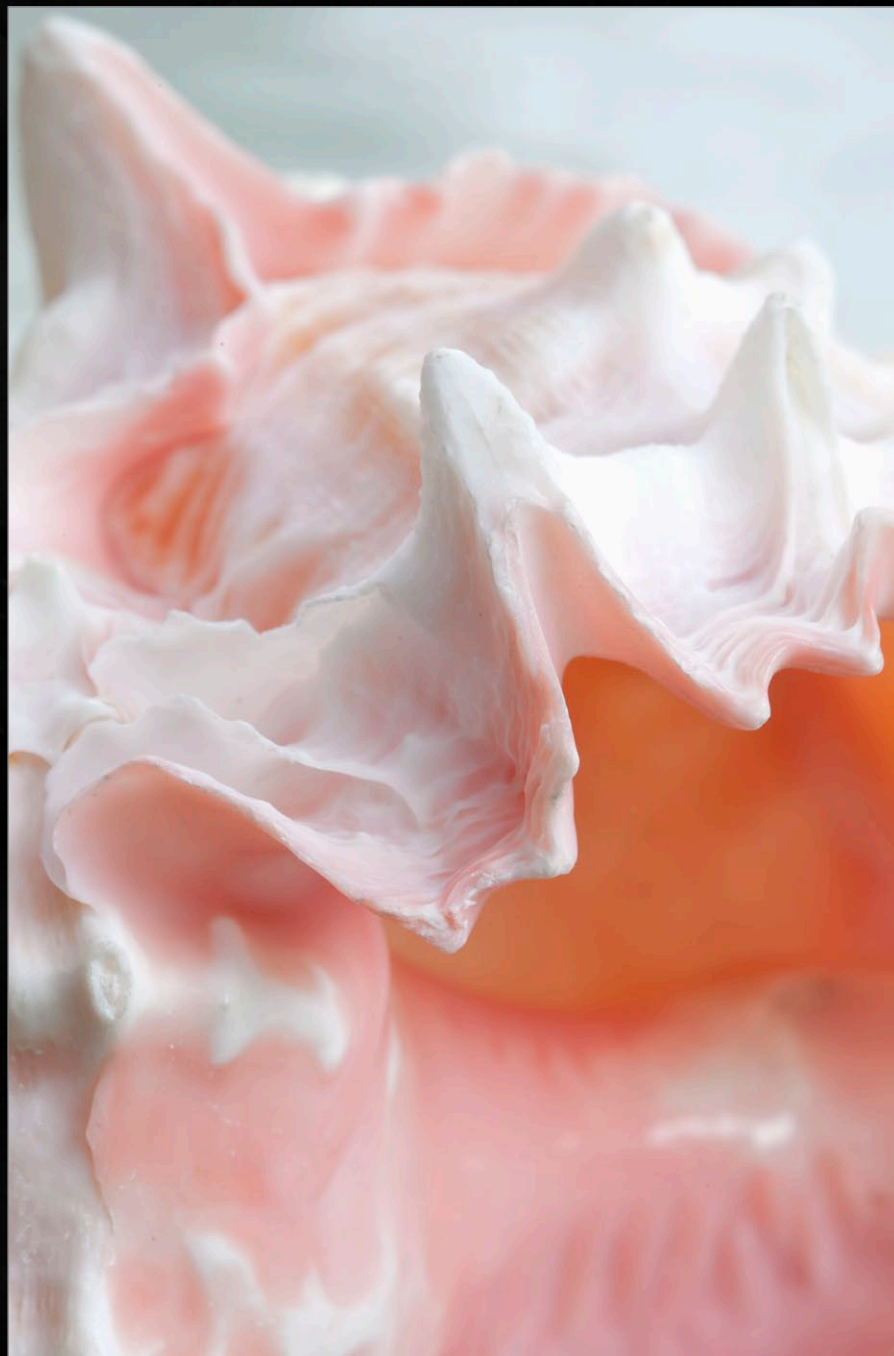


Iris

Camera Sonata No. 16

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



Pink shell

Camera Sonata No. 16

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



Cone shell on table

Camera Sonata No. 16

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵



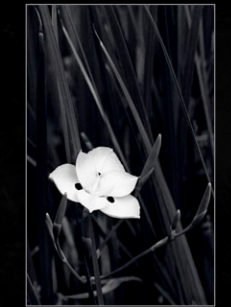
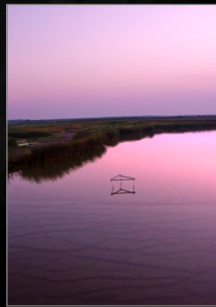
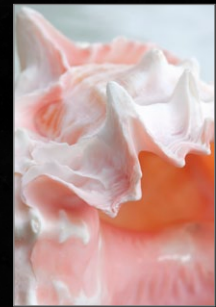
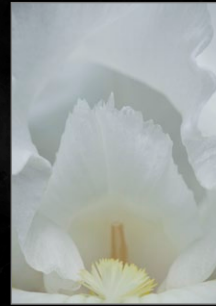
Bottom of cone shell

Camera Sonata No. 16

Quit Purchase

Thumbnail ⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

Thumbnails



Colophon

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by Ron Johnson

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This work, like everything else I do, is dedicated to my wife, Georgia.

Also, special thanks to Alanna Bielke, Kim Johnson, my daughter Beth Lee and my son Chris and his wife, Shelley, for their valiant efforts to save this project from its creator.