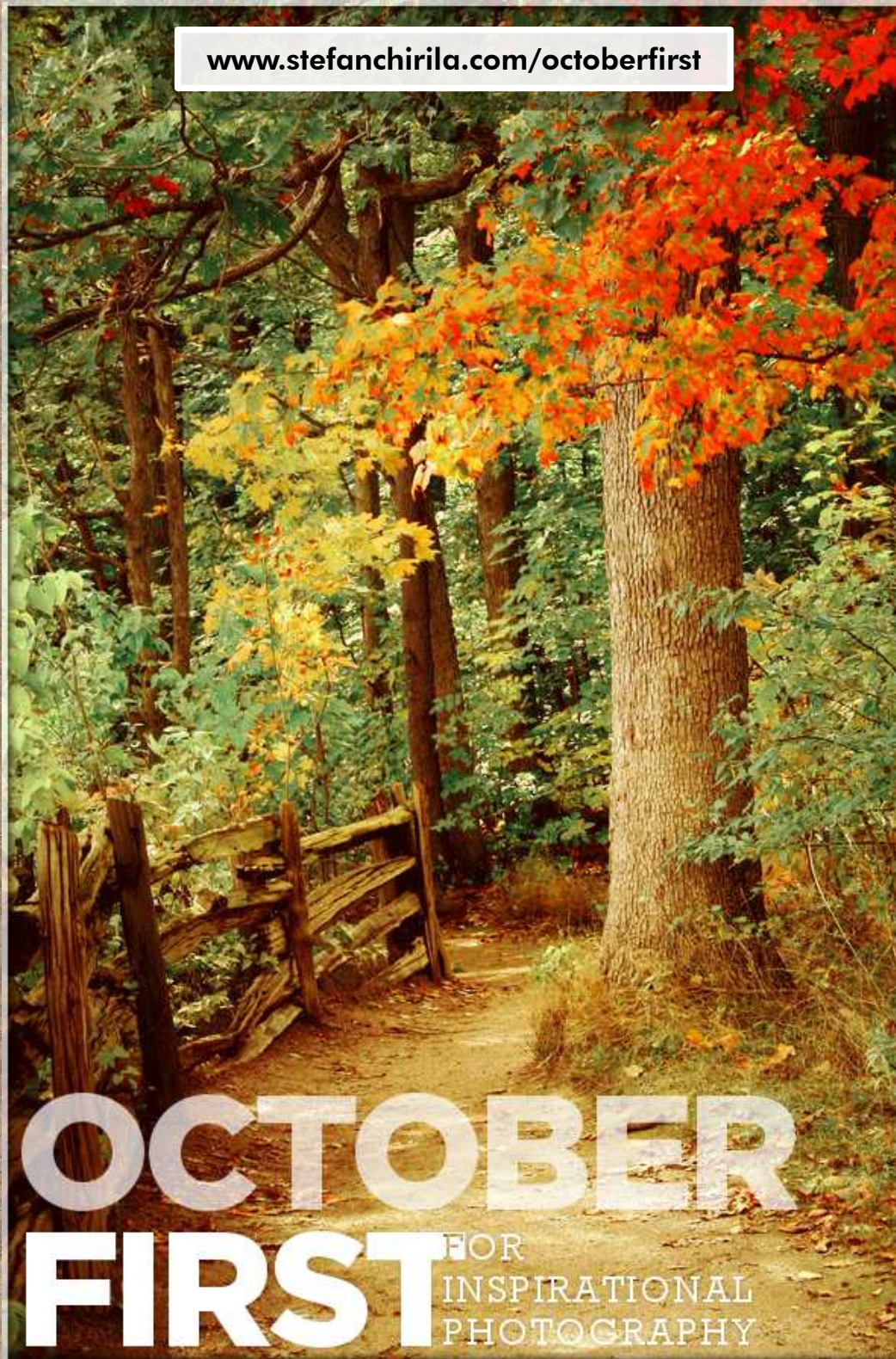


www.stefanchirila.com/octoberfirst



OCTOBER FIRST

FOR
INSPIRATIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHY

Inspiration

It was the capturing of this image that eventually drove me to the point where I questioned: "What makes one image more appealing to the eye than another, and why?"

The why-part of the question can be answered by the genetic programming of the human mind, combined with the various conditional perceptions and interpretations of the reality around us.

The realization that there is a what-part was the one of more consequence to me because it implies the potential to gain control over the art form and the excitement behind a game of chase after these elements in the world around ...once I would manage to name them.

The fact that this image had an inspirational effect on me is, I believe, because it fulfills two important elements: it conveys a message I find important and it conveys this message in a polished sort of way. The message that it conveys is that there are elements possible to implement in photographs that increase the visual pleasure they create; while the fact that the image presents itself in a polished manner grabbed my attention in the first place. Although ideally it should not be this way, the most interesting book, behind a boring cover, can end up being unnoticed. From this we learn two lessons: not to judge books by their cover, and when designing something valuable, the presentation does play an important role; it can make the difference between the valuable information reaching many, and it remaining unnoticed.





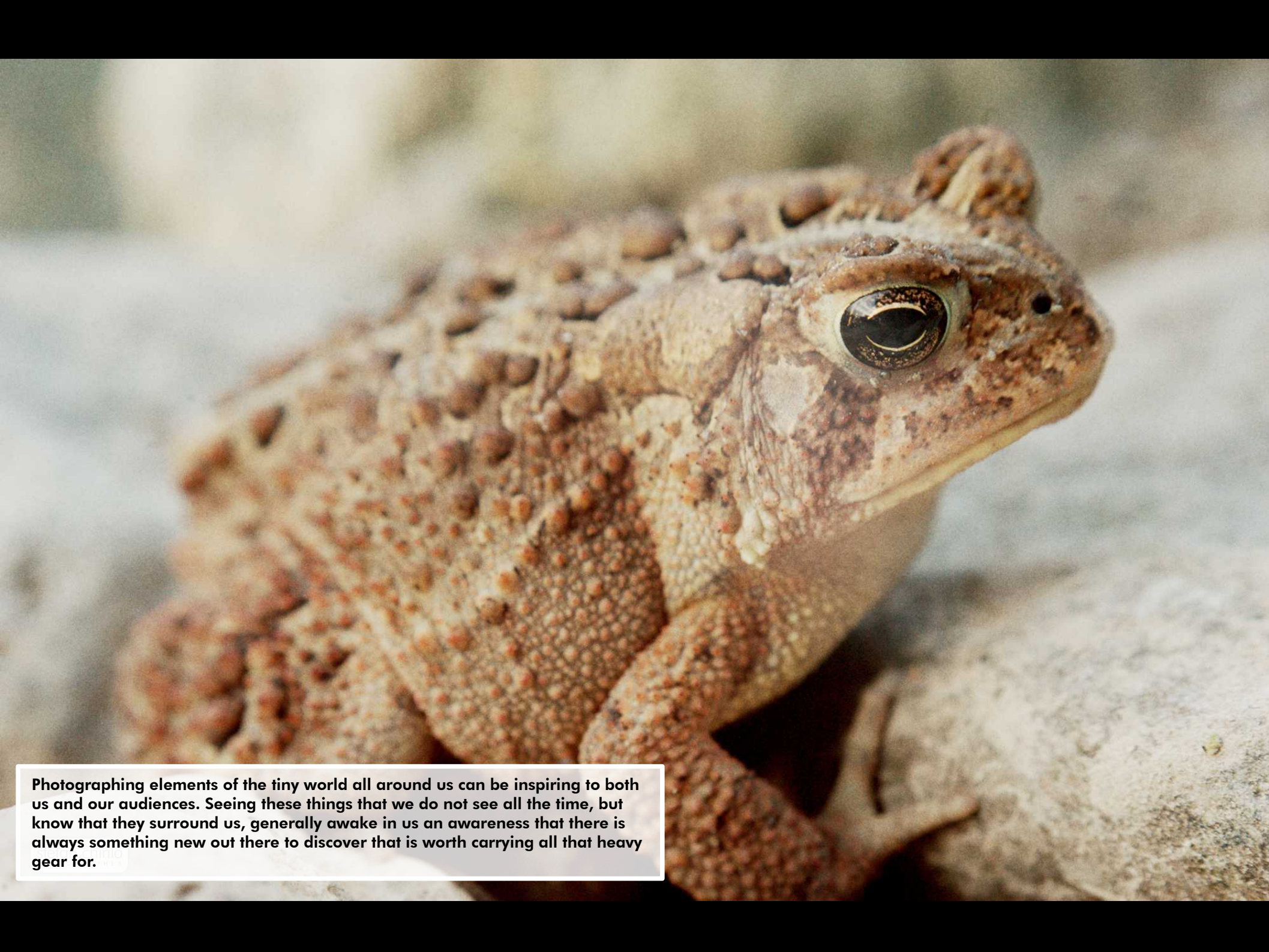
It is said among photographers that, as a photographer, the most boring place on the planet to photograph is your own neighbourhood. I too find myself walking to the edge of my neighbourhood countless times a week, to the place from where I take the bus in order to get to places worth photographing. The thought of taking pictures around home rarely comes to mind, and when it does, then usually along the lines of how not to spend the rest of the day. This may have a thing or two to do with the fact that in photographs we, humans, enjoy seeing interesting things, we appreciate novelty and an account of things we do not encounter on a daily basis; this may explain the seemingly universal repulsion against one's own neighbourhood when it comes to photography.

This fact aside, however, the places where we live prove to be some of the most potent environments for photography, surprisingly, for the very reasons listed above as reasons we dislike photographing here.

Perhaps a silly reason, but I will mention it anyway, is the fact that we already know the area, so the chances of getting lost in it are minimal, also sources of shelter in case of rain, fast food when hungry and public washrooms are well known as well. Our desire for the unusual, at first sight seems to be out of reach; however the very fact that we know the neighbourhood so well, enables us to search for and notice things out of the ordinary. The fact that our expectancy to achieve great photography here is close to 1%, thus missing out on something, or forgetting how to handle a given photographic situation due to the moment's excitement is also reduced and we can take all the time needed to practise composition and other guidelines.

You might surprise yourself with the quality of the photographs that you can produce in this seemingly boring environment; especially through the compliments you might receive from an audience that doesn't share your neighbourhood for habitat. After all, those who do not live there don't get to see your neighbourhood every day; to them it is a brand new and potentially fascinating place.

The location on the left is by my home; I passed by it rather often before it occurred to me that it may make a good photograph.

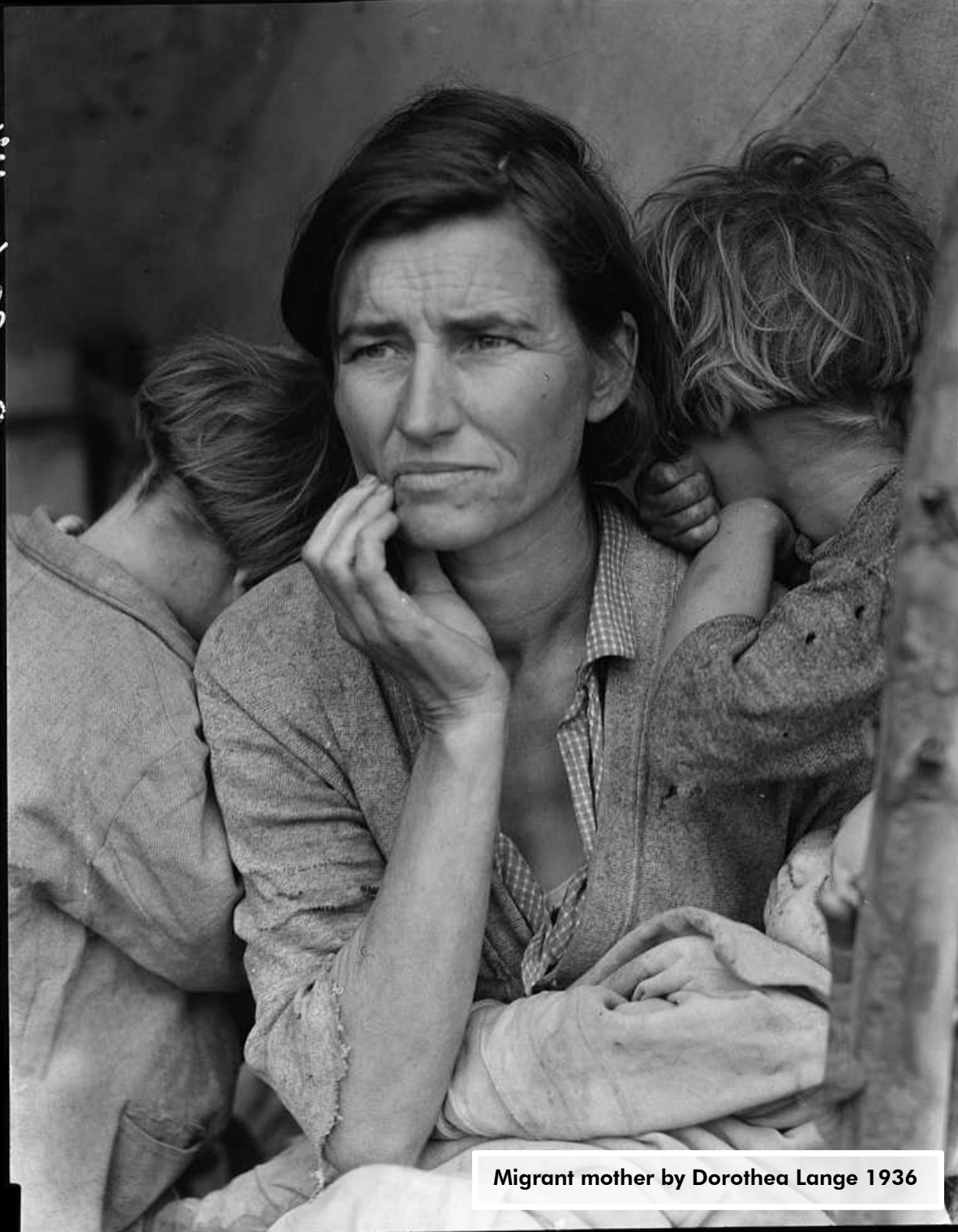


Photographing elements of the tiny world all around us can be inspiring to both us and our audiences. Seeing these things that we do not see all the time, but know that they surround us, generally awake in us an awareness that there is always something new out there to discover that is worth carrying all that heavy gear for.

When the message of the photograph is very strong and obvious, then merely an orderly layout in composition is necessary in order to bring out the best in it.



214
MARR-C



Migrant mother by Dorothea Lange 1936

KODAK SAFETY FILM

4307-D



Long stairway in the mill district,
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania
By: Jack Delano | January 1940



Inspiration is one of those full circle things:


You find yourself finding something inspiring that moves you to create, to find new passion for the craft, to consider the learning curves worthwhile when you start seeing jaws drop in the presence of your work; and then something wonderful happens: the work you produced under the influence of inspiration inspires others... to create works of art of their own...



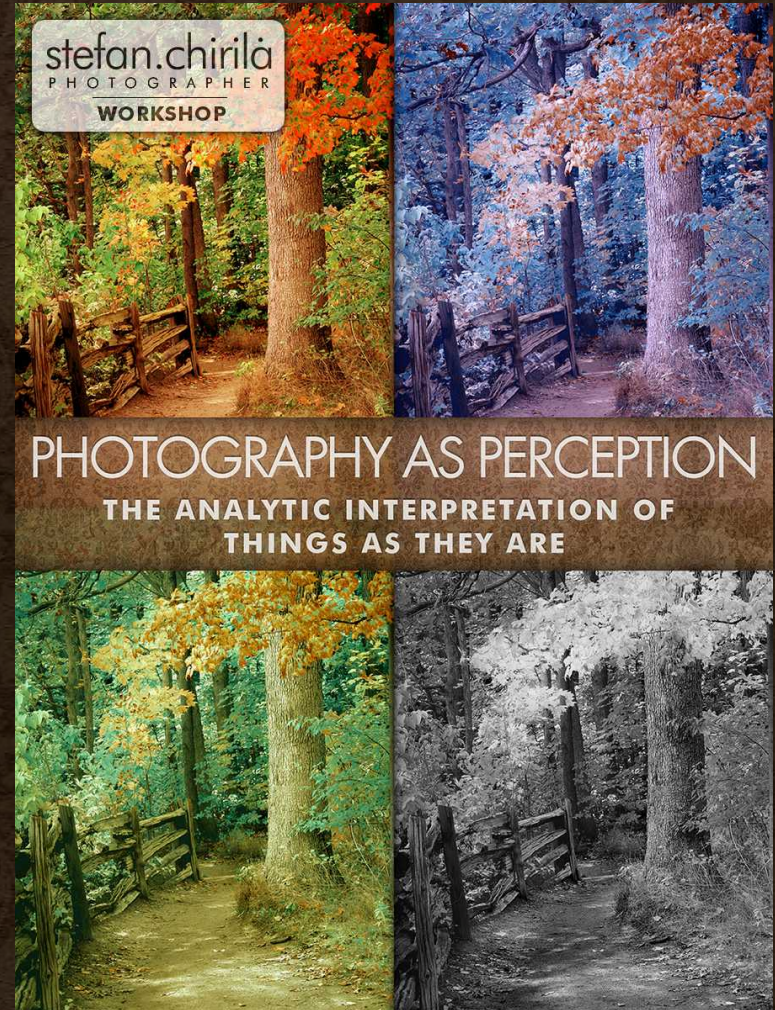
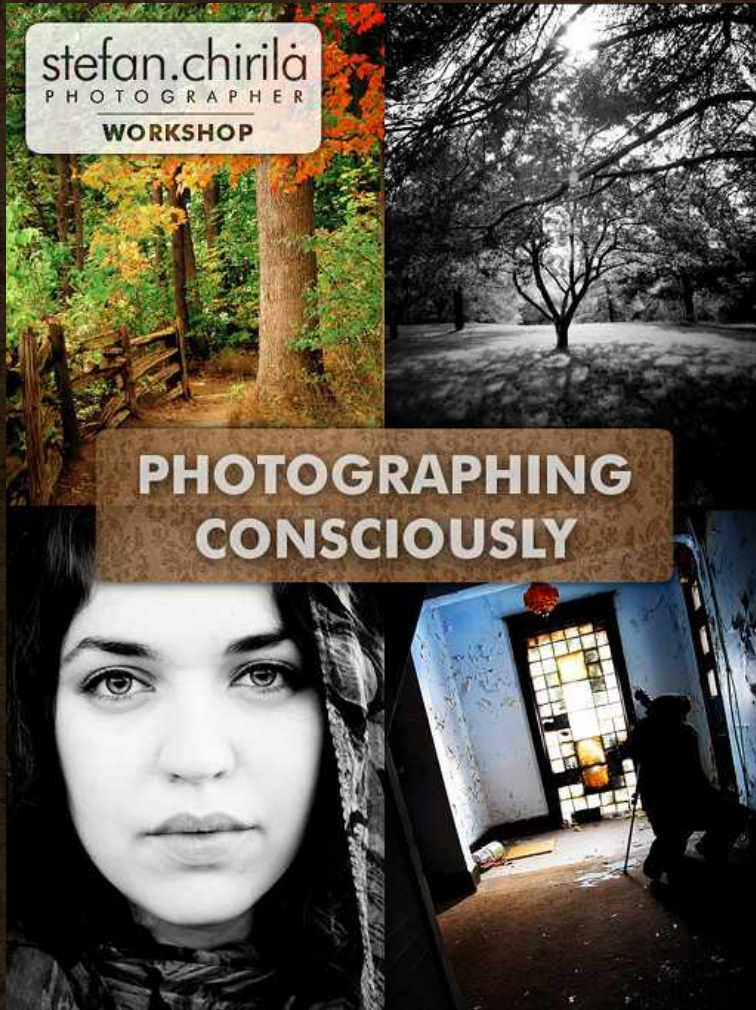
...to notice the wonders that
hide in their own backyard...



...to seek ways to see things in a different light



When low on creative energy, keep in mind why you do photography; remind yourself of the humble beginnings you had and the joy it was to crawl on the hard surface of the road in order to capture that leaf from a new and original angle (you might want to skip the times when there were rain puddles, mud, and it was cold outside, unless you really really enjoyed it), the time before you produced good enough photos to receive praise from your audience. Praise can quickly take over the place in our mind that is reserved for what motivates us to keep going. When reminding oneself that photography was fun even before the praises, when all there was to it was the joy of practising it, regardless of the results, inspiration is just a shutter click away.



For further inspiration...

www.stefanchirila.com/workshop

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