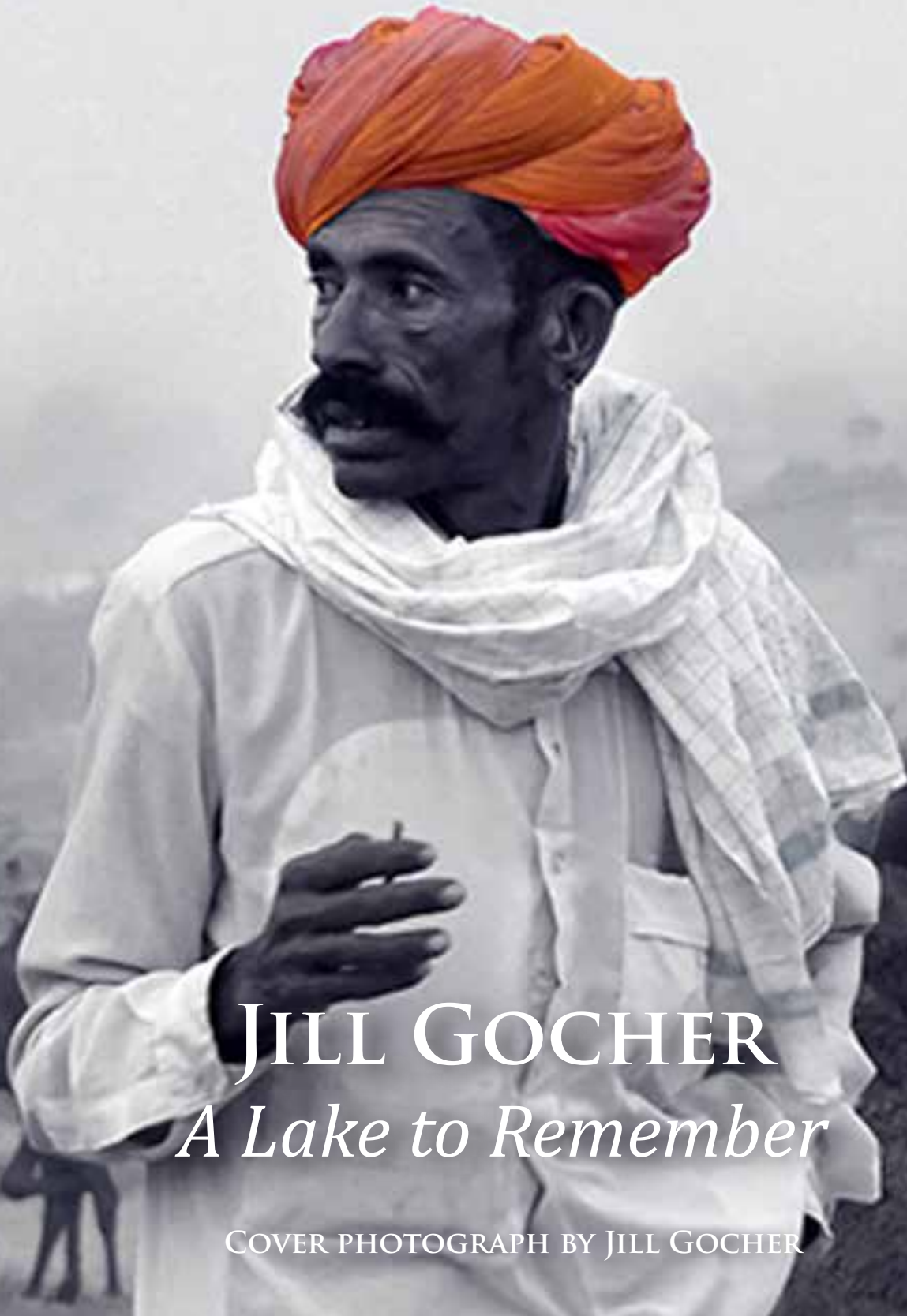


2010 - 2023



FREE ONLINE MAGAZINE FROM VILLAGE EARTH
JANUARY 2024



JILL GOCHER
A Lake to Remember

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY JILL GOCHER



©Mark Ulyseas



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Live Encounters is a not-for-profit free online magazine that was founded in 2009 in Bali, Indonesia. It showcases some of the best writing from around the world. Poets, writers, academics, civil & human/animal rights activists, academics, environmentalists, social workers, photographers and more have contributed their time and knowledge for the benefit of the readers of:

Live Encounters Magazine (2010), Live Encounters Poetry & Writing (2016), Live Encounters Young Poets & Writers (2019) and now, Live Encounters Books (August 2020).

We are appealing for donations to pay for the administrative and technical aspects of the publication. **Please help by donating any amount for this just cause as events are threatening the very future of Live Encounters.**

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om

Mark Ulyseas
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JANUARY 2024



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TANG A PAU
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TUB DUMBLY
MIKYOUNG CHA

Jill Gocher has been living and photographing in Asia for around forty years. She has authored more than ten books and countless magazine articles and photographed for many magazines. She is now working on a book of India's tribal communities titled *Desert Folk*. Watch out for it.



Jill Gocher

JILL GOCHER

A LAKE TO REMEMBER

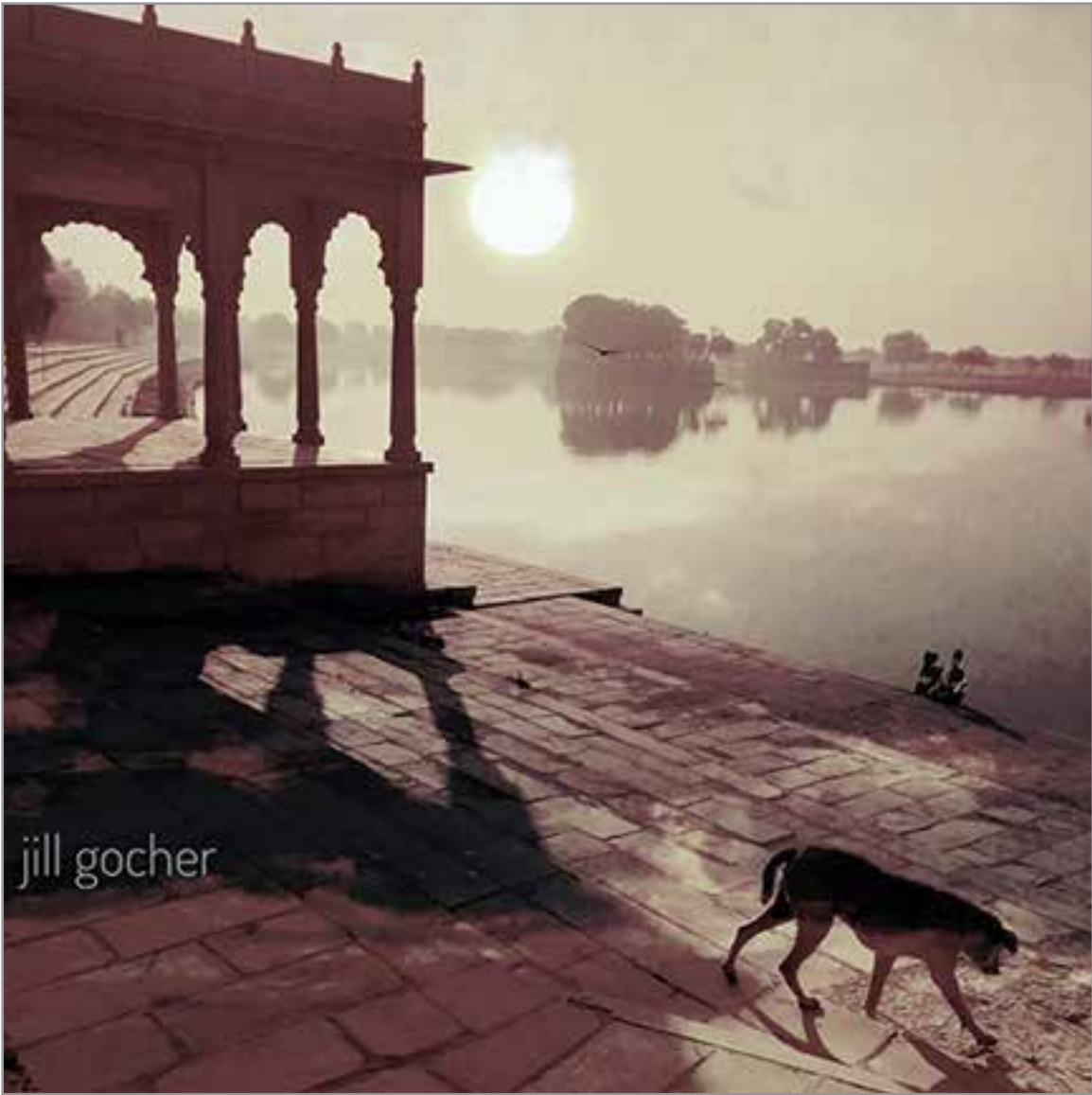
Jaisalmer's Golden Fort was constructed by Rajput ruler Jaisal in 1155 and became an active stop along the Silk Route - the last stop before the treacherous Thar Desert took over from any form of comfort or civilisation.

It grew in importance for hundreds of years, growing rich from the taxes imposed on the camel caravans until the British rule in the 1800s. It slowly lost importance to the burgeoning maritime trade that took its place!

But the beautiful Lake Gadisar has stayed on. What once used to supply water to the whole of Jaisalmer has slowly decreased in importance but the temples and palace architecture that lie on its serene shores give testimony to its colourful past.

Today it provides delight to the many visitors who, although they may be unaware of the history will happily come to watch the sunset or even take a boat and glide around the periphery.

Gadisar always pleases and it is rather wonderful to watch the changing moods from the misty mornings to the afternoon crowds until it descends into peacefulness with the setting sun.



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02



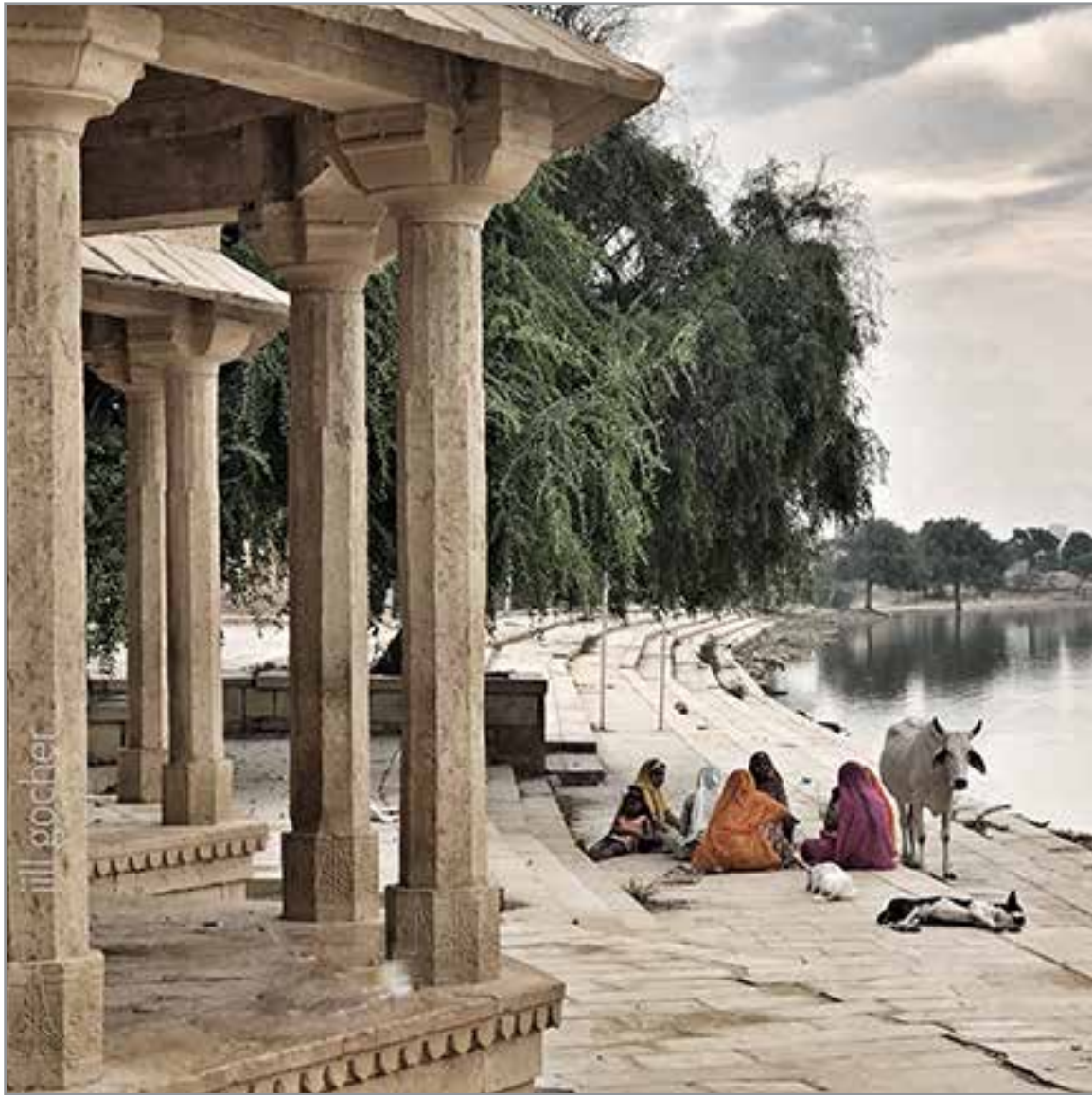
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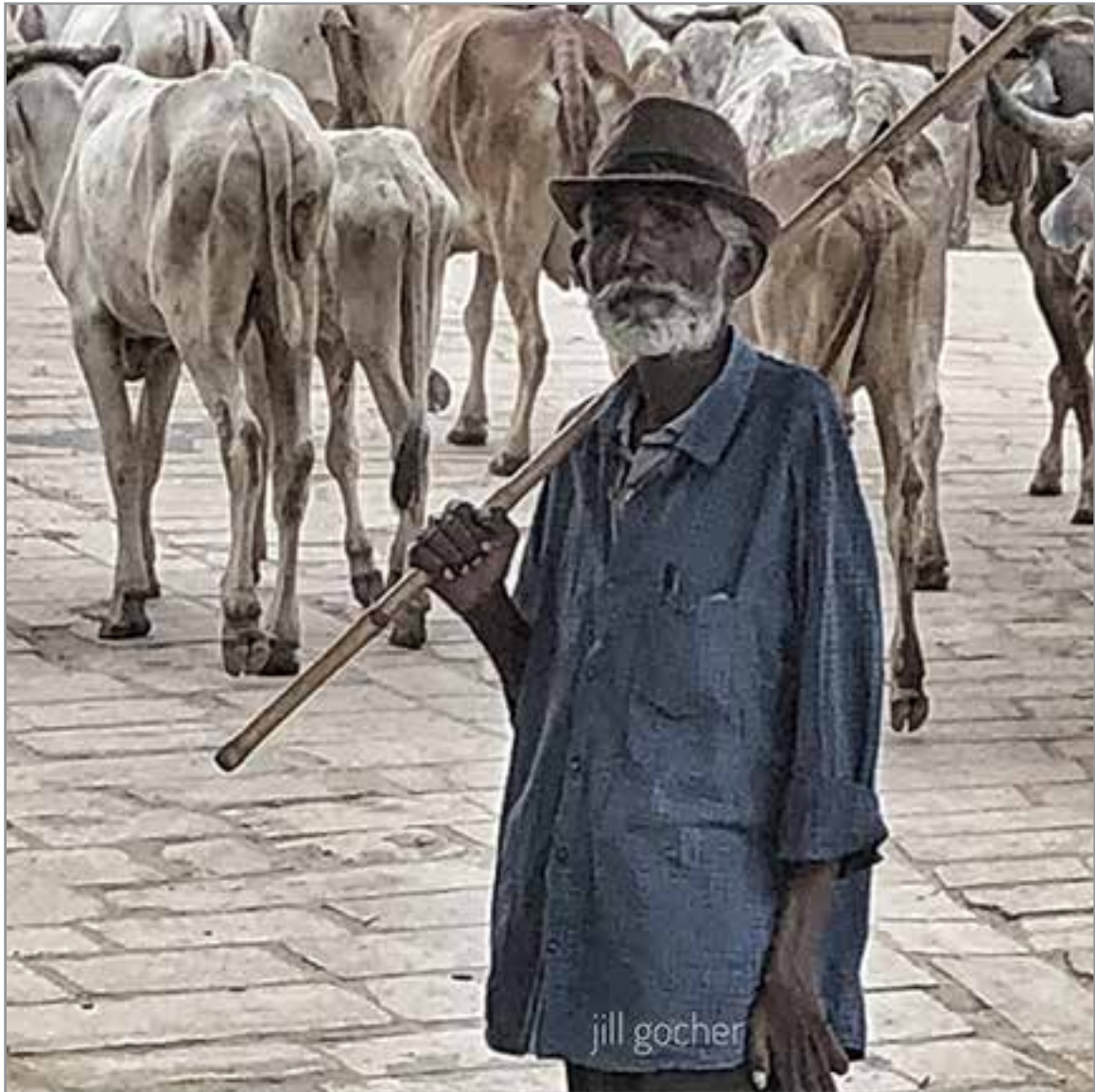
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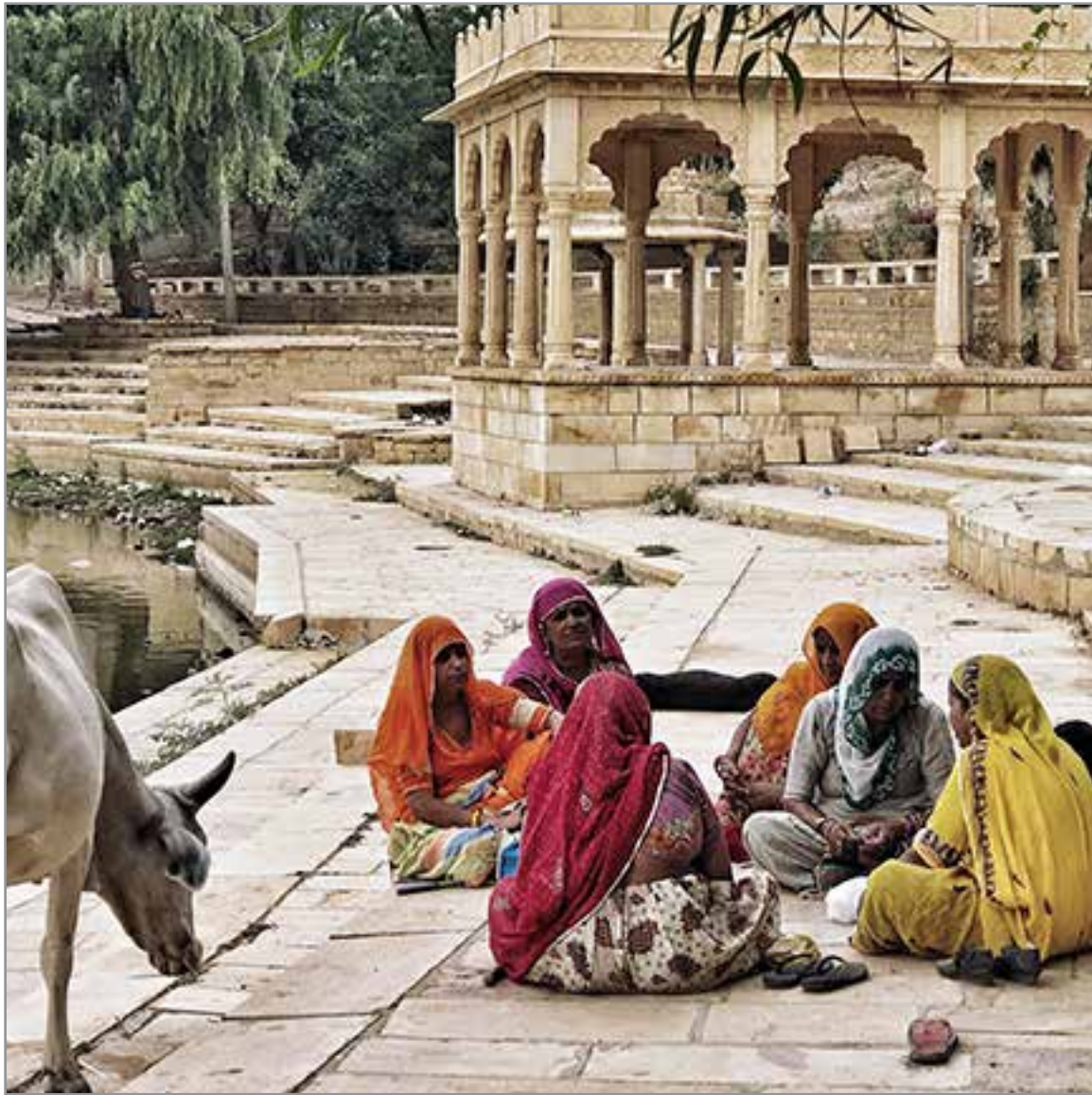
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Lopamudra Talukdar based out of Kolkata, India, is a professional photographer with varied interests. While a mix of street, travel, and documentation photography fascinates her the most, she has also made her mark in the world of sports photography, covering the FIFA World Cups in Russia (2018) and Qatar (2022). Lopamudra realized early in her professional career, that her true calling lay in documenting the lives and stories of ordinary people. Drawn to the raw authenticity of the streets, she roamed through bustling metropolises and remote corners of the globe, capturing the human condition in its myriad forms. Her ability to blend into the fabric of a community, fostering trust and empathy, allowed her to capture intimate moments that revealed the true essence of her subjects. Through her lens, Lopamudra has revealed the beauty, struggles, and resilience of people who often go unnoticed. Her photographs have been featured in prestigious exhibitions, and international publications, bringing attention to the human stories that deserve to be heard. As Lopamudra continues to explore the world with her camera in hand, her focus remains steadfast. She seeks to document untold stories, highlight marginalized communities, and inspire positive social change through her evocative imagery. Additionally, Lopamudra leads photography workshops and curated photo tours to destinations as varied as Romania, Cuba, Vietnam, and Mexico, apart from her home country, India. She’s also a FujiFilm X-Photographer and global ambassador.

LOPAMUDRA TALUKDAR

VIETNAM’S ALLURE

Capturing Everyday Life and Timeless Traditions
Photo feature

Vietnam embodies a tapestry of vibrant traditions, breathtaking landscapes, and bustling city life, inviting you to explore its enchanting allure. From the picturesque coastlines to bustling streets, each corner narrates a unique story waiting to be captured. Central Vietnam’s coastline stretches endlessly, portraying the timeless practice of fishermen casting their nets into the sea—an ingrained cultural legacy passing through generations. This coastal life isn’t just about livelihood; it symbolizes the ebb and flow connecting Vietnamese heritage.

When boats return, it’s the women who expertly repair the nets, showcasing their pivotal role in sustaining coastal livelihoods. Vietnam’s thriving cottage industries shine through practices like intricate mat-making. These colorful mats, a testament to artisans’ dedication, embody the nation’s artistic spirit.

Family-centered crafts, like soy and incense stick making, illustrate Vietnam’s deep-rooted communal ethos. The vibrant paddy harvest season transforms the landscape, merging golden rice fields with stunning salt pans, a blend of rural and coastal beauty.

The timeless Ao Dai dresses worn by Vietnamese girls epitomize elegance, seamlessly merging past and present. Urban scenes in Hanoi and Saigon burst with life, painted by colorful street vendors selling flowers and fruits, epitomizing Vietnam’s urban vigor.

Vietnam offers a kaleidoscope of experiences, from serene coastal moments to lively urban streets. Each photograph captures a fragment of Vietnamese culture and daily life, telling stories that resonate deep within. Prepare your camera to witness not just images but profound tales that define this captivating country’s heart.



Lopamudra Talukdar



Fishermen struggle to push a coracle into the sea.



Women repair the damaged fishing nets.



Traditional coracles being brushed with lacquer.



Break of dawn in a coastal fishing village, as the fishermen bring in the catch.



Colourful mat-making in progress in Central Vietnam.



Mat-making is one of the important cottage industries in Vietnam.



Incense stick-making work in progress.



A young Vietnamese girl in the historic citadel of Hue.



An ethnic minority on the slopes of Sapa highlands.



Soya sauce makers at work on the outskirts of Hanoi.



A foggy evening in the picturesque hill station of Sapa.



The ritual of floating lamps with a prayer. Hue.

Tang A Pau is a professional photographer living in Saigon. He has 15 years of experience. He is a volunteer photographer with ICF Asia (International Crane Foundation) and of some National Parks in Vietnam. Tang's stories are usually about the natural beauty of places, and species at risk, and encourage environmental awareness. He hopes through his experience and photographs he can highlight all the great benefits that Nature has to offer in Vietnam. Publications: 2021 - Co-author, *Birds of Vietnam*. Co-author, *Atlas of Cattien National Park*.

Special thanks to Nguyen Thuy Hoa.

TANG A PAU

WILD VIETNAM - FAUNA

Photo Feature

This is but a glimpse of the fabulous luscious natural landscape of wild Vietnam, a country teeming with wildlife.

Vietnam's rich heritage is on show, performed by the exotic animals and birds that inhabit its wilds.

Nature in all its glory.

Come, experience wild Vietnam with Tang.



Tang A Pau



Black-backed Swamphen



Black-shanked Douc



Pheasant-tailed Jacana



Asian Emerald Cuckoo



Collared Scops Owl



Two wild Collared Scops owlets.



Brown Fish Owl



Gaur and Sambar



Barking Deer



Bronze-winged Jacana



Yellow cheeked gibbon



Langur



Clouded monitor



Timothy lives and works in Abbotsford, Victoria. He studied Art History at Monash University and trained formally as a painter at The School of Encouragement in the late 90s in Byron Bay under inspirational teachers and painters, Lise Temple and Roland Weight. Timothy paints the light and colour of Australia and has an abiding love of these qualities in Van Gogh, The Australian Impressionist School and abstract painters of the 20th century such as Pollock, Kandinsky and Rothko. Timothy is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes and has sold work in Australia, the U.S and the U.K. He has completed 3 en plein air painting tours at Mornington Peninsula in 2018, Gippsland in 2020 and Northern New South Wales in 2022. He now creates large abstract works in oil with paint applied gesturally and impasto, with an emphasis on colour, light, texture, repetition, space and overall design. He has developed a unique approach to these formal qualities over his 27 years of practice and seeks always to explore more deeply the relationship between painting and music.

TIMOTHY DELL
THE NORTHERN RIVERS ABSTRACT LANDSCAPES
Artworks

The Northern Rivers Abstract Landscapes are lyrical and reflect my love of nature and the light and colour of The Northern Rivers where I spent last summer. In particular, the Estuary paintings from Wooyung Nature Reserve are a celebration of these qualities and a new, more intense way of painting where I have to a large extent abandoned control and fallen back on the knowledge of form acquired through years of realism ; an almost unconscious process which requires a high degree of faith in my skill and in the art of chance.

Timothy Dell



Broken Head NSW. Oil on Canvas - 260cm 100cm.



Estuary #2. Wooyung Nature Reserve NSW 2023. Oil on Canvas 100cm x 100cm .



Estuary #1. Wooyung Nature Reserve NSW 2023. Oil on canvas 100cm x 100cm.



Light on the Water. Wooyung Nature Reserve, 2023. Oil on Canvas 155cm x 122cm.

Ocean Spirit 2022. Oil on Canvas 155cm x 122cm.



Beach and Fire #2, 2022. Oil on Canvas 155cm x 122cm.



King Tide NSW, 2021. Oil on canvas 120cm x 120cm.

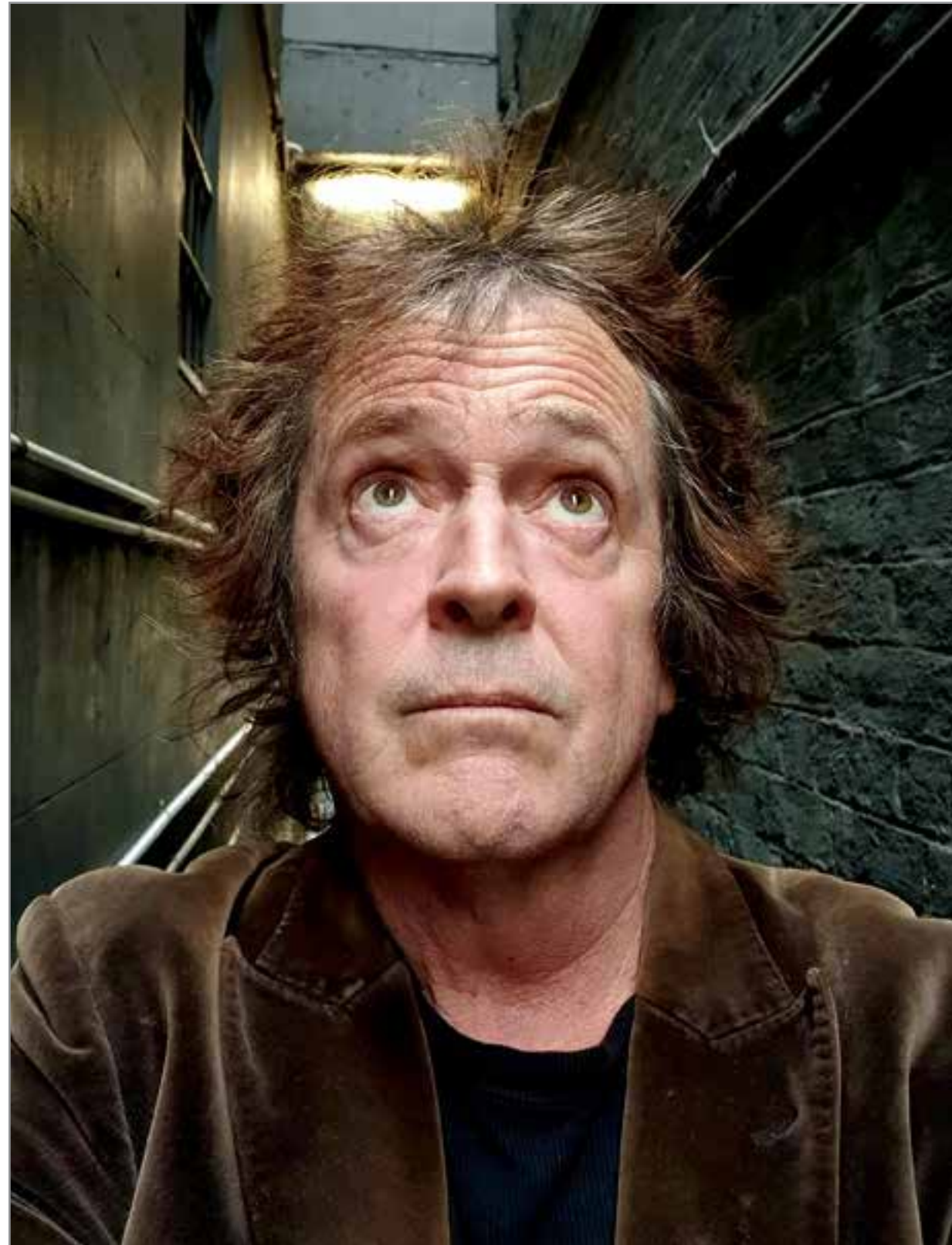
Tug Dumbly is the pen and stage name of Geoff Forrester, a Nowra-born poet and performer who has lived in Sydney for decades. He has worked extensively in radio, venues and schools, and founded a couple of seminal poetry nights in Sydney. He has performed his work as resident-poet on ABC radio (Triple J, ABC 702), and released two spoken-word CDs through the ABC – *Junk Culture Lullabies* and *Idiom Savant*. His awards include the Banjo Paterson Prize for Comic Verse (twice), and Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup (thrice). His poems have appeared in many publications and he has been shortlisted numerous times for major awards. In 2020 he won the Borranga Poetry Prize, in 2022 he won the Woorilla Poetry Prize, and most recently he won the 2023 Bruce Dawe Poetry prize. His first poetry collection, *Son Songs*, came out in 2018 through Flying Island Books. He is also a singer, songwriter and musician who likes photography and nature, especially cicadas.

TUG DUMBLY

ERKO

Photo feature

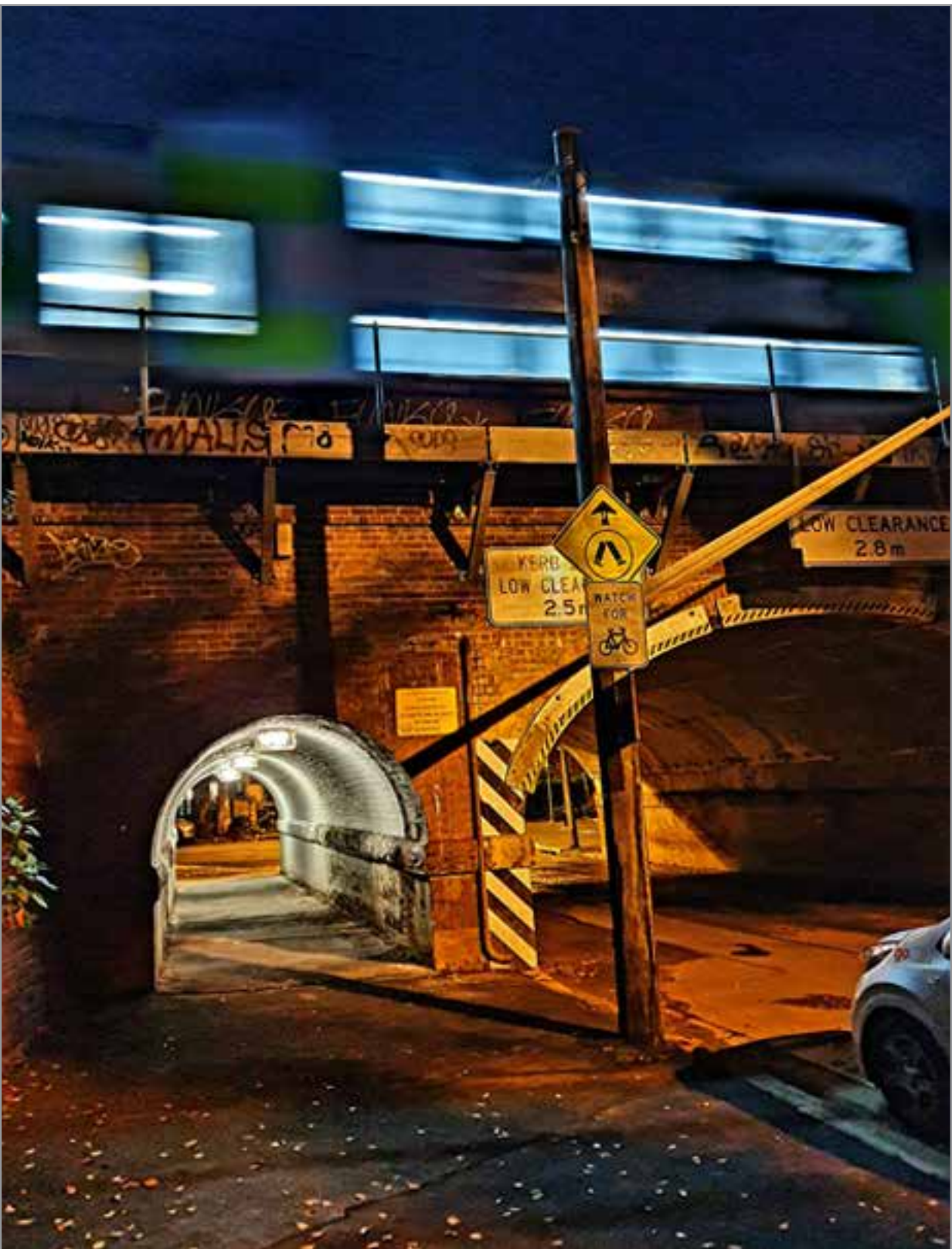
All these photos are taken in my home suburb of Erskineville, in inner-city Sydney, most of them 5-10 minutes from my home. Images of course are everywhere. The trick is seeing them and framing them. I'm a great walker, and I have curiosity. I love nature and animals and architecture, usually the more decrepit the better. I even love a few people. I have no training in photography and I like the fact that I have a very limited set of tools - a phone camera, with its rudimentary set of enhancements, if needed. I like the limitations of my phone and don't particularly want to graduate to a grown-up camera. I operate on intuition and my aesthetic sense. Beyond that I don't have many rules with pictures. But I do only take Portrait format shots (don't like Landscape), and there needs to be, say, at least three elements present to make a good picture. Some combination of subject, background, colour, context, paradox, humour, poignancy, social or political edge ... etc. And it needs to be in focus. I like macro and micro. But whatever it is, the picture has to serve a purpose, have some intent and reason for being. Yes you *can* take another picture of the Opera House or Harbour Bridge, but you have to ask yourself why? What element or angle are you capturing or adding to this 'icon' that hasn't been caught a billion times before?



Tug Dumbly



Abandoned House



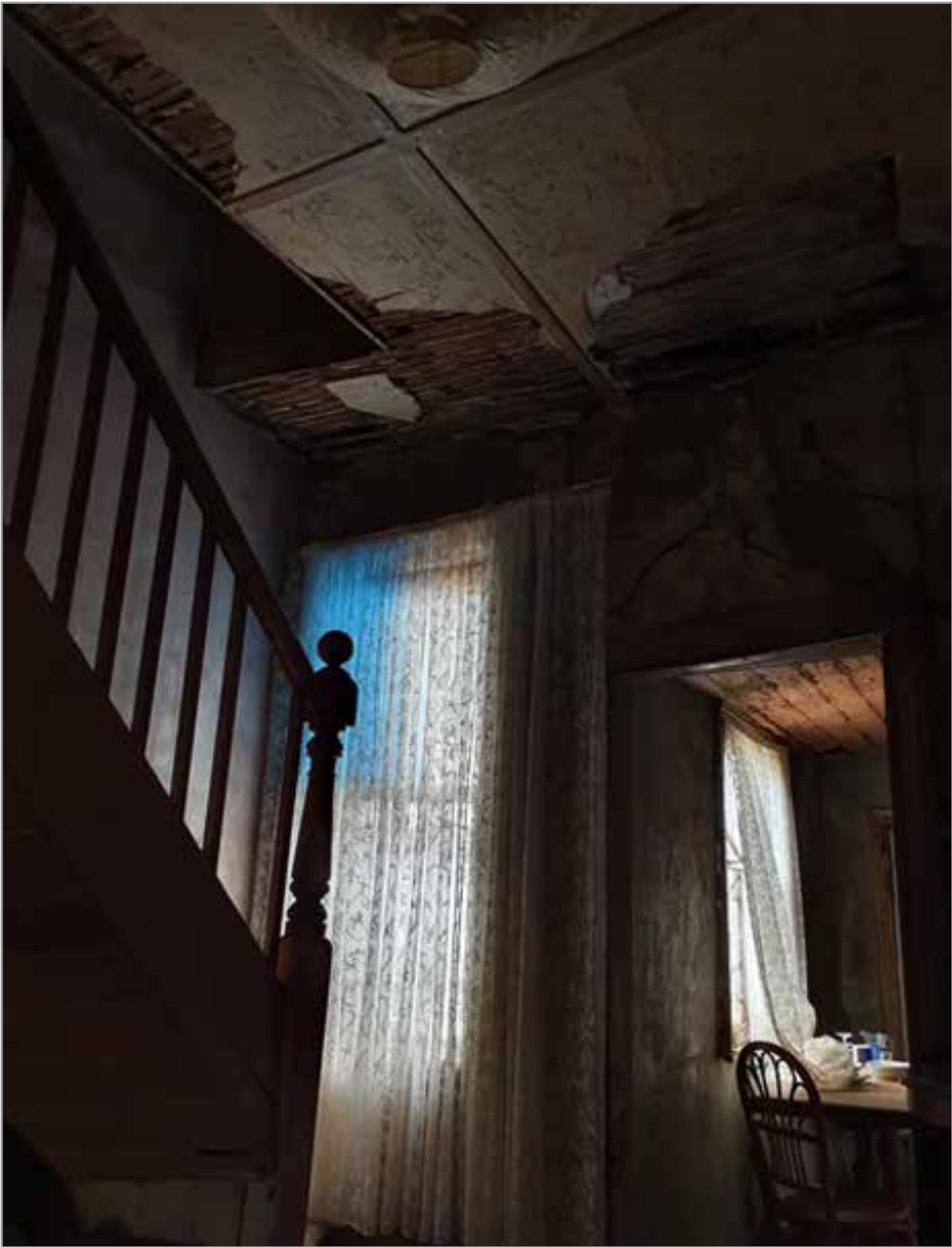
Tunnel



Sydney Park



Daughter



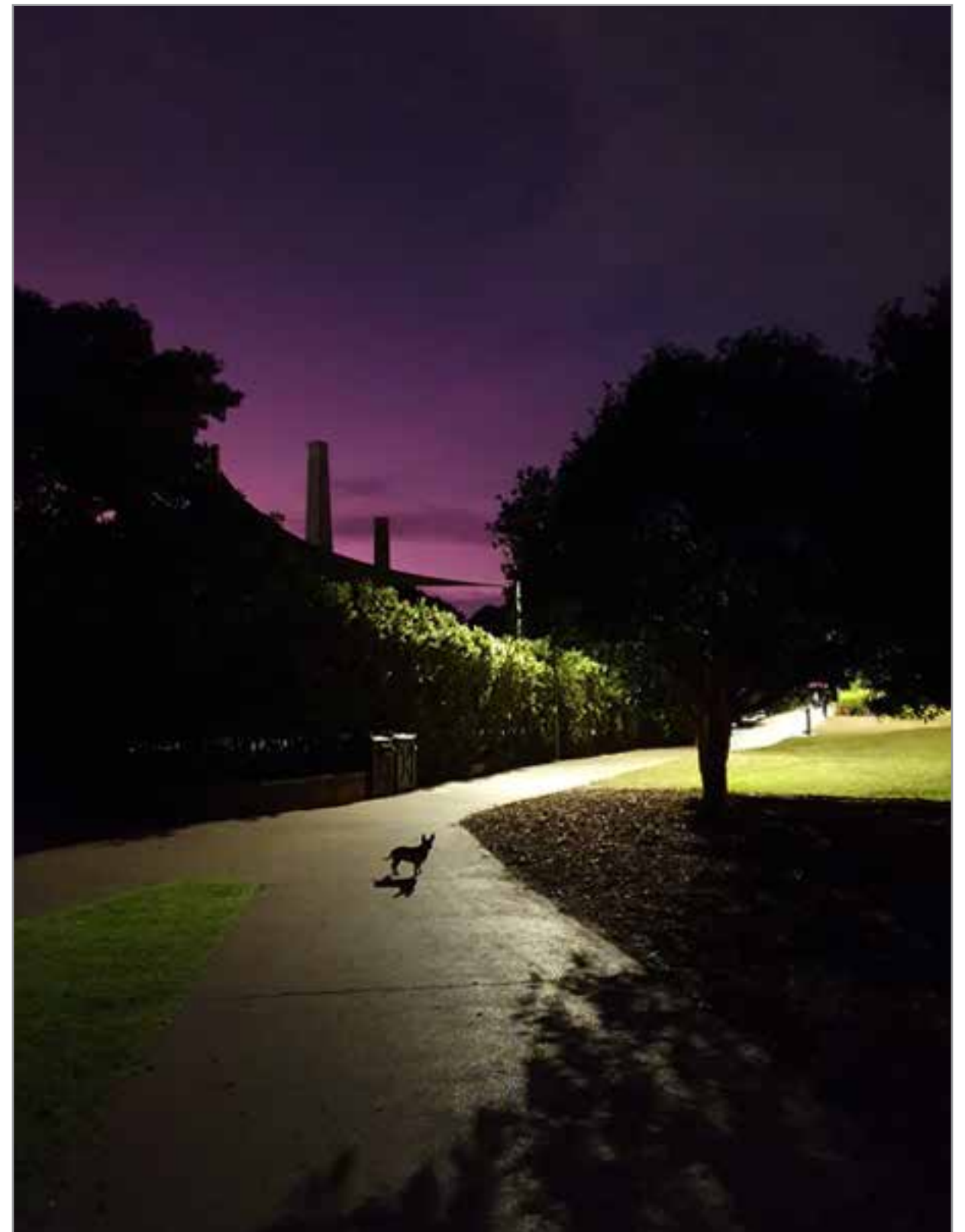
Abandoned House 2



The Old Lady of Erskineville



Landing Gear



C'mon!

Mikyoung Cha is a graduate in Oriental Painting from Hyosung Women's University, Daegu, South Korea. She has participated in a number of group art exhibitions in South Korea and Japan. In 2016 she took up photography – the camera becoming her paint brush. This globe trotting photographer is a regular contributor to *Live Encounters Magazine*.



MIKYOUNG CHA

THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR ON SPILLED BLOOD

*Photo feature of the
Cathedrals of St. Petersburg*

On 1 May 1703, Peter the Great took both the Swedish fortress of Nyenschantz and the city of Nyen, on the Neva river. Tsar Peter the Great founded the city on 27 May 1703 (in the Gregorian calendar, 16 May in the Julian calendar) after he reconquered the Ingrian land from Sweden, in the Great Northern War. He named the city after his patron saint, the apostle Saint Peter.

The following pages feature images of the majestic cathedrals of this magnificent city.

Saint Isaac's Cathedral or Isaakievskiy Sobor, is a cathedral that currently functions as a museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia. It is dedicated to Saint Isaac of Dalmatia, a patron saint of Peter the Great, who had been born on the feast day of that saint. The cathedral took 40 years to construct, from 1818 to 1858. It was originally built as a cathedral but was turned into a museum by the Soviet government in 1931 and has remained a museum ever since.

More than 400 kg of gold, 1000 tons of bronze and 16 tons of malachite feature in the interior of St. Isaac's Cathedral.

Auguste de Montferrand, was the main architect of St. Isaac's Cathedral.*



The Last Judgement on the ceiling of St. Isaac's Cathedral.



The sanctuary, seen through the Holy Doors during Bright Week,
St. Isaac's Cathedral.



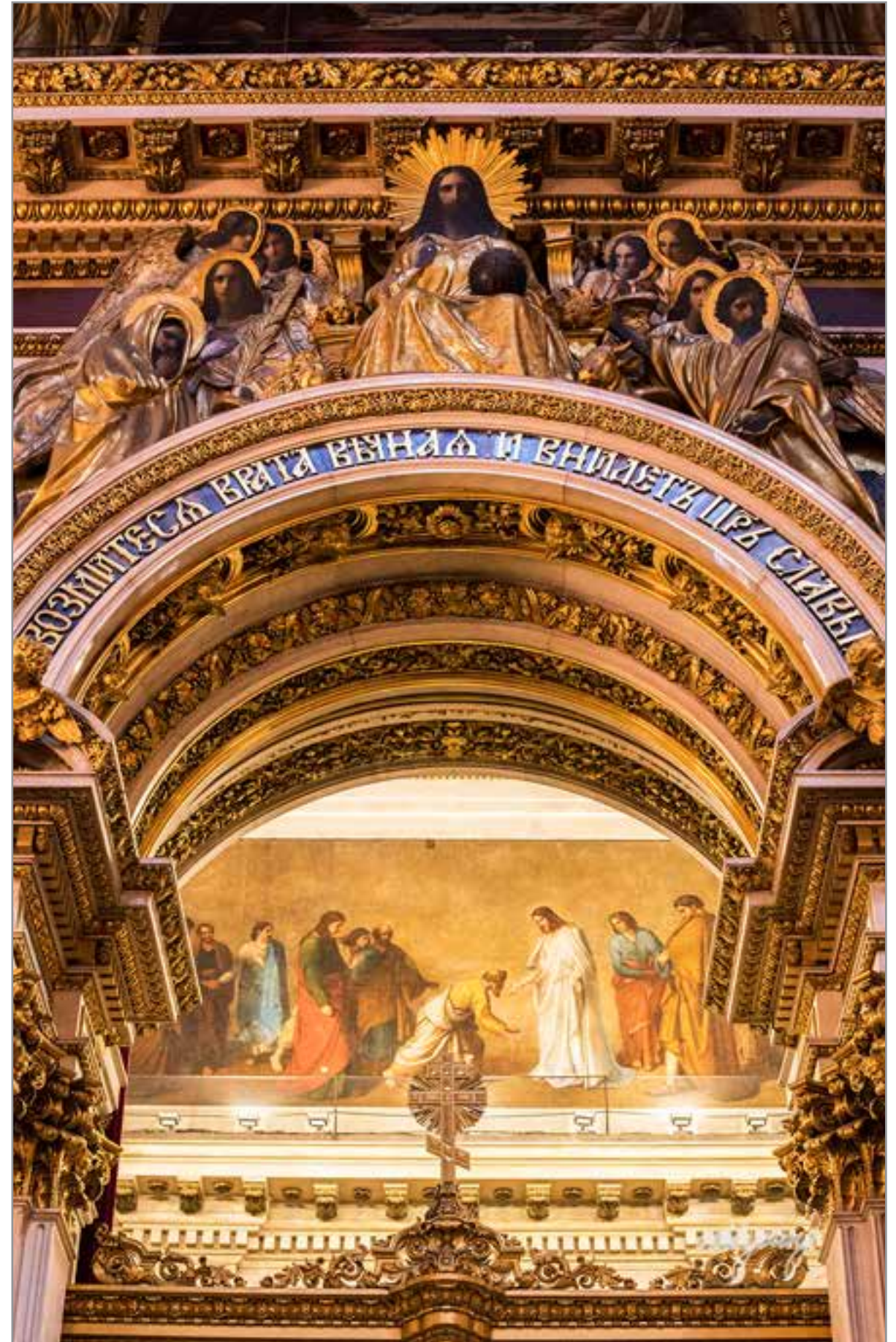


Interior of the great dome, honoring the Holy Spirit, St. Isaac's Cathedral.

'Great is the mystery of godliness: He was revealed in the flesh' is the inscription above the massive bronze Southern doors of St. Isaac's Cathedral.



Over 600 sq. m of wall space is decorated by mosaics and paintings by more than 200 artists, St. Isaac's Cathedral.

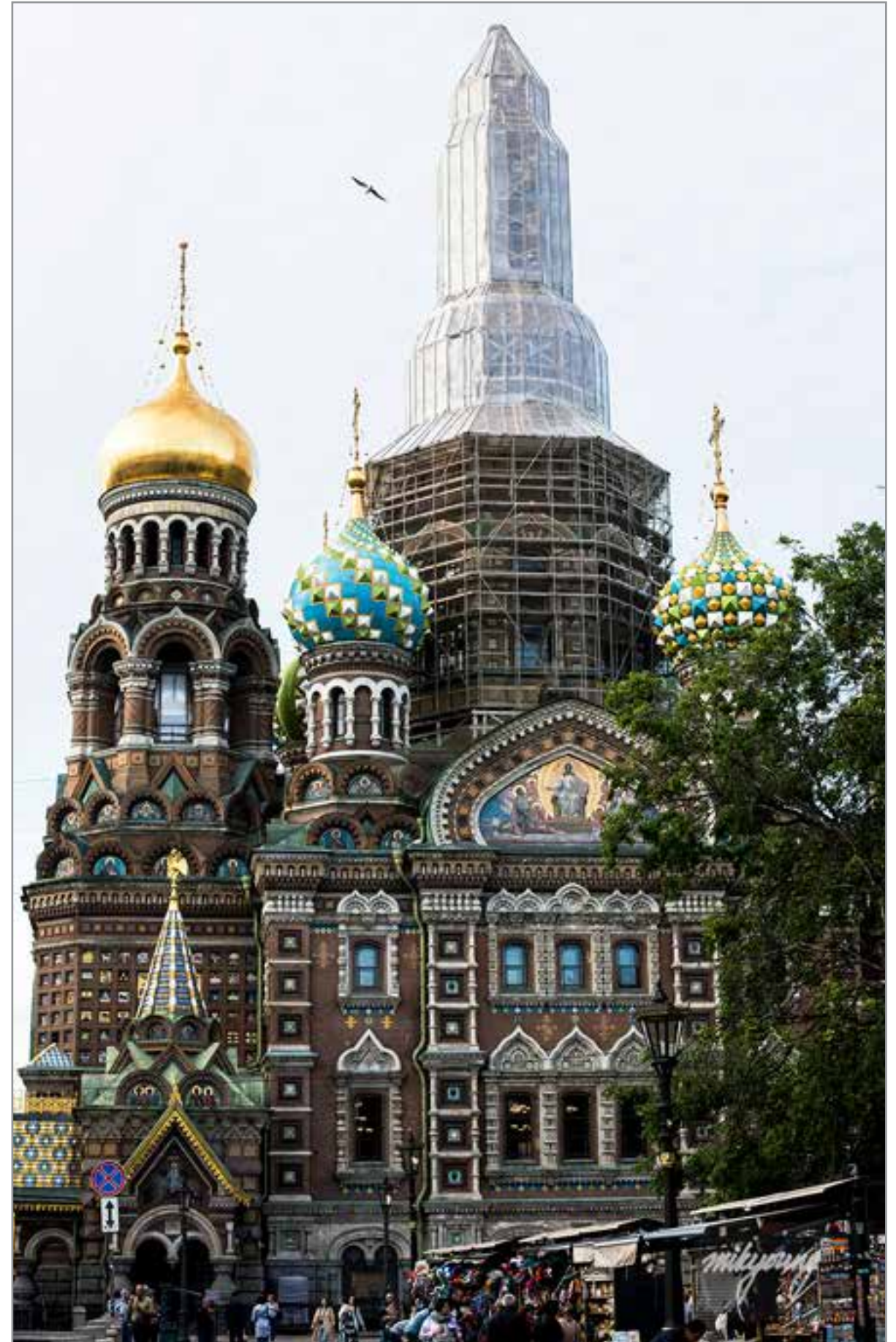


The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg is an Orthodox Memorial Church of the Resurrection of Christ, constructed in memory of Emperor Alexander II who was mortally wounded in an attack at this place on March 1, 1881. The church was constructed between 1883 and 1907. The cathedral was built as a monument to Tsar-Martyr and is located in the historic center of St. Petersburg, on the banks of the Griboyedov Canal near Mikhailovsky Garden and the Konyushennaya Square, not far from the Fields of Mars.

It is also known as the Temple of the Savior on Spilled Blood, and the *Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ*.

The interior is a natural mosaic museum. The total area of all mosaics is 7065 sqm. The mosaic exposition of the cathedral is considered to be one of the largest collections in Europe. Icons for the iconostasis, made in the technique of mosaic, sketches Vasnetsov and Nesterov. - "Savior" and "The Virgin and Child".

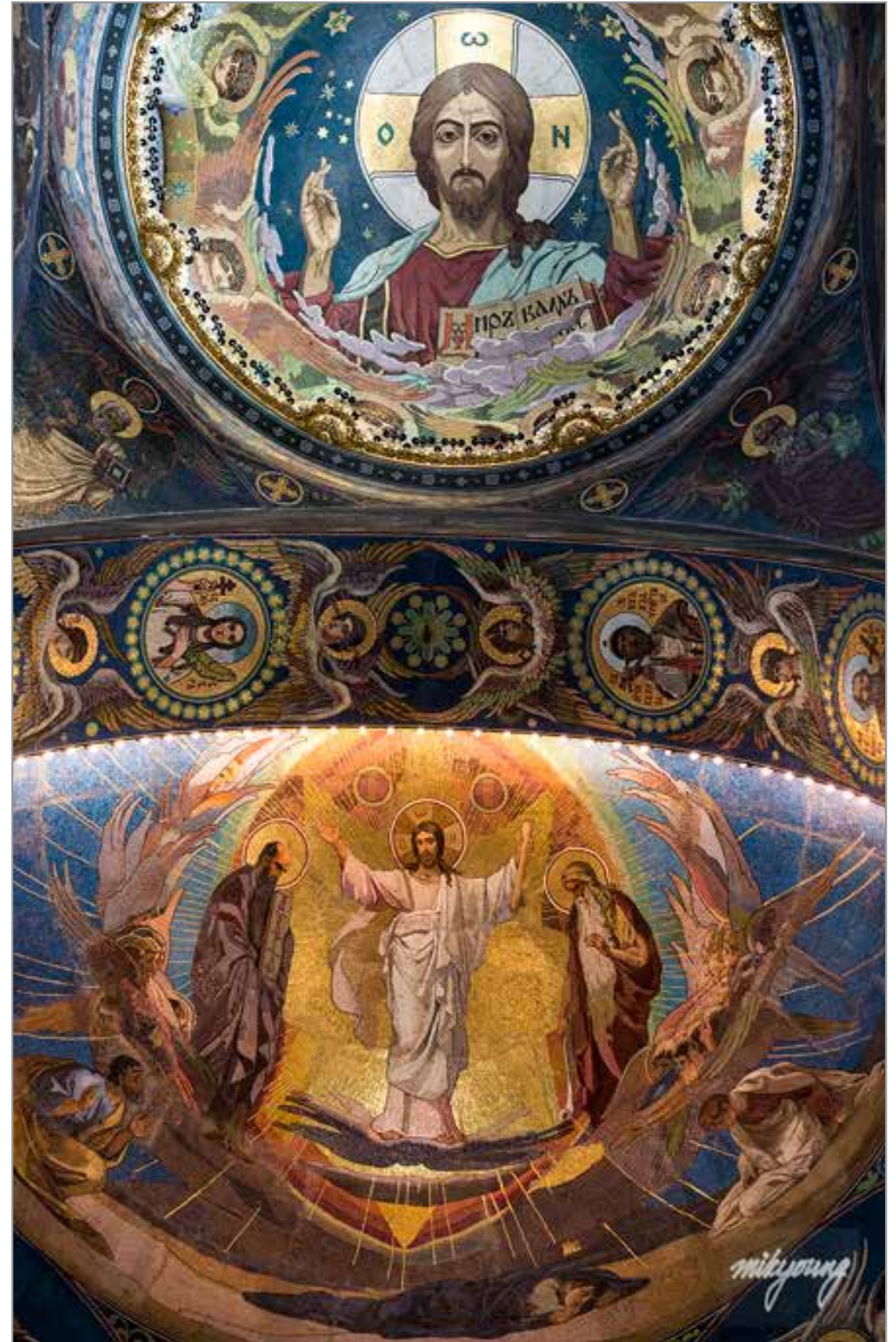
It was designed by Alfred Parland in the style of 16th and 17th century Russian churches.*





Mosaic of Christ Pantocrator under the central dome of the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ.

Ceiling mosaics. Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ



(below) The entrance to the altar, richly decorated with mosaics and elaborate entry doors. (above) The intricate mosaic work depicting the Christ Pantocrator. Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ





Fabulous mosaic ceiling. Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ



Kazan Cathedral or Kazanskiy Kafedralniy Sobor, which is also known as the *Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan*, is a cathedral of the Russian Orthodox Church. It is dedicated to Our Lady of Kazan (*Holy Protectress of Russia*), one of the most venerated icons in Russia. Construction of the cathedral started in 1801 and continued for ten years. It was completed in 1811. The architect, Andrey Voronikhin, modelled the building on St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. After Napoleon invaded Russia (1812), the commander-in-chief General Mikhail Kutuzov asked *Our Lady of Kazan* for help. The *Patriotic War* over, Russians saw the cathedral primarily as a memorial to their victory over Napoleon. Kutuzov himself was interred in the cathedral in 1813; and *Alexander Pushkin* wrote celebrated lines meditating over his Sepulchre. In 1815 keys to seventeen cities and eight fortresses were brought by the victorious Russian army from Europe and placed in the cathedral's sacristy.*

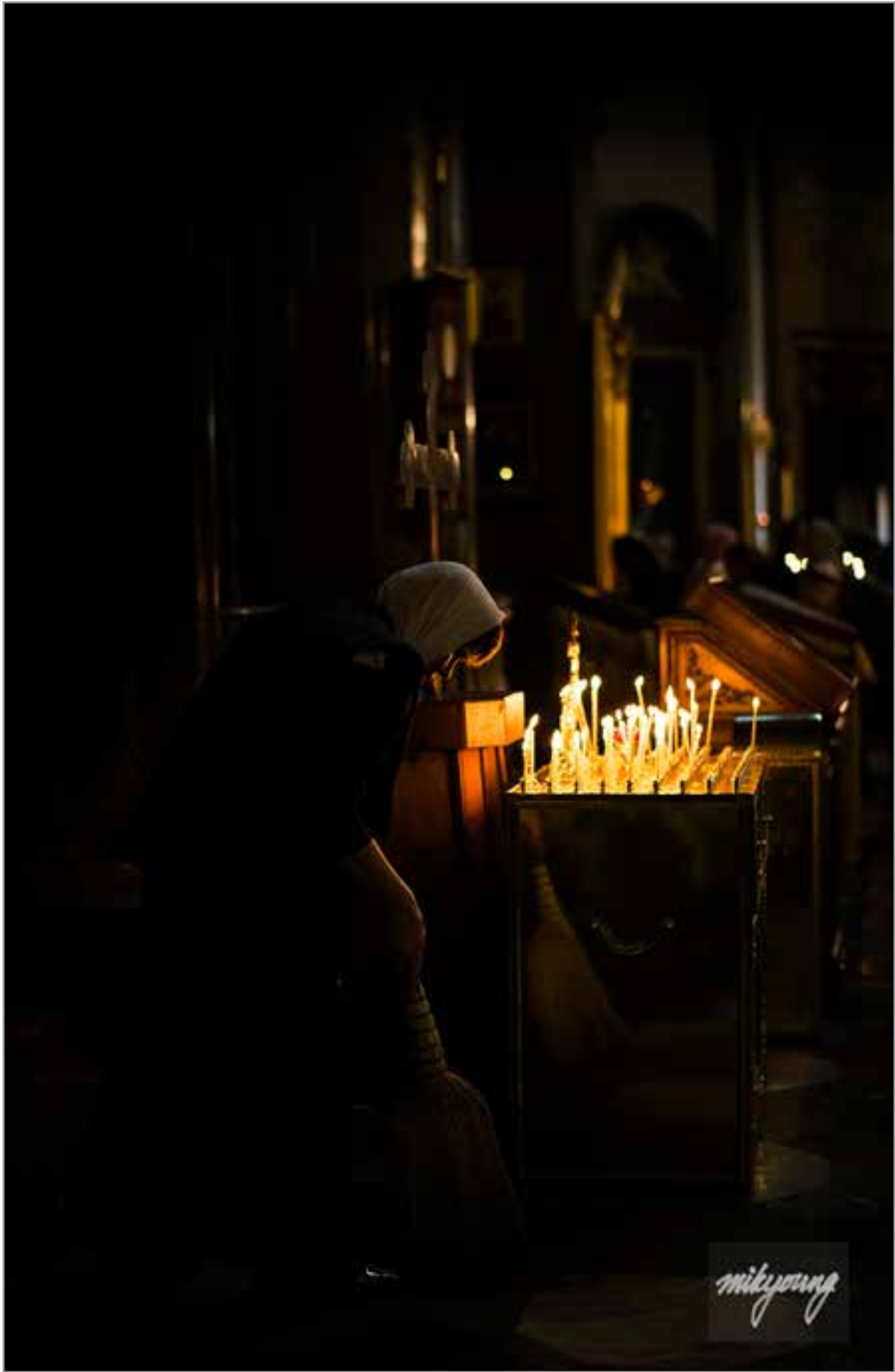


The Icon of *Our Lady of Kazan* in the Kazan Cathedral.

Veneration of the Holy Cross, Kazan Cathedral.



Clearing the candle wax from the floor, Kazan Cathedral.



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