

# THIS MOMENT IN TIME

## PHOTOGRAPHS

2007 – 2017



Courtney White

## This Moment In Time

The seeds of this project were planted in the summer of 2005 when I reluctantly purchased my first digital camera. In the years following the births of our twins Sterling and Olivia in 1998, I had stubbornly clung to my well-worn 35mm Pentax SLR (single-lens reflex) to document their young lives, hauling film cassettes down to a store to be processed and prints made (which now reside in a box in a closet). For no logical reason, I continued to resist the digital revolution. The kicker came when I had to buy a new carousel for my slides. I employed one in my public presentations for the Quivira Coalition, dotting over the arrangements of the slides for each audience. Eventually, I wore the carousel out. Deciding to replace it, I was chagrined to learn that a new one was only available in a specialty camera store in Albuquerque. I made the drive and I'll never forget the look on the young salesman's face as I made my request. "Get with it dude," his look said.

I got with it. Not long after, I bought a digital SLR camera, curious to see what it could do. I was grudgingly impressed. Alas, we accidentally left it on a bench near a hot pool in Yellowstone National Park. I took advantage of the loss by researching my next camera carefully and waiting for a business trip to New York in 2006 to shop in a mammoth electronics store. I took the plunge, buying a high-end Canon SLR, a second lens, and a leather carrying case whose internal parts I promptly rearranged back in my hotel. Packed snugly with gear, I slung the camera case over a shoulder and took the outfit for test walk around Manhattan. It worked. The pictures looked great. The case comfortable and convenient, which meant I could take photographs anywhere I went.

That gave me an idea.

On the outward leg of the trip to New York, I had purchased James Kunstler's 2004 book *The Long Emergency* and quickly consumed its alarming portrait of converging global calamities. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastating strike on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast the previous summer, Kunstler's predictions didn't seem overly fantastical. In June, Gen and I went to see Al Gore's climate change documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. As we stepped outside into the bright light of a lovely New Mexico day after the film, I quipped to her "We'd better see Venice, quick!"

It wasn't a joke. In early 2007, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fourth Assessment Report, an extensive review of scientific, social, and economic information related to the effects of climate change, now and in the future. The news wasn't pretty. "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal," concluded the 800 authors, "now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level." The warming would continue for centuries even with aggressive efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. However, without these efforts, the authors said, "Unmitigated climate change would, in the long term, be likely to exceed the capacity of natural, managed and human systems to adapt."

Time was short, in other words, to take meaningful action. Would we do it? I had no idea, but I knew climate change was on the world's radar screen now. Everyone was suddenly talking about it, including politicians and mainstream news organizations. National Public Radio, for example, embarked on a year-long series from the 'frontlines' of climate change. As a result of all this sudden and intense attention, concern about climate change spiked among the public, according to polls. There was momentum to do something, it felt like, which was exciting. I knew it wouldn't last long, especially when the oil-and-gas industry began to fight back in earnest. The window was now.

It was an important moment in time for myself too. In spring 2006, I was forty-five years old. "Top of the bell curve of life," as I wrote in my journal. I was Executive Director of a busy nonprofit organization, the Quivira Coalition, that I cofounded in 1997 with a rancher. After years of gathering

speed, we were running at full tilt. We hosted an Annual Conference, ran a cattle herd on a 36,000-acre ranch, restored damaged creeks for endangered fish, led workshops, worked with members of the Navajo Nation on land projects, published a full-color Journal and other educational material, and more. It was exhilarating and exhausting. Heaping on, in 2007 the Board of Directors agreed to my idea to add the words “fostering resilience” to our mission statement in response to widening worries about the state of the world. This was necessary, I argued, but it also meant more work, including the production of grassfed meat from our ranch. It also meant more travel for me as I gave new talks and prospected for ideas and solutions to climate change and other challenges. I felt the pressure of time here as well. The window of opportunity was open – but for how long?

It was also an important moment in personal ways. In 2006, Sterling and Olivia were seven and growing fast. They were still our goslings, but not for much longer. I organized trips and other activities for us as a family, including two memorable sojourns to Europe so they could see and experience as much of the world as possible. One journey was unexpected. In May 2006, Gen was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumors, a slow-growing cancer. It meant many trips over many years to specialists in Los Angeles, trips that we folded into our family adventures.

It all added up to what I felt was a critical moment in time – for the world, our work, and myself. It was just an intuition, but one that I felt keenly. With the digital camera equipment now at my side, I decided to act on my intuition and make this moment the subject of an art project.

In doing so, I had my previous fine art photography project in mind – *The Indelible West*. In that work, I tried to capture another place at a specific moment of time, the so-called ‘New West’ in the American West during the early 1990s. My *modus operandi* back then was analog film, black-and-white, and horizontal images, recoded by a Bronica medium-format camera. This time, I’d operate in digital, color, and vertical. I saw the two projects as complimentary in other ways. One of the goals of *Indelible West* was to move beyond the ossified and damaging stereotypes of the region and create a layered portrait of the diverse and dynamic West that I knew. By attempting to do so, I suspected I was creating a ‘frozen-in-time’ record of a region in transition. But some things were timeless too. Many of the forces at work in the early 1990s on the American West – the rise of mass tourism, resource exploitation, and unbridled growth, to name a few – were hard at work twenty-five years later, but on much larger and more consequential scales.

When I set out on this project in 2007, I also wanted to capture small and fleeting moments in time, not just the big stuff. Above all, I wanted to enjoy the places I visited and savor the moments as much as possible. I knew they wouldn’t come again. It is my hope that the images collected here are as infused with the joy and zest for the world that I experienced as I traveled and worked as they are with any commentary. It *was* an extraordinary period of time. Hopefully, I’ve been able to convey a piece of it here.

- Courtney White  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

# THIS MOMENT IN TIME





People's Climate March

New York City

2014





Street Crossing

Nairobi, Kenya

2015





Imperial Palace

Beijing, China

2013





Creek Restoration

Valle Vidal, New Mexico

2007





Umbrellas and Legs

Nice, France

2010





Sightseers and Fjord

Preikestolen, Norway

2017





Young Man and Mall

Minneapolis, Minnesota

2013



Graduate Students and Drunken Forest Fairbanks, Alaska 2011



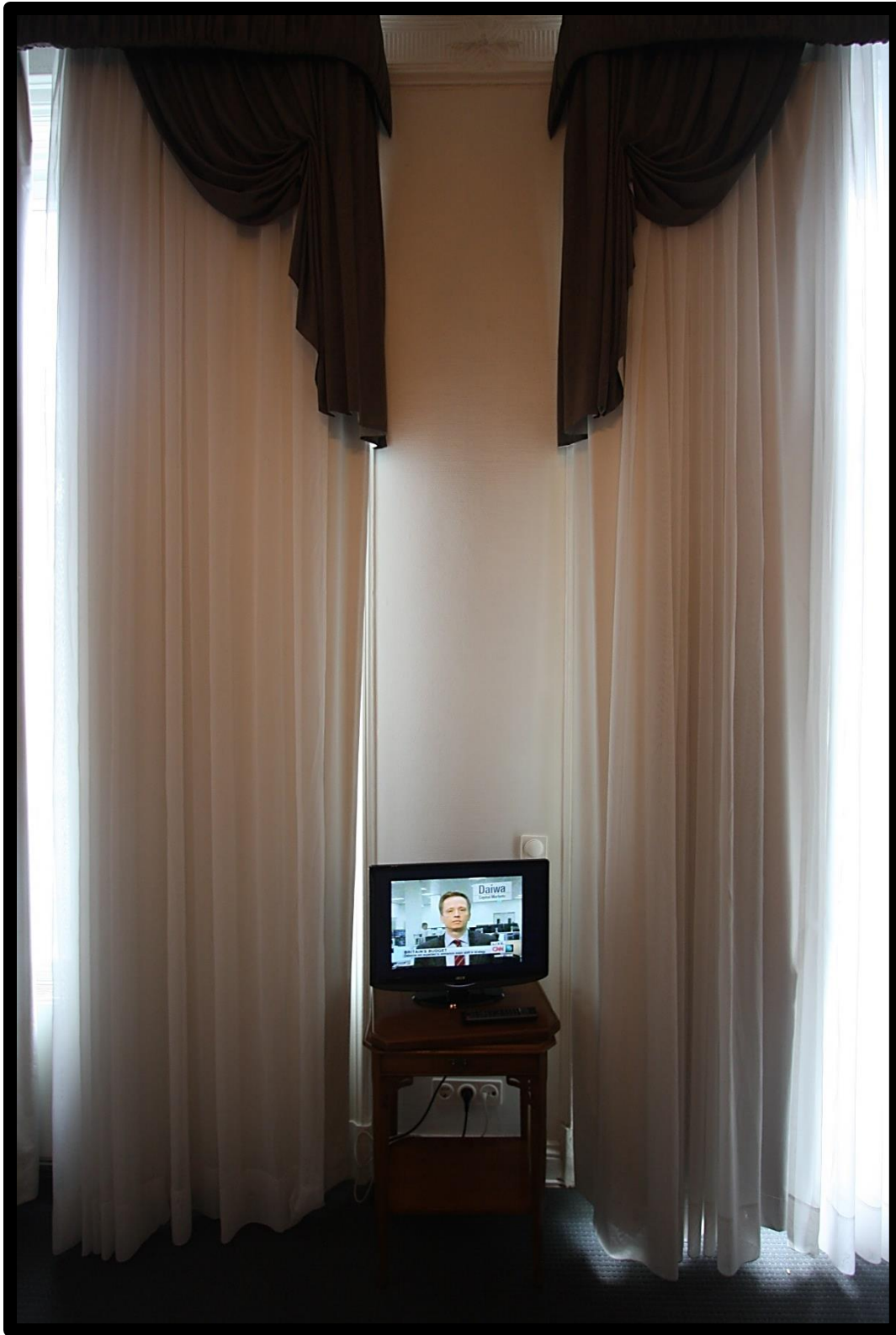


**Regenerative Farmer**

**New South Wales, Australia**

**2011**





News Program

Hamburg Germany

2013



Castle Entrance

Carcassonne, France

2010





World War I Dead Memorial

London, England

2014

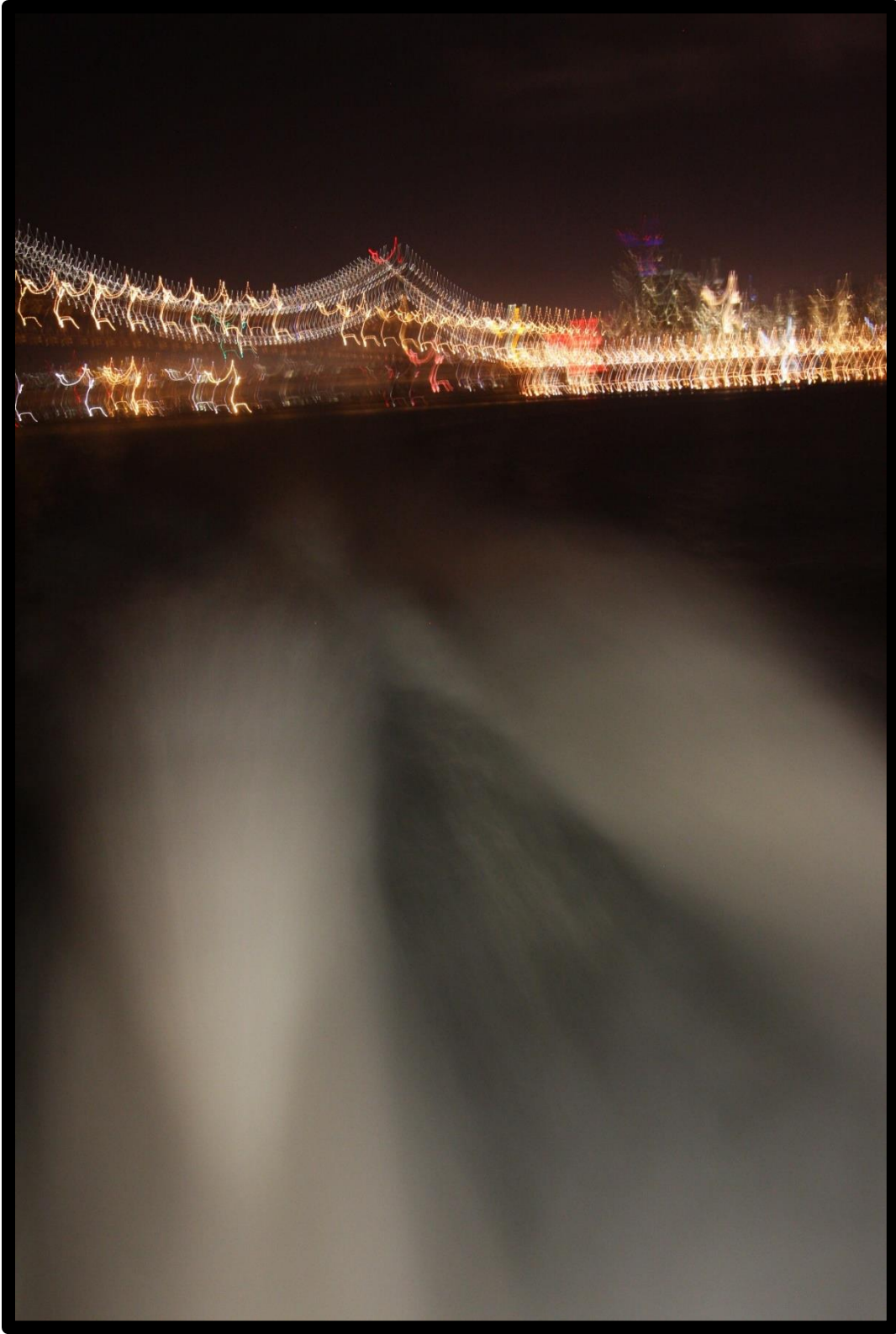




Bank Patron

Montclair, New Jersey

2011



Night Ferry

San Francisco, California

2011





Metro Station

Sydney, Australia

2011



Ice Rink

St. Paul, Minnesota

2009





Buckingham Palace

London, England

2014





Gates of Paradise

Florence, Italy

2008



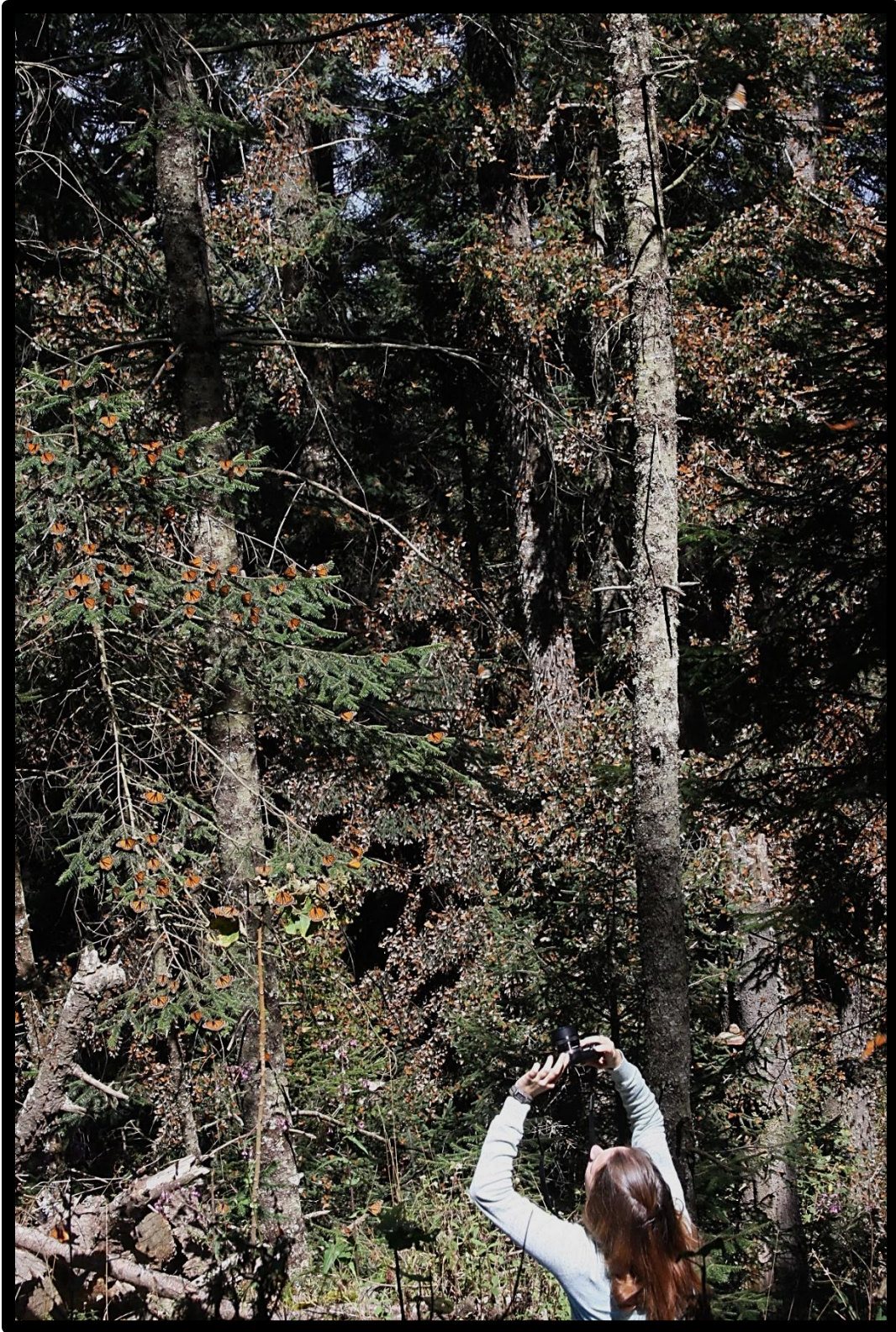


Roussillon Walls

Provence, France

2014





**Monarch Butterflies**

**Michoacán State, Mexico**

**2015**





Aquarium Fish

San Francisco, California

2011



Cheese Factory

Tillamook, Oregon

2015





Organic Farm

Southern New Hampshire

2011





Visitor Lodge      Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming      2011





Gardening Workshop

Nazareth, Texas

2009





Fish Market

Seattle, Washington

2016





Rancher and Nonprofit Director

Ovando, Montana

2007



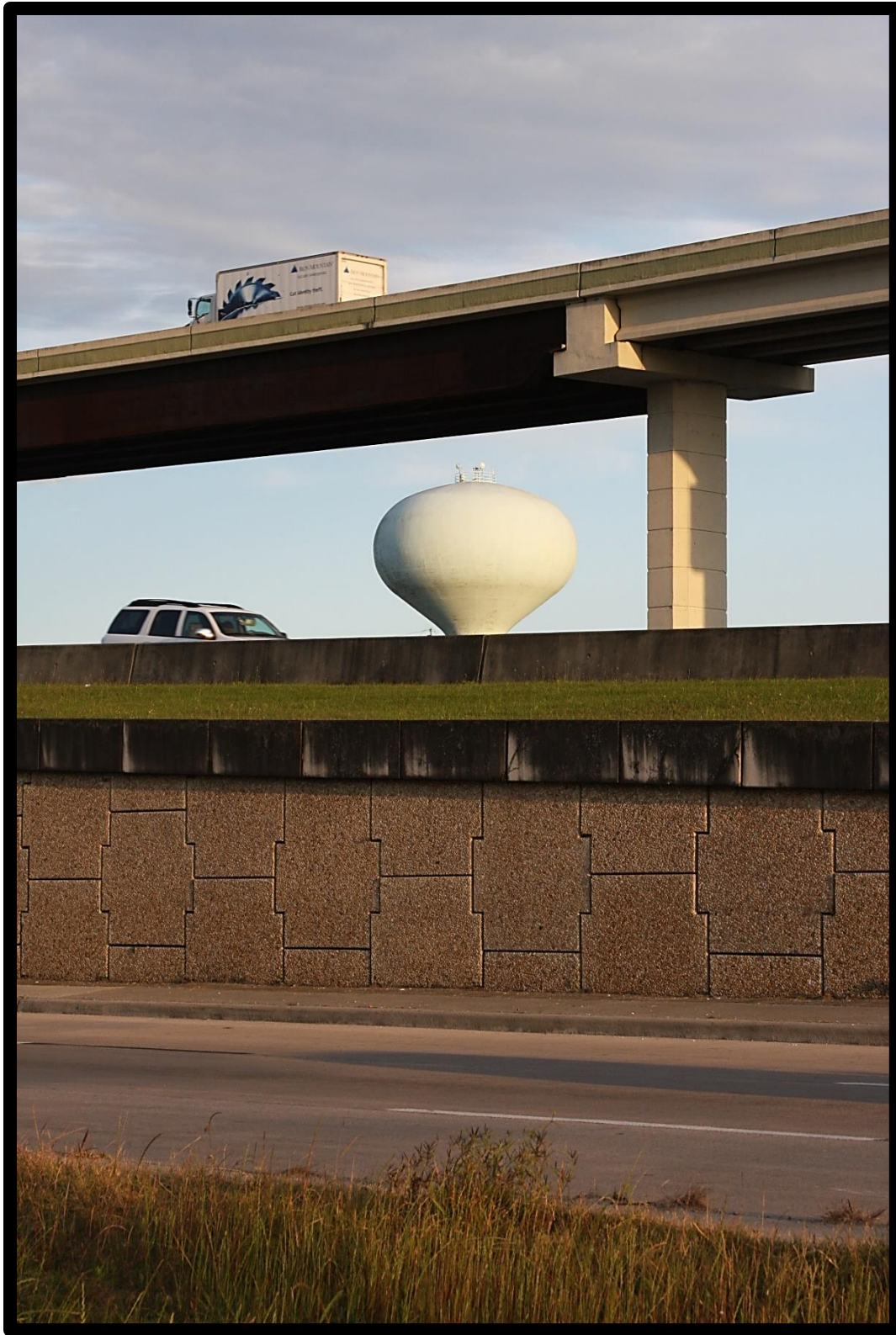


Art Project

Les-Baux-de-Provence, France

2014





On and Off Ramps

Dallas, Texas

2016



Power Pole and Train

Davis, California

2011





Internet Cable

Northern New Mexico

2011





Old Mining Camp

Animas Forks, Colorado

2007





Kiss

Delicate Arch, Utah

2014





Wedding

Snowball, Arkansas

2009





Climate Village

Paris, France

2015



Climate March

New York City

2014





Comedy Show

Branson, Missouri

2009



Bridge of Sighs with Ad

Venice, Italy

2010





Shopping Mall with Creek

Salt Lake City, Utah

2012



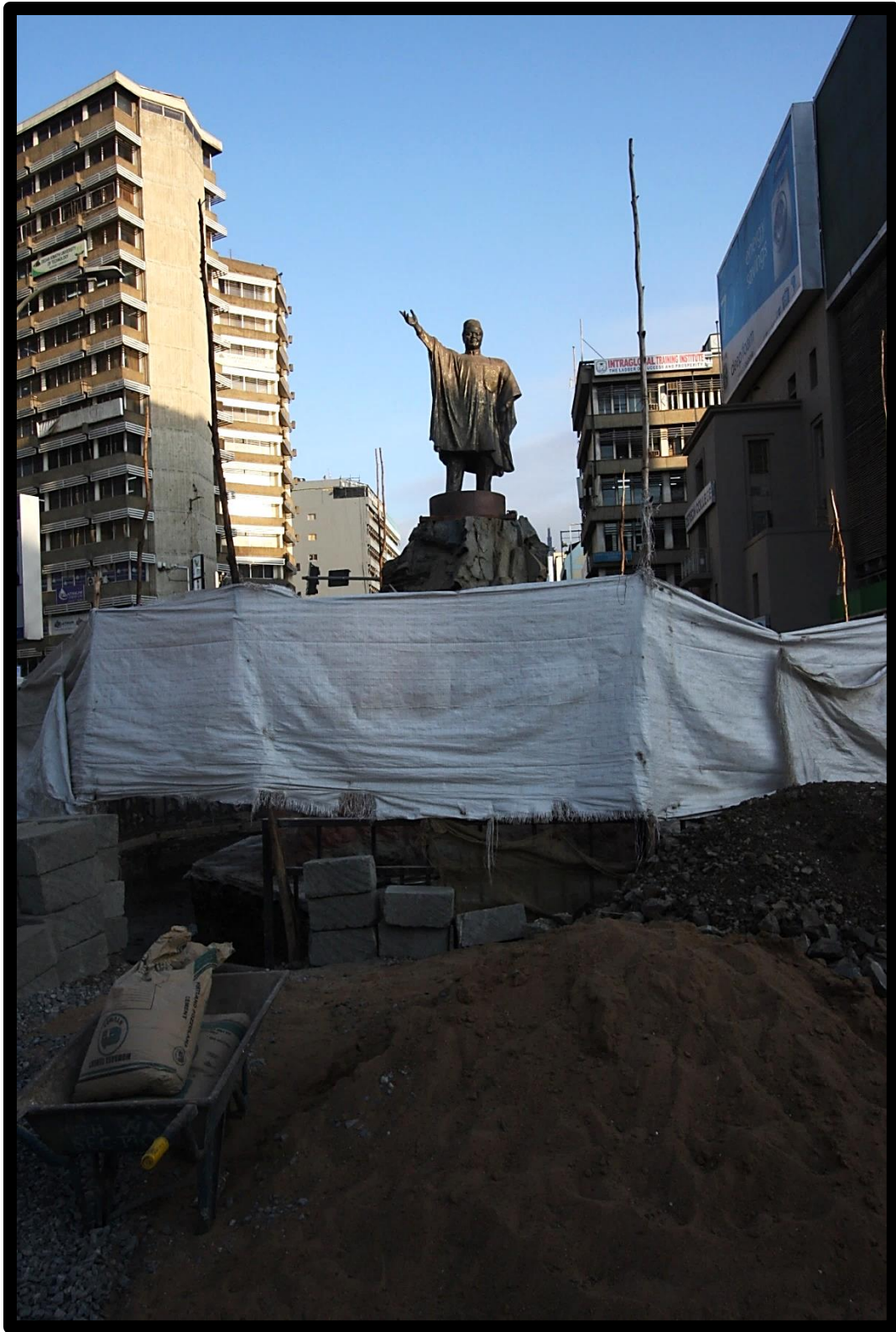


Big Ben with Tube

London, England

2014





Politician with Sunrise

Nairobi, Kenya

2015



Skier with Condos

Mountain Village, Colorado

2014





Aqueduct with Shadows

Pont-du-Gard, France

2010





Farmer with Flags

Coon Valley, Wisconsin

2010





Ben Franklin with Beads

New Orleans, Louisiana

2012



Climate Change Conference

Hamburg, Germany

2013





Evening Show

London, England

2014



Fourth of July Parade

Fort Davis, Texas

2009





Sun Mountain Gathering

Santa Fe, New Mexico

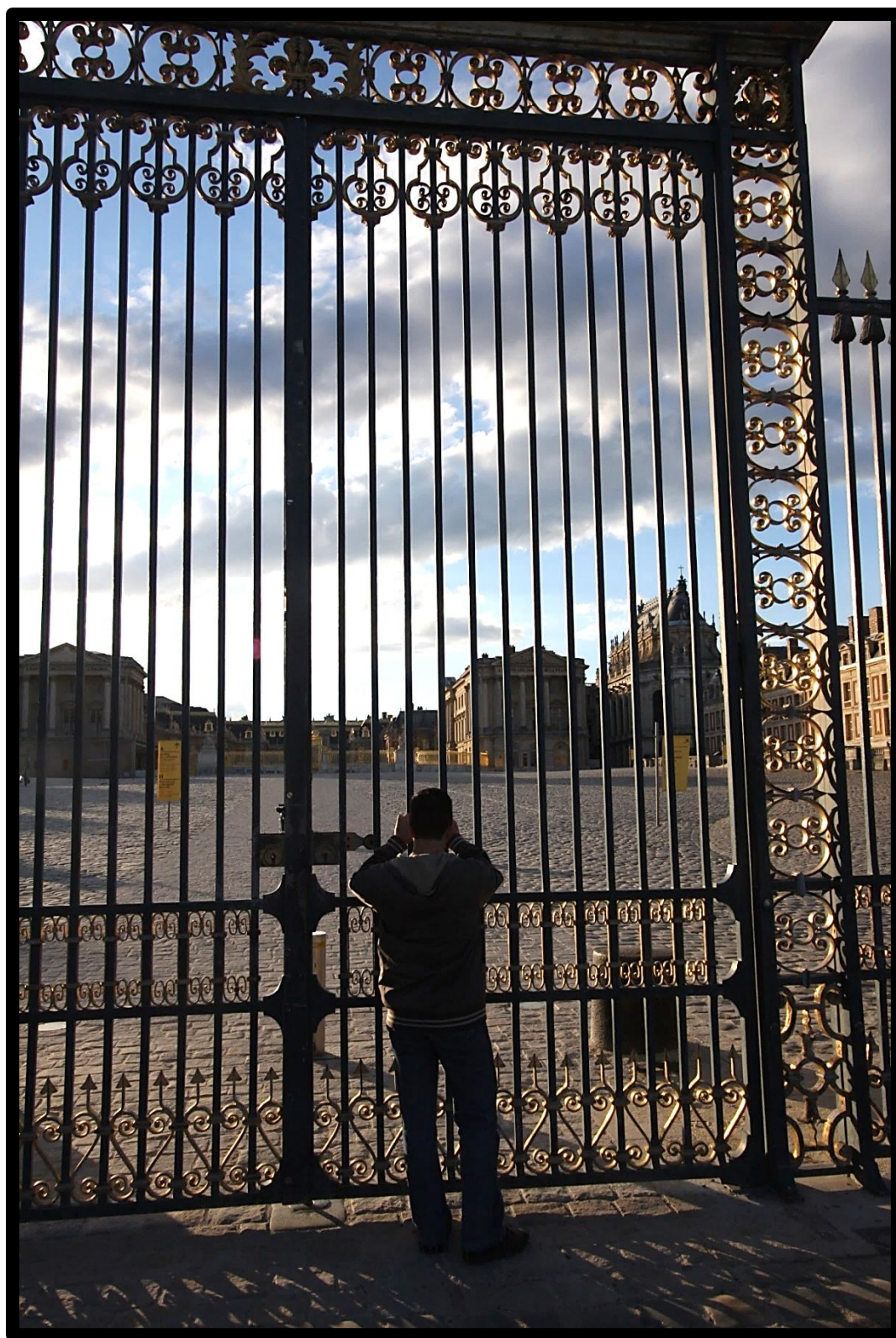
2008





Native Memorial      Little Bighorn Battlefield, Montana      2012





Palace Gate

Versailles, France

2010





Lunch Table with Elephants

Masai Mara, Kenya

2015





Man with Moon

Santa Monica, California

2010



Students with Cameras

Zhengzhou, China

2013





Feet with Poppies

Vaison-la-Romaine, France

2014





Corn Field

Eastern Kansas

2014





Corn Bin

Mt. Hope, Ohio

2007



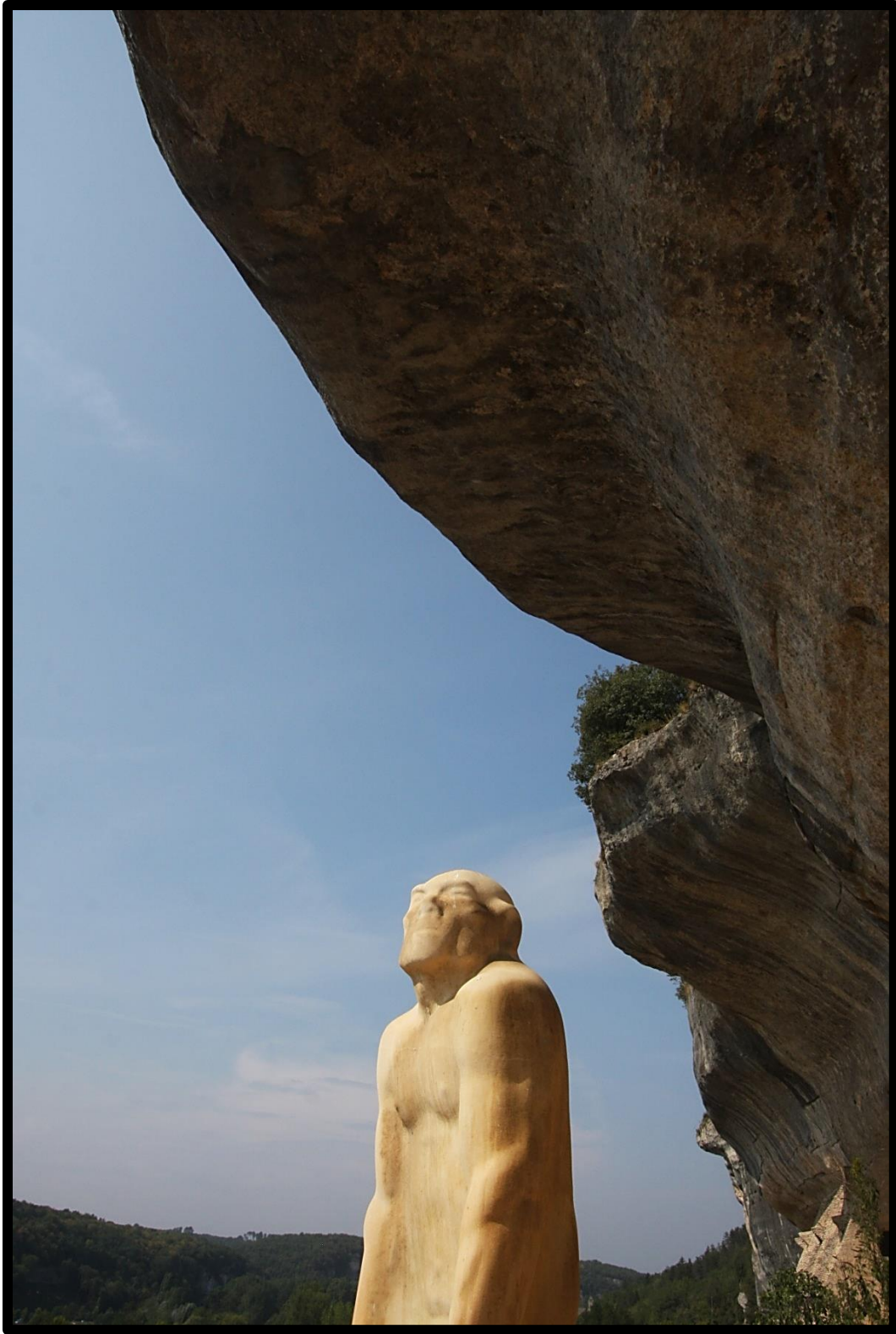


Skull Wall

Mexico City, Mexico

2015





Cro-Magnon

Les Eyzies, France

2012





George Washington

Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota

2012





Battleship

Houston, Texas

2016





Cruise Ship

Stavanger, Norway

2017





Mozart's Home

Salzburg, Austria

2013





Rising Towers

Nairobi, Kenya

2015





Burning Incense

Shaolin Temple, China

2013





Melting Iceberg Chip

Paris, France

2015



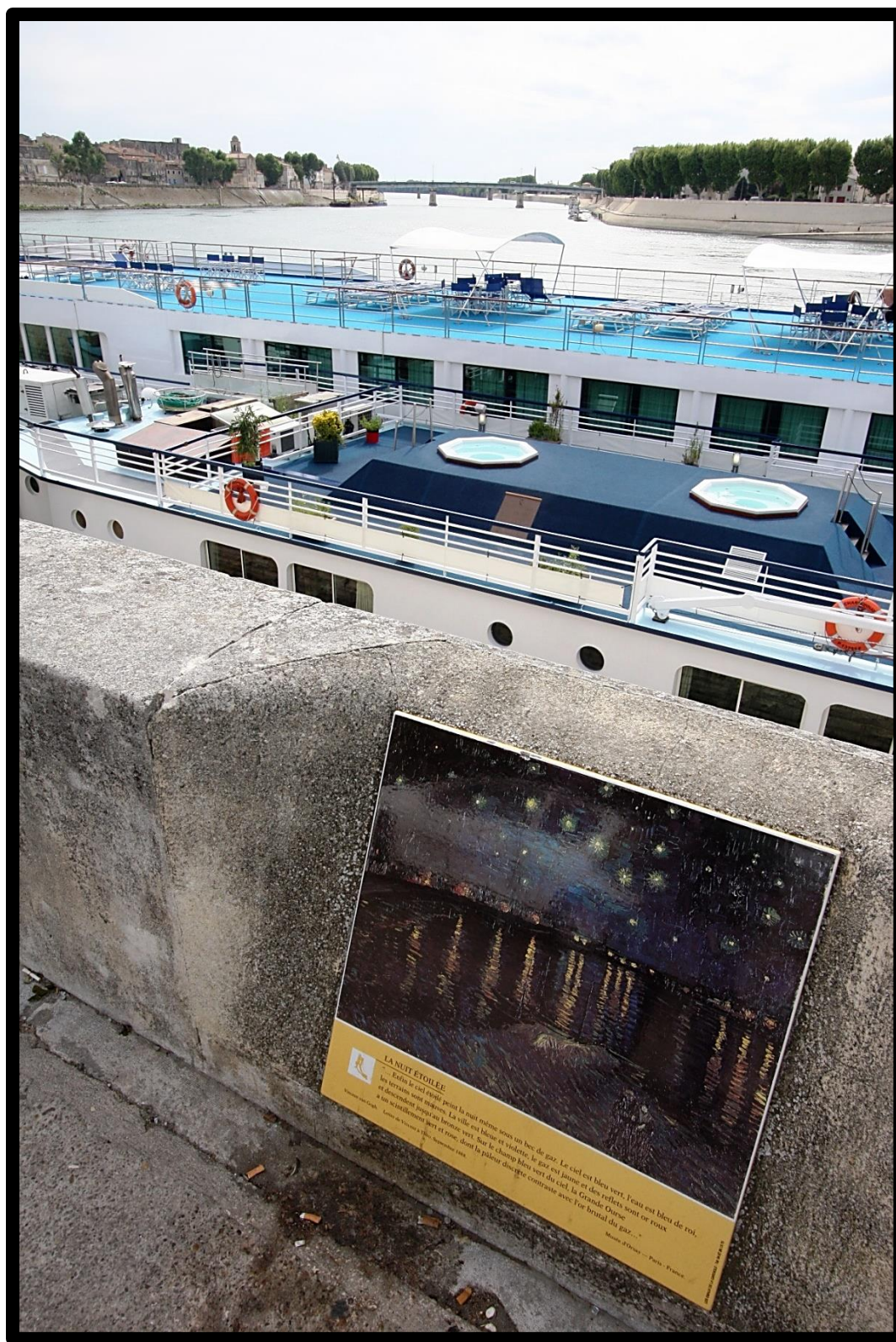


Hot Tub

San Juan Islands, Washington

2016





## Van Gogh Painting

Arles, France

2014





Volcano

Northern Costa Rica

2015





World Trade Center

New York City

2014





Wind Turbine

Marin County, California

2012





Church

Barcelona, Spain

2012









Pub Patrons

London, England

2014



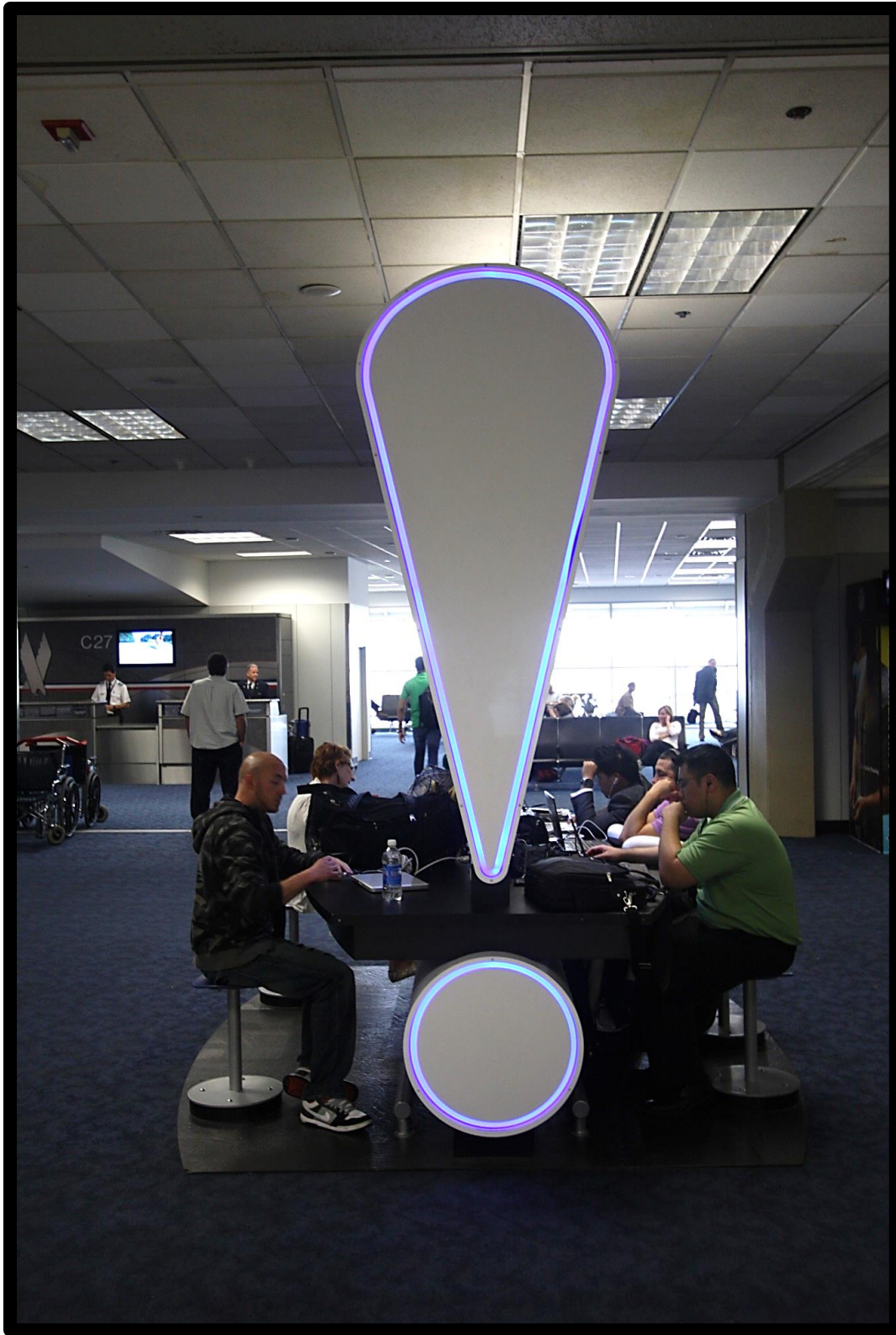


Park Shuttle

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

2011



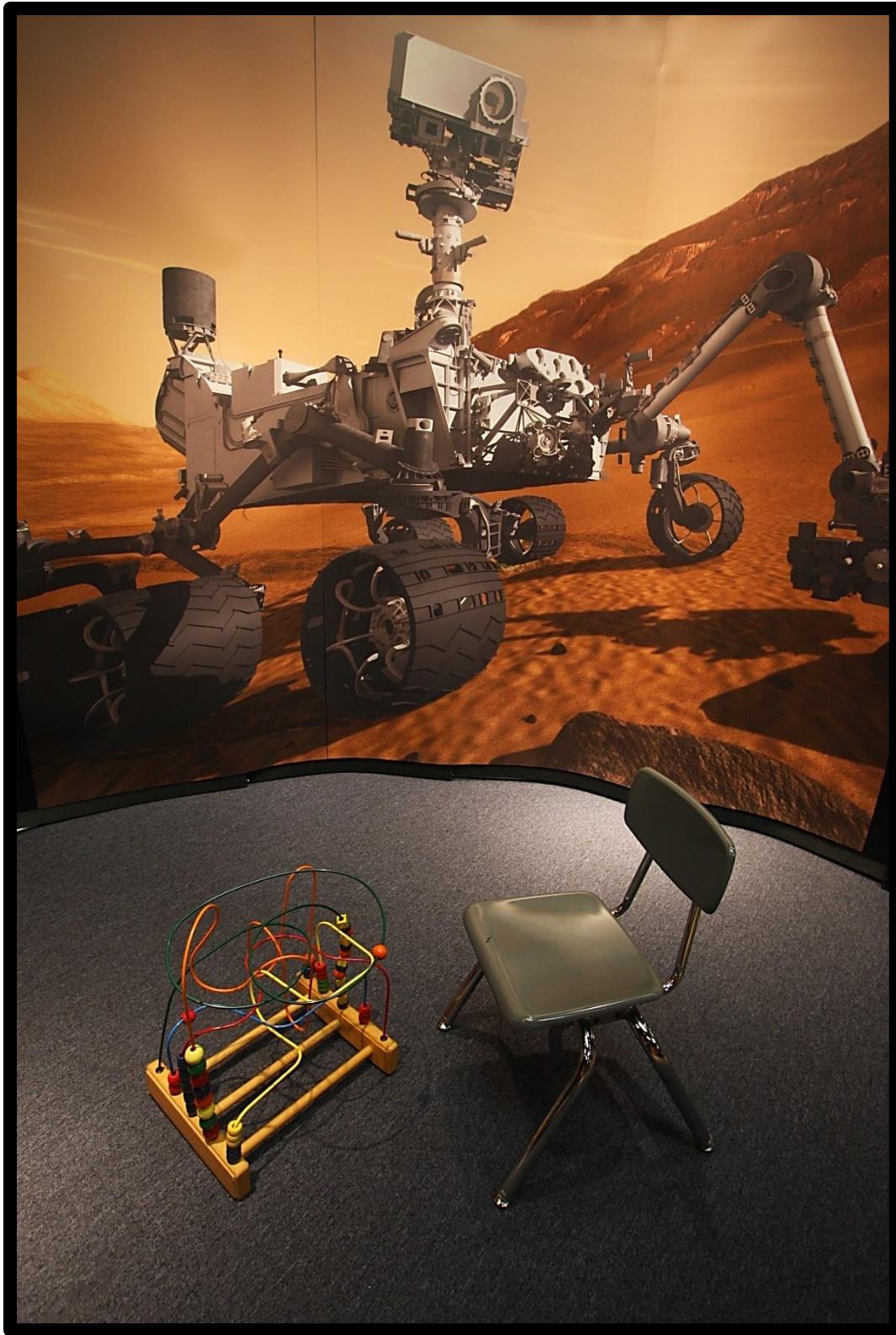


Airport Internet Station

Dallas, Texas

2011





Science Education Room

Los Alamos, New Mexico

2013



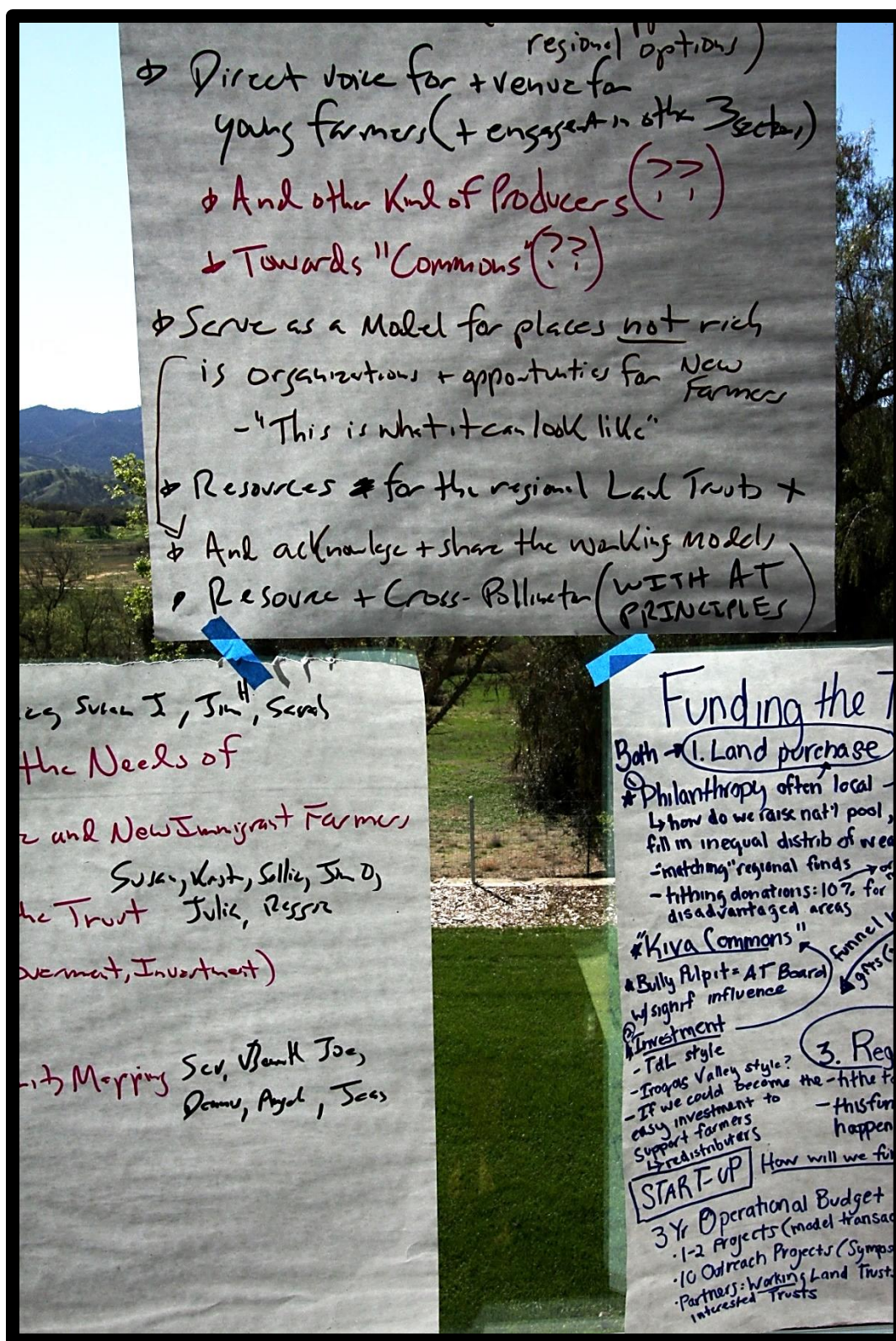


Urban Farm Tour

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2010









Sheep Shearing Shed

New South Wales, Australia

2011





Resort Boots

Northern Costa Rica

2015





Rooftop Farm Entrance

Brooklyn, New York

2011





Breakfast

Salzburg, Austria

2013





Magic Show

Sarlat, France

2012



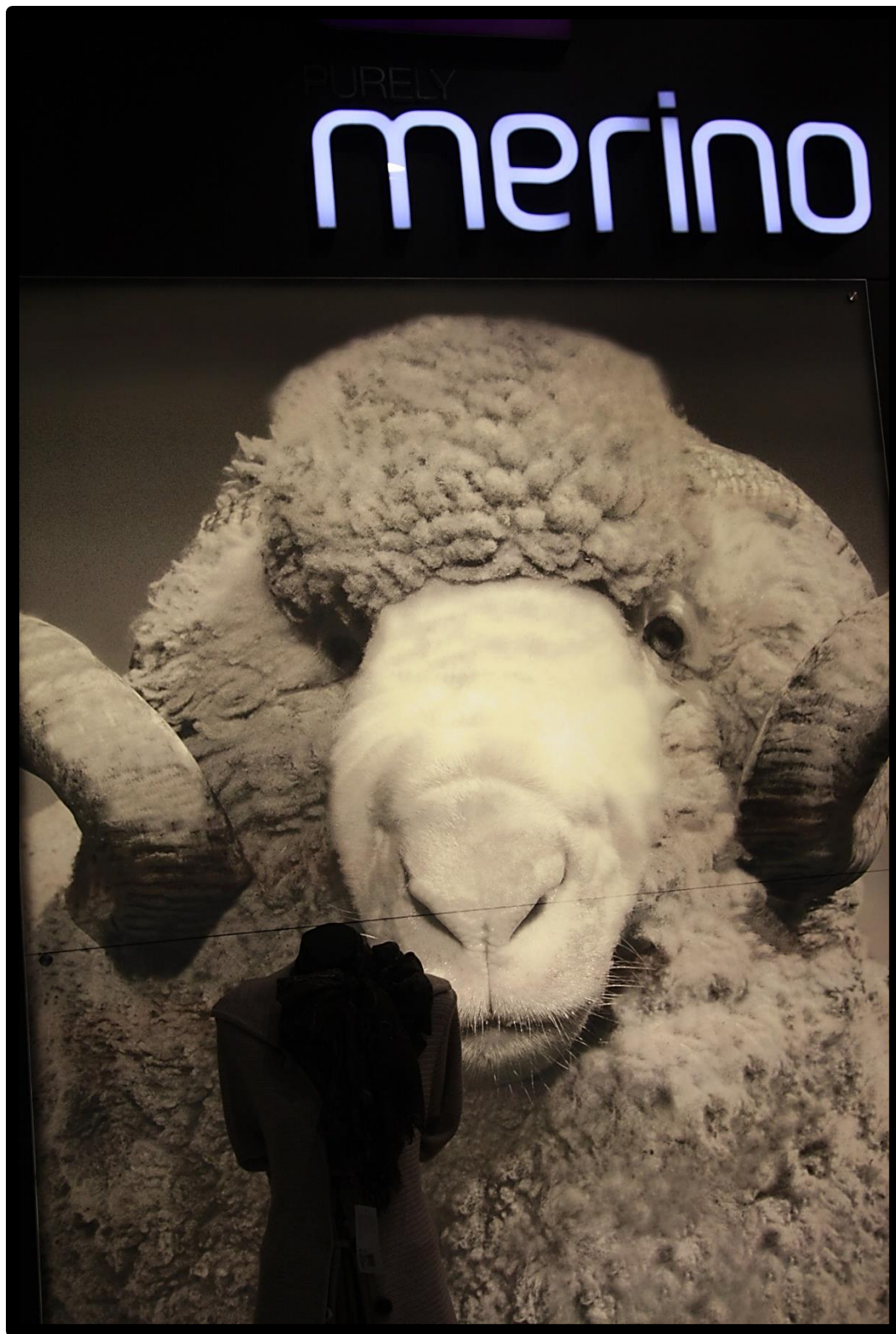


Earth Goddess

Mexico City, Mexico

2015





Wool Shop

Sydney, Australia

2011





Steel Mammoth

Half Moon Bay, California

2009



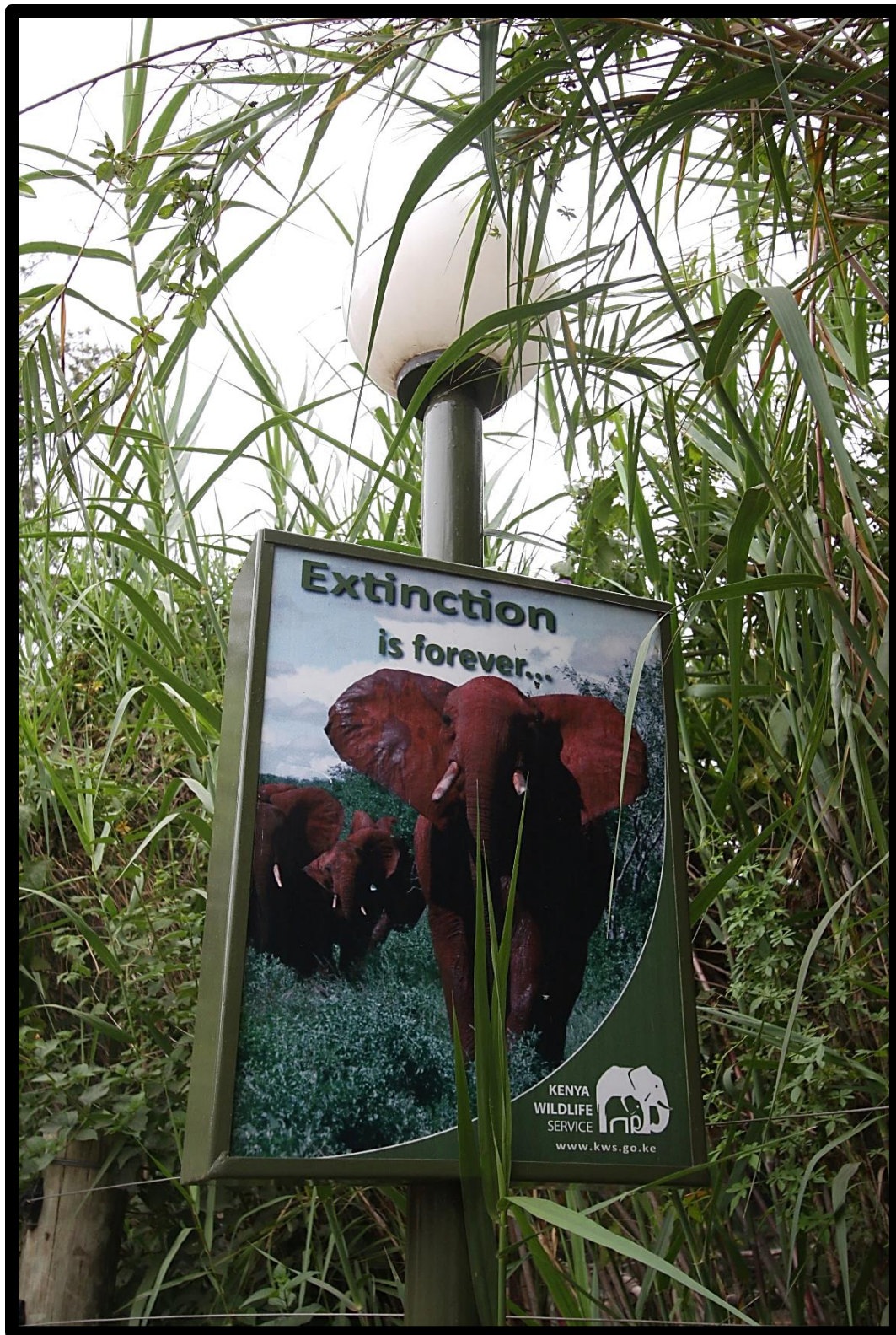


Winged Creatures

London, England

2014





Warning Sign

Nairobi National Park, Kenya

2015





Real Estate Office

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

2017





Gated Home

Los Altos Hills, California

2009



Wildfire

Northern New Mexico

2011



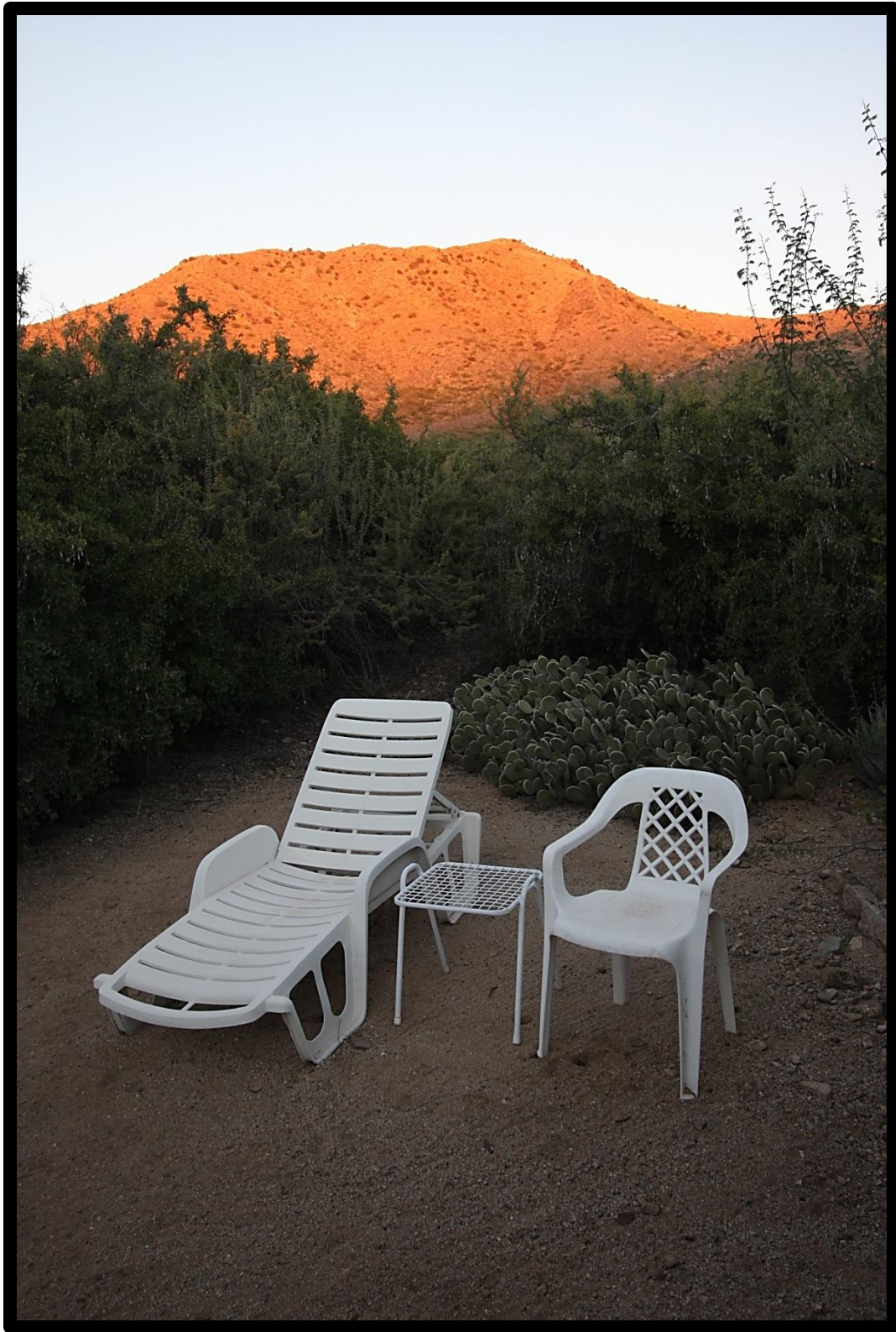


Statue and Sky

Montpellier, France

2014





Dude Ranch

Altar Valley, Arizona

2012



Crossroads

Central Oklahoma

2009





Main Street

Portland, Maine

2011





Horses

Salzburg, Austria

2013





Amusement Park

Santa Cruz, California

2014

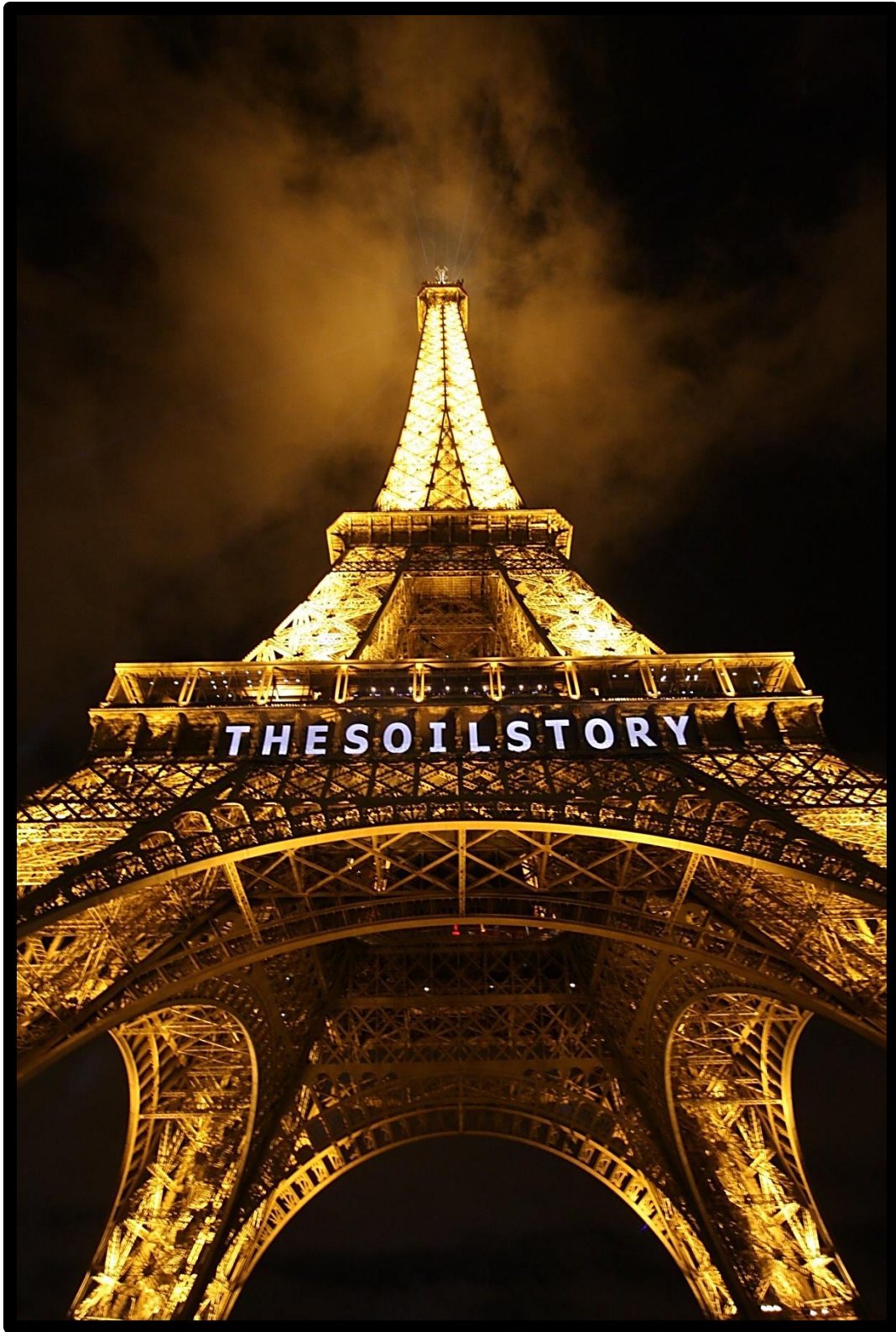


Fireworks

Millersburg, Ohio

2008



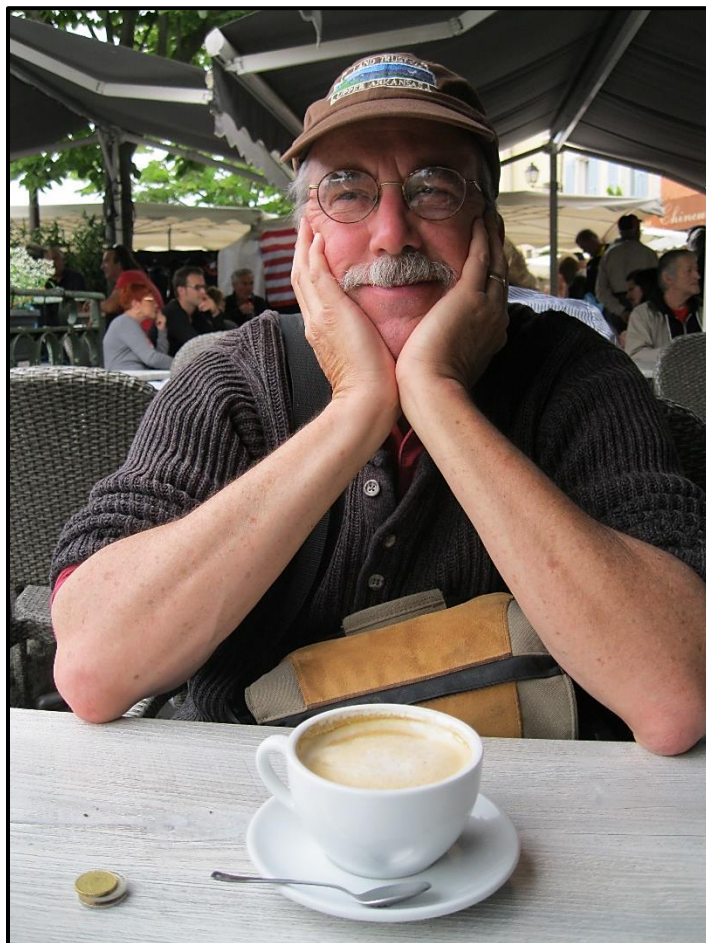


Eiffel Tower

Paris, France

2015

# THE END



Portrait of the Photographer with Cappuccino

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