

Do You See What I See?

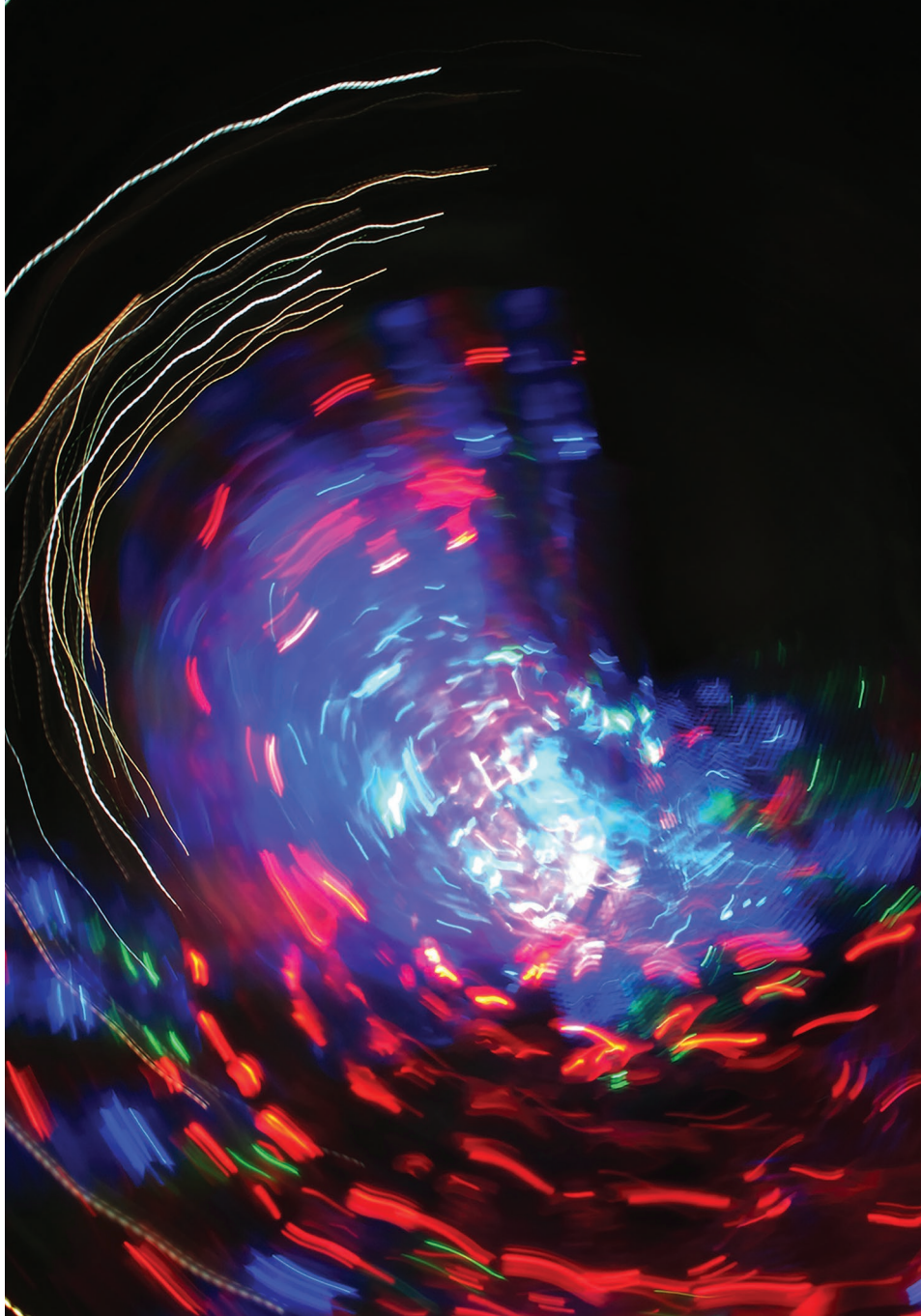


THE COLORS OF JAZZ

Leah Abrahams

*I always think you should look at art the way you listen to music.
You don't worry about what it's trying to say. You just go with the flow.*

--Cornelia Parker, artist



Sydney, Australia

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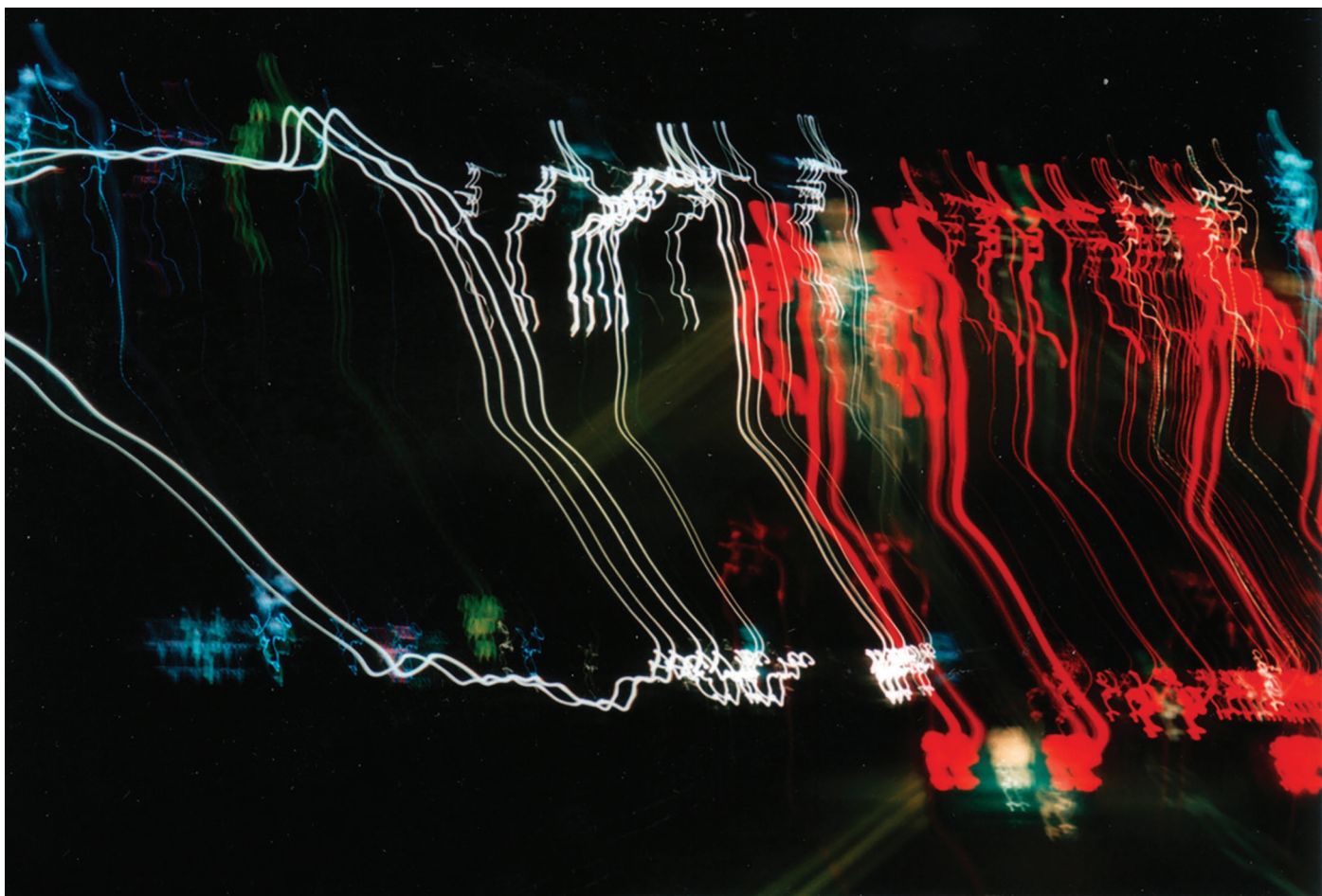
According to Susan Sontag, "To take a picture is to have an interest in things as they are, in the status quo remaining unchanged..." But my rebellious self wants to trick my camera by intervening in the process of photographing what I see. In my first experiment, soon after I learned about the effect of the open shutter, I put my camera on my dashboard and set the shutter for long exposures while driving 70mph. I called these my "drive-by shootings." The long lines of red (tail lights of cars in front of me) and white (headlights of the cars coming toward me) were magical. And I discovered that by jiggling the camera, I could produce even more engaging patterns.

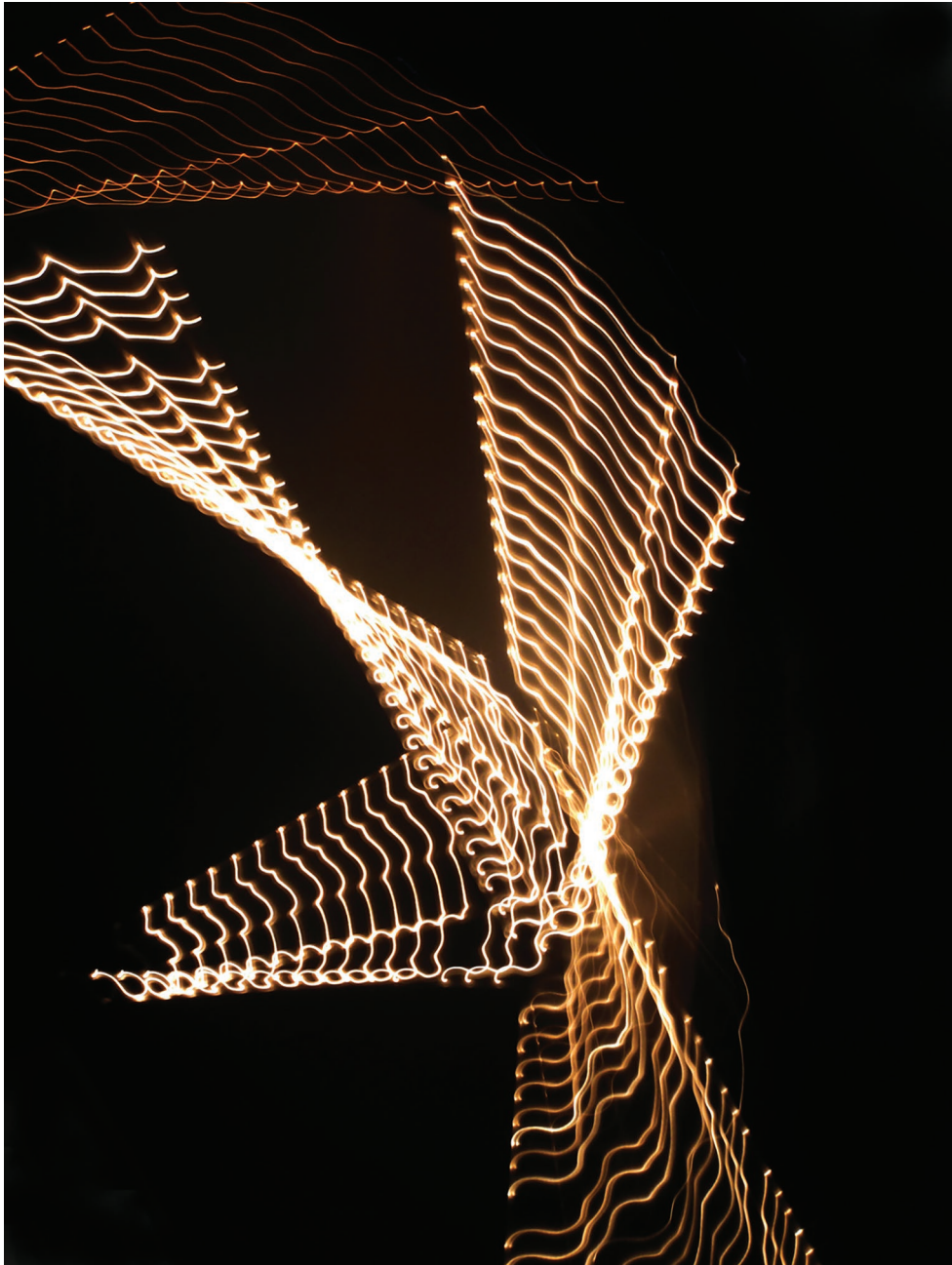
The photos in this series are from the US, Cuba, Panama, Australia and other places I have visited. They were taken in buildings and outside. Sometimes the lights I focused on were already moving—again leading to further experimenting and decision making. One example was the night I observed fire trucks and police cars at the scene of an accident (no one was hurt, but several cars were totaled). The shifting and stationary lights recorded by my moving camera resulted in startling photos. They remind me of the feeling I get from listening to jazz and inspire me to be a player by improvising, changing rhythms, adding syncopation.

Now, at every opportunity, I seek out lights—multi-colored or just white—and play with the camera while the shutter remains open. Not every outcome passes muster and many have been discarded. Overall, how I move my camera and how long I permit light to enter, reflect what I'm feeling and seeing—and a voice telling me to "click now." Do you see what I see?

Leah Abrahams

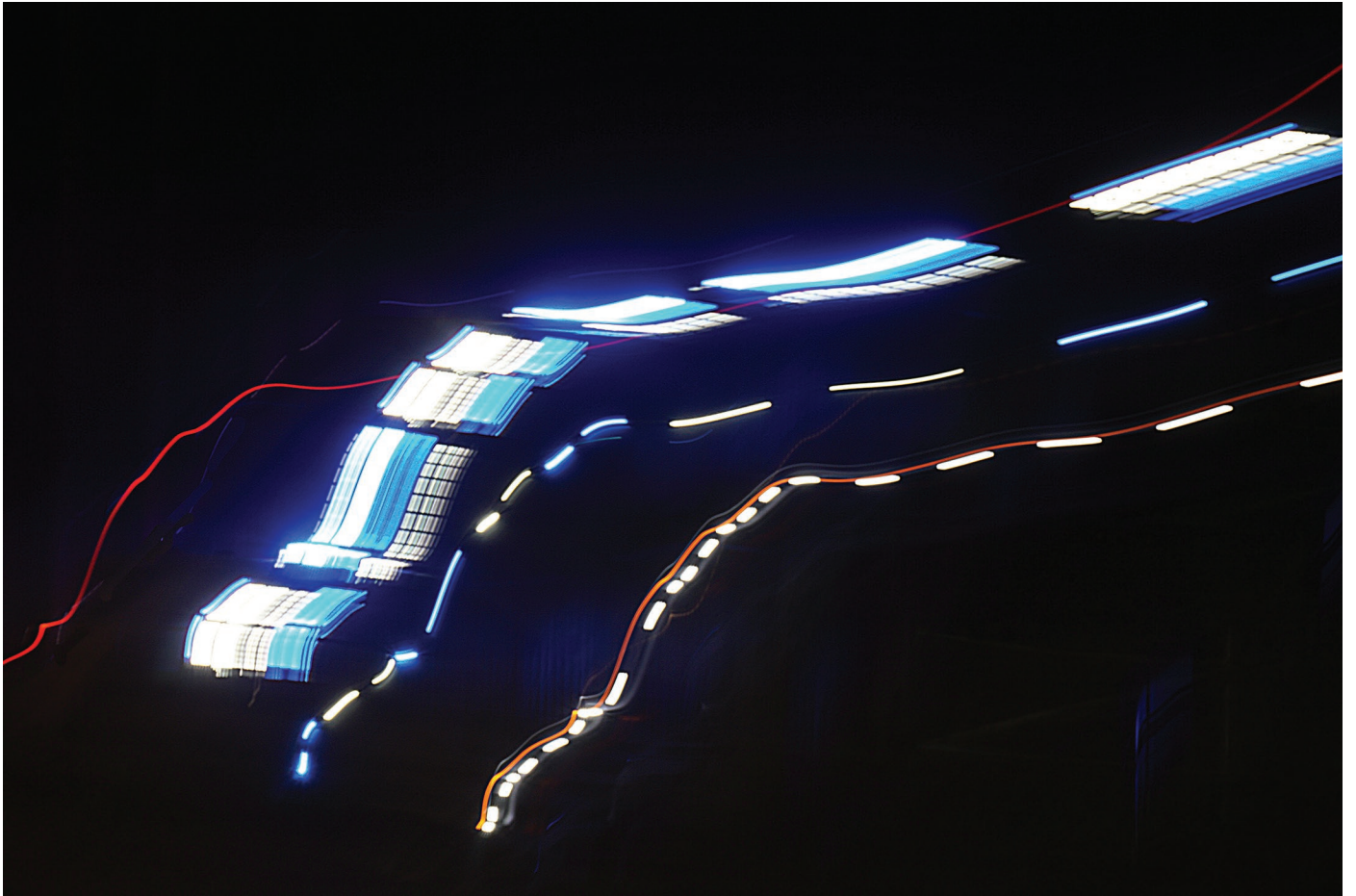
June, 2022





Melbourne, Australia







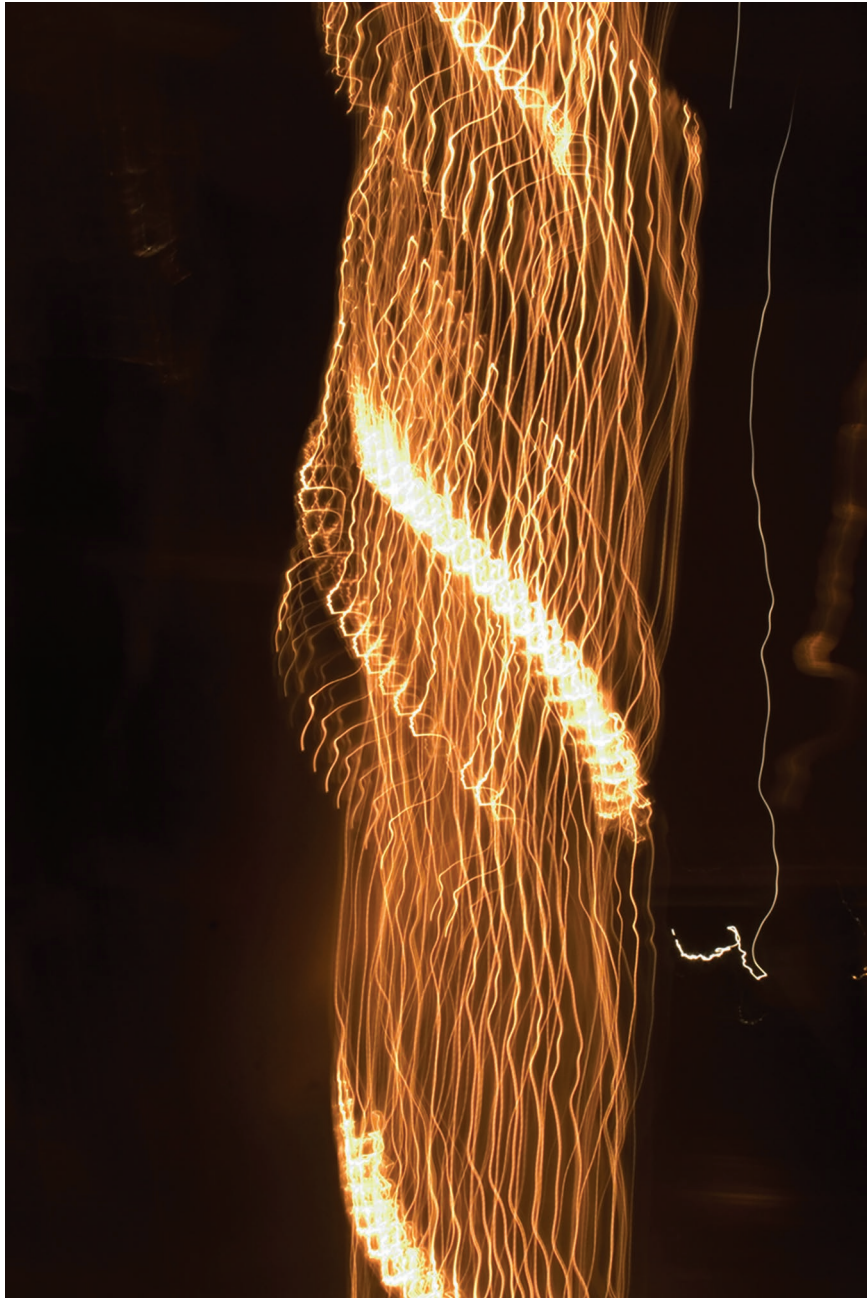






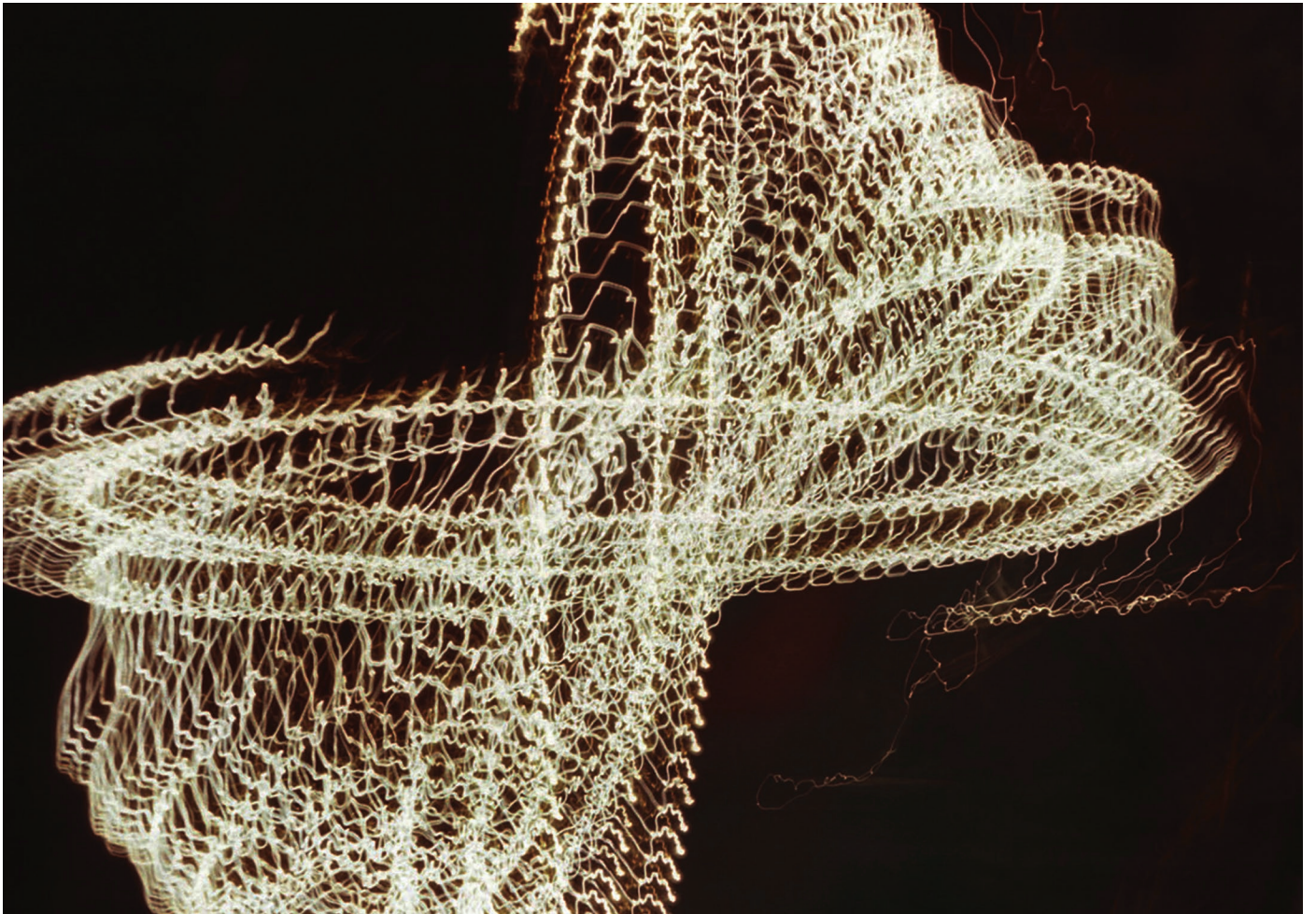
Nashville, Tennessee





Grand Rapids, Michigan













Panama City, Panama

“Photography is my passion. My goal is to have viewers of my art see the world differently and more thoughtfully after exposure to this work.”

Leah Abrahams is a Boston-based visual artist. Her fine art work includes abstracts, landscapes, social commentary, travel, documentary and humor. She has had several one-woman shows and has received recognition in local and national exhibitions. She co-founded the Main Street Art Works, a co-op gallery in Wisconsin, and her art has been acquired by the Brown County Museum, Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College and by corporations and private collectors. She participated in the Haifa-Boston Artists and curated a unique collaborative art project among its members. When she lived in the Midwest she was recognized by the American Association of University Women of Green Bay, Wisconsin for her contribution to cultural, religious, interfaith and educational community leadership. After a career in social program evaluation and market research, Leah founded Mixed Media Memoirs, a publishing and book packaging company. She is both ghost-writer and editor for individuals wishing to preserve their family histories.

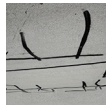
Leah’s art is available through her website, www.LeahAbrahamsPhotography.com

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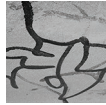
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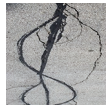
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WHAT ARE THE ALIEN MESSAGES TELLING US?

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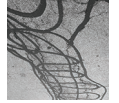
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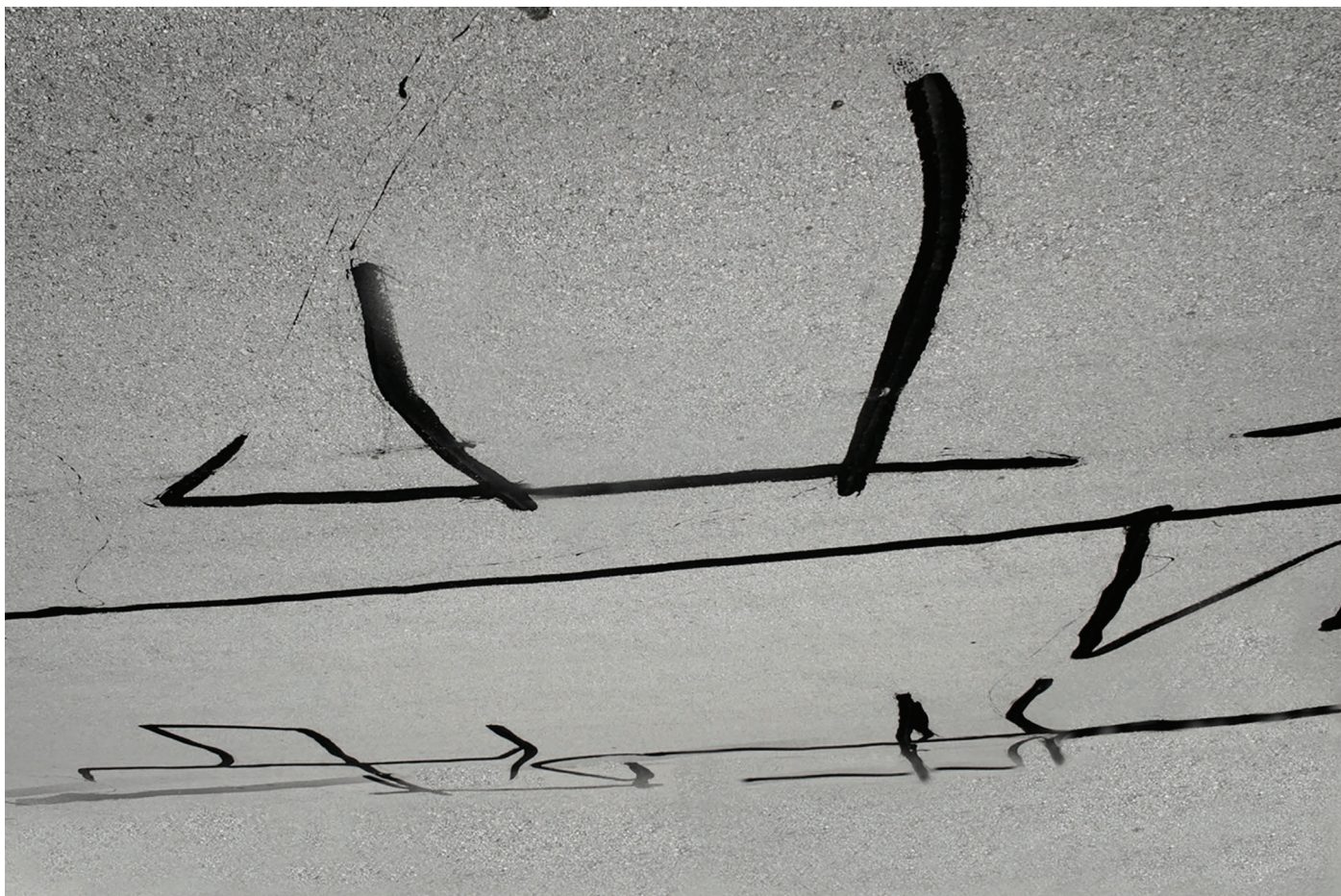


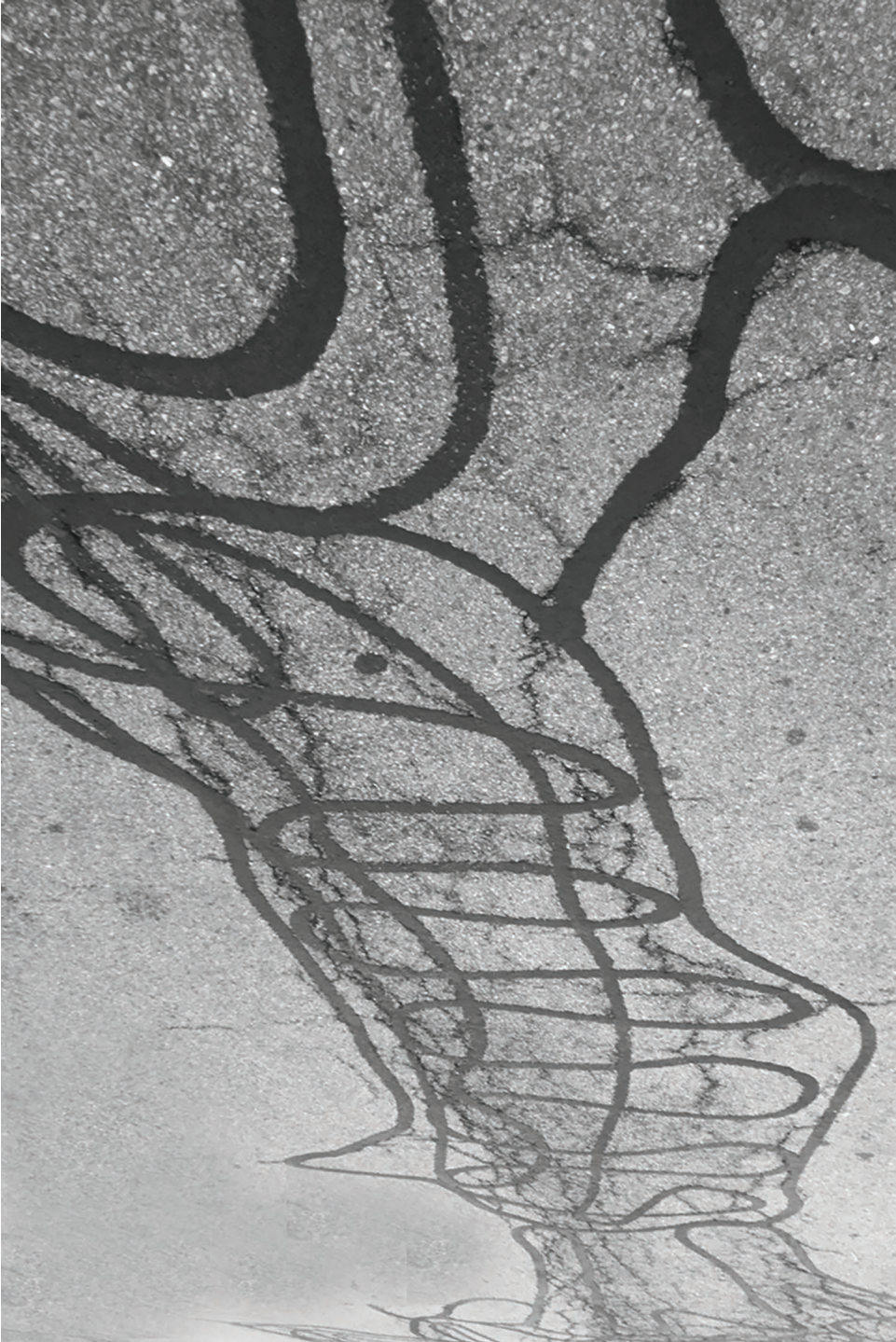














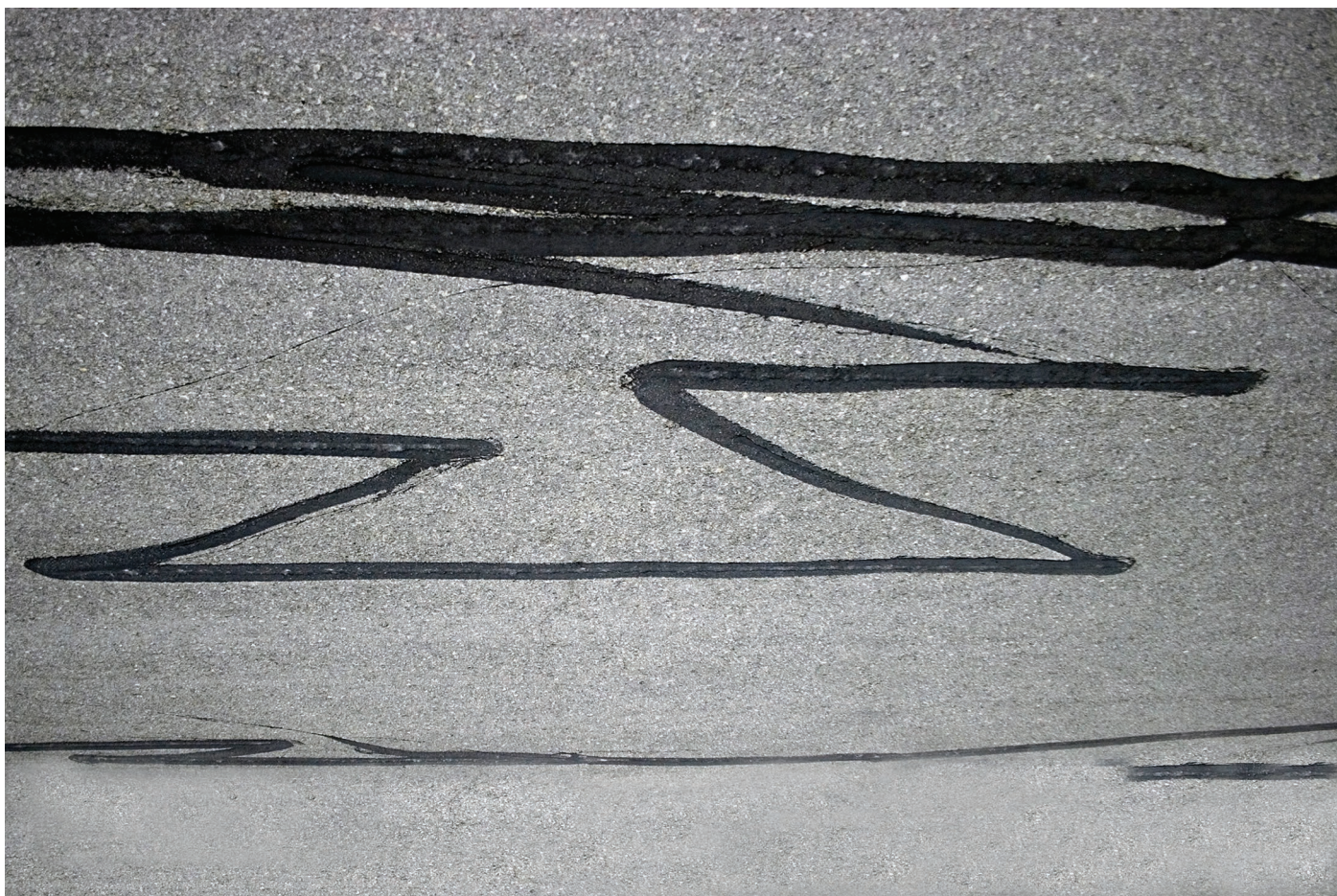




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ALIENS LANDED AND LEFT MESSAGES

Do you see what I see? I asked my friend as I pointed down her street. We had just taken our morning walk; the sun was shining and I noticed something I had never paid attention to before. No, she replied, gazing up and down the same street.

Aliens landed and left messages, I announced. She started laughing and admitted she had no idea what I meant. Look at those hieroglyphics on the street, I advised. She still didn't get it.

When cracks appear on asphalt, often after a hard winter, crews come along and repair them with tar. Eventually, the whole area might be repaved. Until then, the tar is laid haphazardly—or maybe not! I looked carefully at the lines, reminiscent of Phillip Guston's work, and determined it was possible that each pattern could be a message from an alien culture. After all, there have been reported UFO sightings for nearly 100 years.

What are the aliens saying? Are they asking where they can get a good latte? Or, are they admonishing us by saying humans care too much about money and play too many video games? Or, are they questioning why we don't help our elderly neighbor by driving her to her doctor's appointment? Maybe the aliens have advice, such as, "Don't give up!"

At the end of this series of photos are two pages where you can jot down what you think each message is. You could play a game with others: Show them a single photo and ask each person to write what the alien message is. How would others view us? Have fun! Keep alert and see if you come across alien messages in your community.

Leah Abrahams
October, 2022

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
ALIENS LANDED
AND
LEFT MESSAGES
LEAH ABRAHAMS



"The Milky Way is about 10 billion years old and 100,000 light-years across. If aliens had spaceships that could travel at 1 percent of the speed of light, the galaxy could have already been colonized 1,000 times. Why haven't we heard from any other life?" (Britannica.com)

Or, as scientist Enrico Fermi posed this paradox to his colleagues in 1950, "Where is everybody?"



LEAH ABRAHAMS
ALIENS LANDED AND LEFT MESSAGES



DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?