



Gathering the Sparks: Words and Images to Heal the World

by Susan Schaefer



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When approached in respect and humility any subject reveals its hidden nature. My work is an attempt to coax the invisible to become visible, to unearth its inner light, its essential spark.

Gathering the Sparks comes from a sixteenth century Jewish cosmological myth explaining that a celestial being created humankind in order to gather the sparks of light that were inadvertently scattered during creation. When we approach each task in our lives and livelihood virtuously, we gather these sparks, thereby helping to mend the imperfect world.

Making images and text is my small way of contributing wholeness and healing to our fragmented existence. I hope my photos and words bring a sense of well being to those generous souls who take a moment to sit quietly with them.

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Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
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Left: The Fitting, Wayzata, Minnesota
Cover: Captain Jim Hart, MFD E7

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By river's edge she dreams a flowing dance



Forging bronze to mend broken hearts

Heroism
asks not the
meaning of life





But requires
meaning
of self



Chester

Expansive outlier
bicycling the town
in your top hat and tails
squeezboxing for a smoke
house of tin
nesting beneath the
bridge
garden of bottles
and boxes
coat of buttons
and pins
defying authority
you defined
our humanity



Total Grace



Yurt Universe



Lifting the river

I bend at the River's edge
To lift it like a summer sheet
Off the bed
Billowing forth from Itasca to the Gulf

Beneath its loamy marsh -
Its catacomb – behold the
Voices of ten thousand
Departed ones sing

We wed on this waterway
Encircled by loved ones
Walked its banks in bud burst
And naked branch times

It is my watery tuning fork
My bough, my blanket
My touchstone and tormentor
I lift it daily to hear ten thousand voices



The Gift of Mist



Memory dress



Hot ride

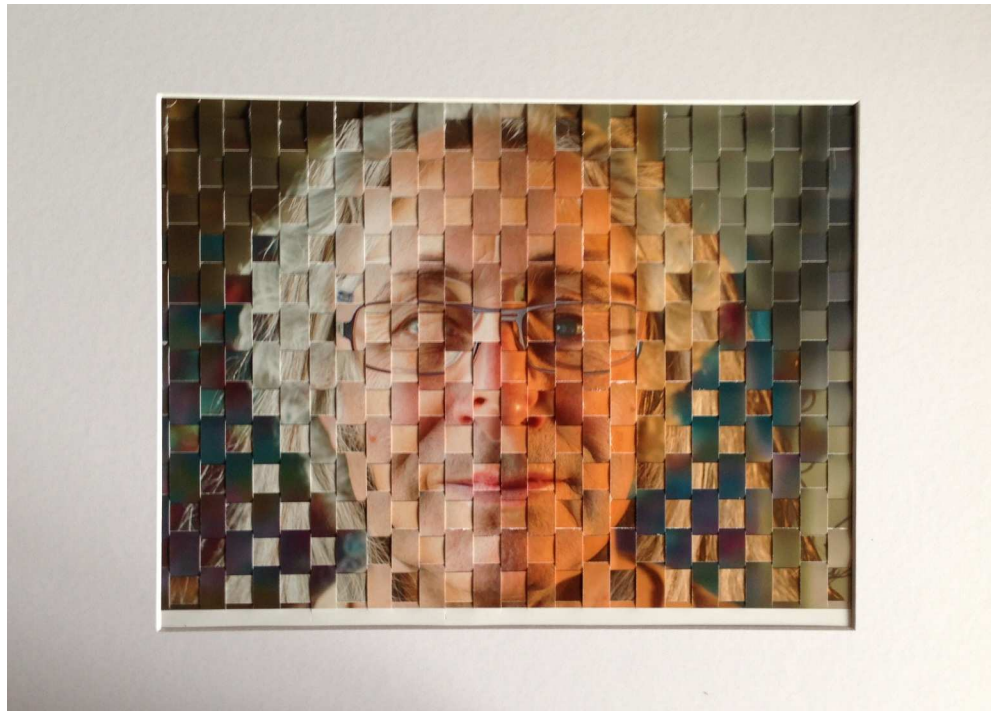


Karla's Wash

Billows in the breeze
lavender scented
polka dots the line
alfalfa field basks
bees buzz
sassafras tea
calls a
Plum City
medley

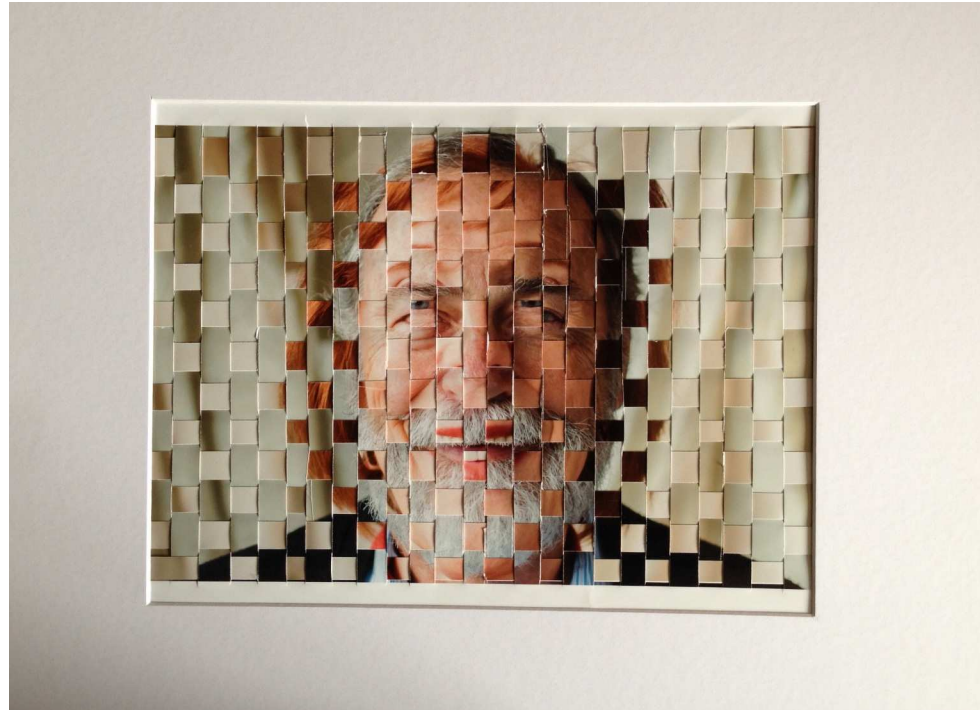


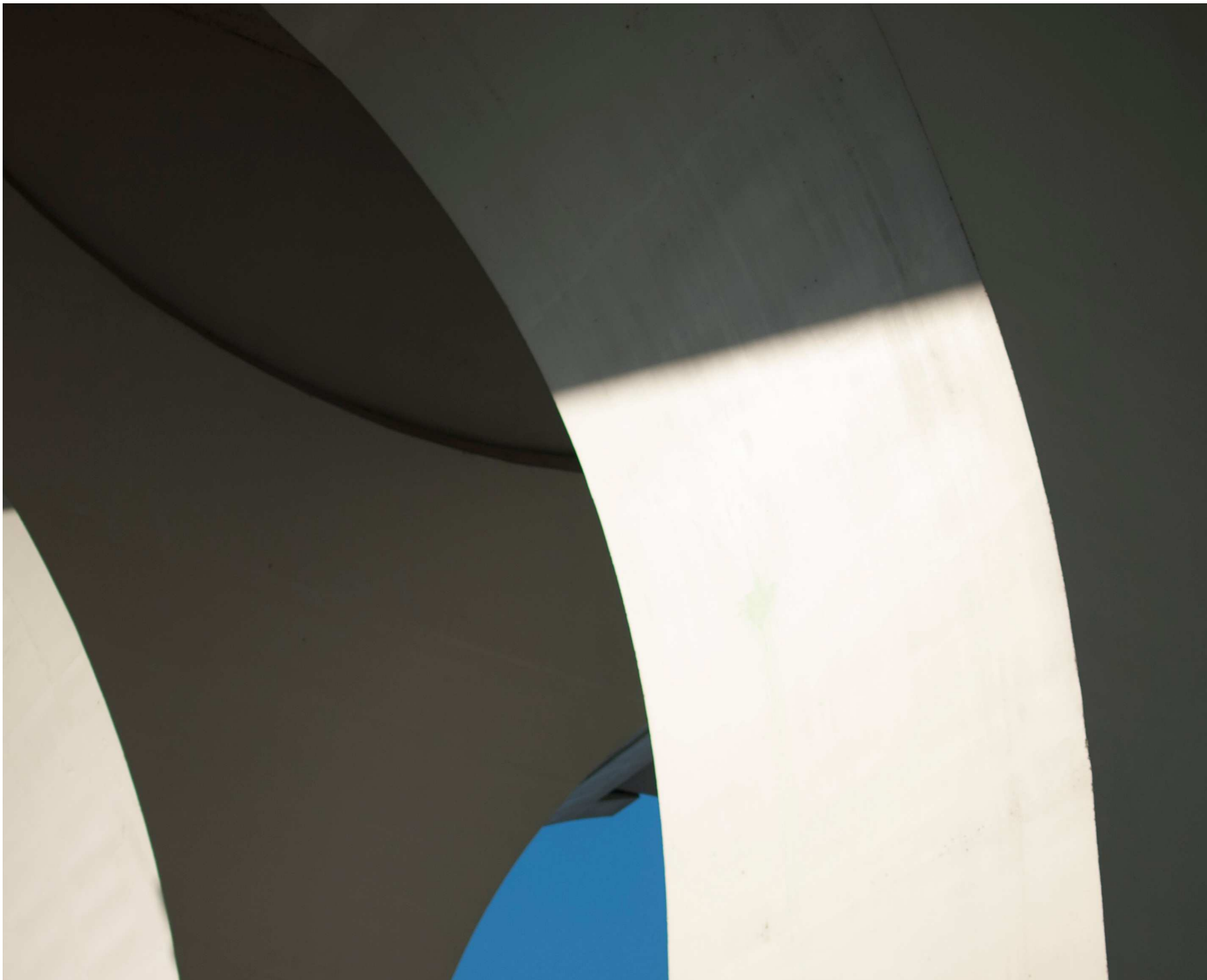
When two souls find each other, creating sacred union, they send forth





from their entwined love a stronger brighter light that soars to the heavens.











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