

# KOKORO

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*Silver Thaw*





心



***In Five Parts :***

Perhaps Lafcadio Hearn will not protest too much if I paraphrase (almost word for word) from *Kokoro*, his 1895 book of Japanese life. He explains this important Japanese term far better than I ever could:

The entries comprising this volume treat of the inner rather than the outer life, — for which reason they have been grouped under the title *Kokoro* (heart). Written with the above character, this word signifies also *mind*, in the emotional sense; *spirit*; *courage*; *resolve*; *sentiment*; *affection*; and *inner meaning*, — just as we say in English, ‘the heart of things.’



*Kokoro #172*

# *Silver Thaw*

In Five Parts

Brooks Jensen



Silver Thaw ~ Part One

The Chaos of the Storm



It came unexpectedly. The cold, the ice, the snow. Entire states were buried in the chaos of winter.















Beauty and damage uncomfortably intertwined.



Silver Thaw ~ Part Two

Crystal Trees



























Silver Thaw ~ Part Three

Ice Skies































Silver Thaw ~ Part Four

The Road Home















Silver Thaw ~ Part Five

Shelter from the Storm































Crystalline joy  
and broken trees.

The yin and yang of winter,  
the yang and yin of life.





Notes



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## *The Storm*

The forecast was for rain, possibly turning to snow. No one anticipated that the storm that approached would be stuck halfway between rain and snow.

The blanket of ice covered most of five states and countless trees. Forests became a fairyland of crystal — and an arboreal hell of broken limbs.

A cold sun came out the next day to survey the damage. In doing so, the sparkles from the ice appeared like decorative diamonds on each twig.

Down every road there awaited a new display, new destruction, a sense of tunneling. Ice dropped from the sky to thump the roof of the car. No birds, no deer, an eerie quiet disturbed only by the occasional CRACK as another limb came down, shattering the crystals as it fell.

Even the comforts of home were subject to the encasement. We waited for the sun, for the world, to return as we knew it.

**Tech notes:** This project was photographed on March 23-25, 2024 in western Massachusetts and upstate New York. Nature provided the show; Panasonic provided the GX8 and G9 cameras I used to explore this wonderland. By “provided” I mean that they manufactured them and B&H sold them to me. Toyota “provided” the 4-wheel drive truck. I’ve said for years that bad weather makes for good photography.



**Brooks Jensen** is a fine-art photographer, publisher, workshop teacher, and writer. In his personal work he specializes in small prints, hand-made artist books, and digital media publications.

He is the owner, co-founder (in 1993, with his late wife, Maureen), editor, and publisher of the award winning *LensWork*, one of today's most respected and important periodicals in fine art photography. With subscribers in more than 70 countries, Brooks' impact on fine art photography is truly worldwide. His long-running weekly podcasts on art and photography are heard over the Internet by thousands every day. All 1,300+ podcasts are available to at [LensWork Online](#), the LensWork members-only website. He also publishes a daily *Here's a Thought...* commentary with short inspiration for creative photographers. Again, all 1750+ are available to members of *LensWork Online*.

LensWork Publishing is also at the leading edge in multimedia and digital media publishing with the *LensWork Tablet Edition*, and *LensWork Extended Computer Edition* — a PDF-based, media-rich expanded version of the magazine.

Brooks is the author of sixteen books about photography and creativity: *Photography, Art, & Media* (2016); *The Creative Life in Photography* (2013); *Letting Go of the Camera* (2004); *Single Exposures* (3 books in a series, random observations on art, photography and creativity); *Looking at Images* (2014); *The Best of the LensWork Interviews* (2016); *Seeing in SIXES* (2016); *Seeing in SIXES* (2017); *Seeing in SIXES* (2018); *Seeing in SIXES* (2019); *Our Magnificent Planet* (2020 and 2021), *Trilogies* (2022), and *Light Glorious Light* (2023).

[Kokoro](#) is a free, bi-monthly PDF e-publication of his personal work and is available (both current and back issues) for download from his [website](#). He has published two printed monographs of his photography, [Made of Steel](#) (2012), and [Dreams of Japan](#) (2021).



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