



Plastic newt attached to window
over houseplant

ART PHOTOGRAPHY

*art (art) n 1. Human effort to imitate, supplement, alter or counteract the work of nature. 2. The conscious production or arrangement of sounds, colors, forms, movements, or other elements in a manner that effects the sense of beauty.**

I've read photography books and taken photography classes; these different media will teach you different methods, but one thing that you can't be taught is to defy convention.

What is art? Is it aesthetic beauty? I read a philosopher's opinion of art once, and she said that art is a person's manipulation of reality. The artist takes all of the things that she finds important in her reality, and she then, through her work, reveals her perception - her conception of reality. Her art work is then basically a condensed, intense version of her reality; it is powerful and strong; it is everything that she finds important in the world. It is all the things that she has to grapple with; it is all of her struggles, her joys, her fears, manifested in one piece of work. Putting it together as such validates it as being important to her, and it allows other people to understand what is important as well.

However, if one believes that philosophy, then the next step is to say that a person's imagination doesn't actually "create" things, but it actually combines and manipulates what already exists. For example, you may decide to create an "imaginary" animal, but you'll use an ostrich's head, a giraffe's neck, a zebra's body, a beaver's tail, etc. Even using the idea of a tail is adapting what you understand in reality.

If this is the way art can actually be perceived, if art is actually using only what one knows in the world, then the key to being "creative" would have to be to defy convention in as many ways

as you can. That's hard, when so many people are so heavily grounded in reality, and so many artists try to mimic more successful artists.



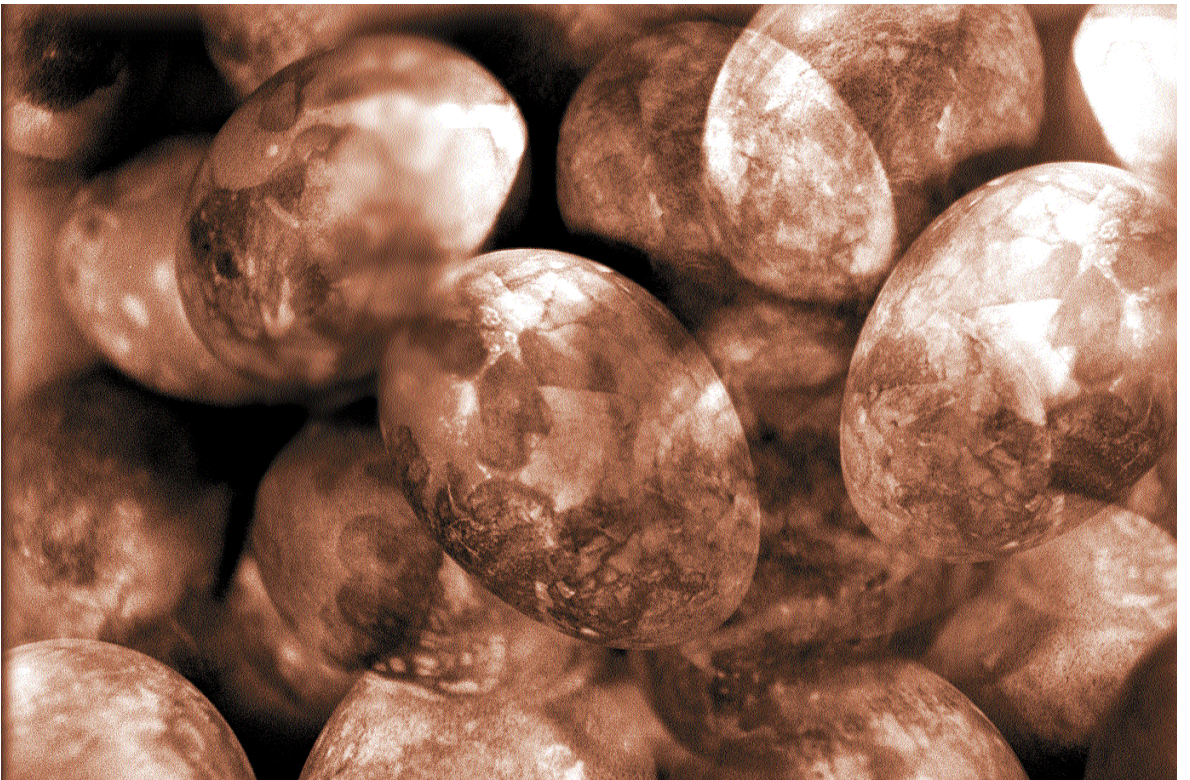
*From the New College Edition of *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Houghton Mifflin.



Pills. "The Bung Hole." Selling the Mustang. Mad Max on the Quad. An exit sign.



Top: Cape Canaveral. Bottom: Easter eggs colored when wrapped in layers of onion skins before boiling. Opposite: Man waiting at Chicago street.







Scars image, and Ellen silhouetted in Michigan

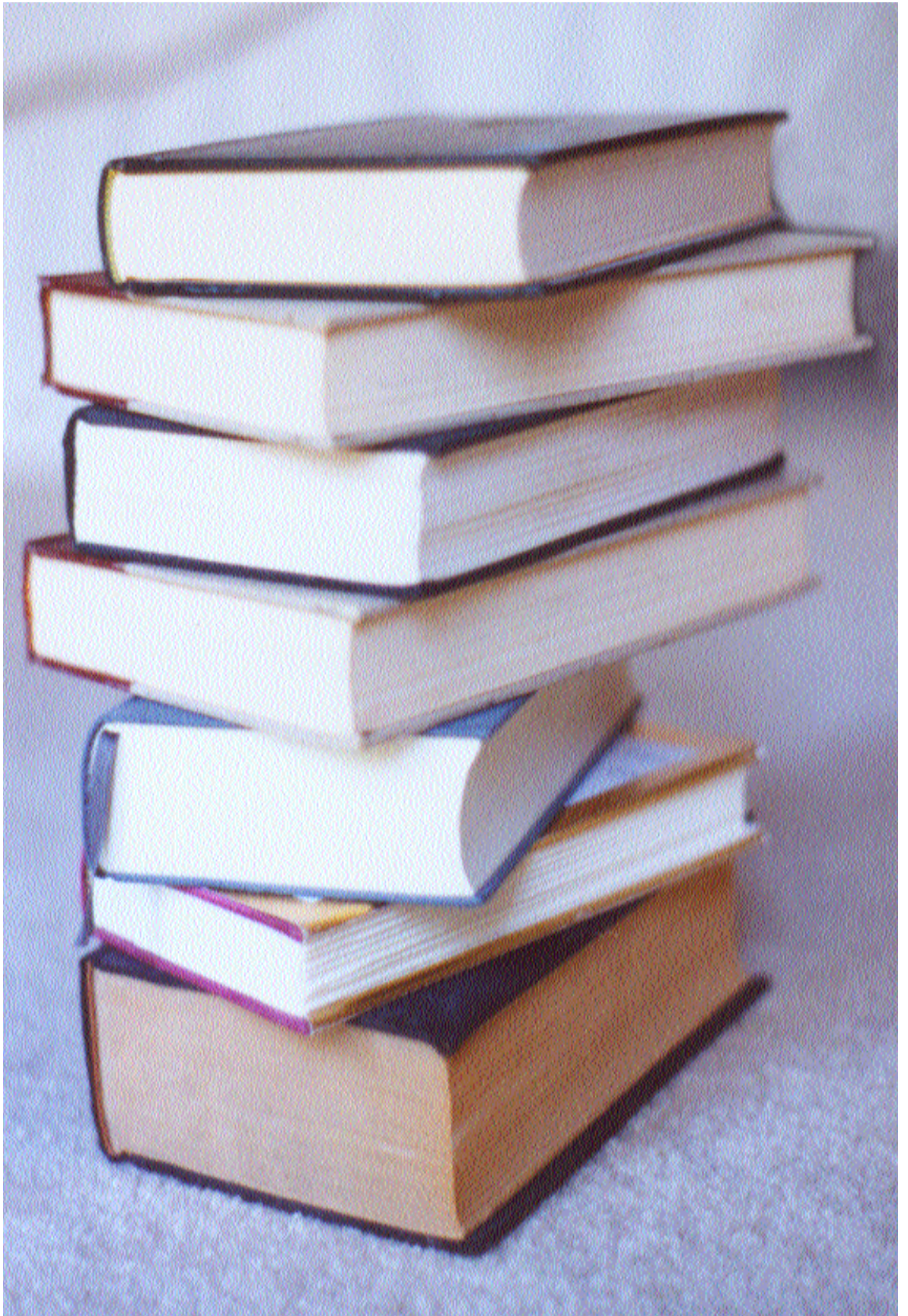




The Quad (1988), and John









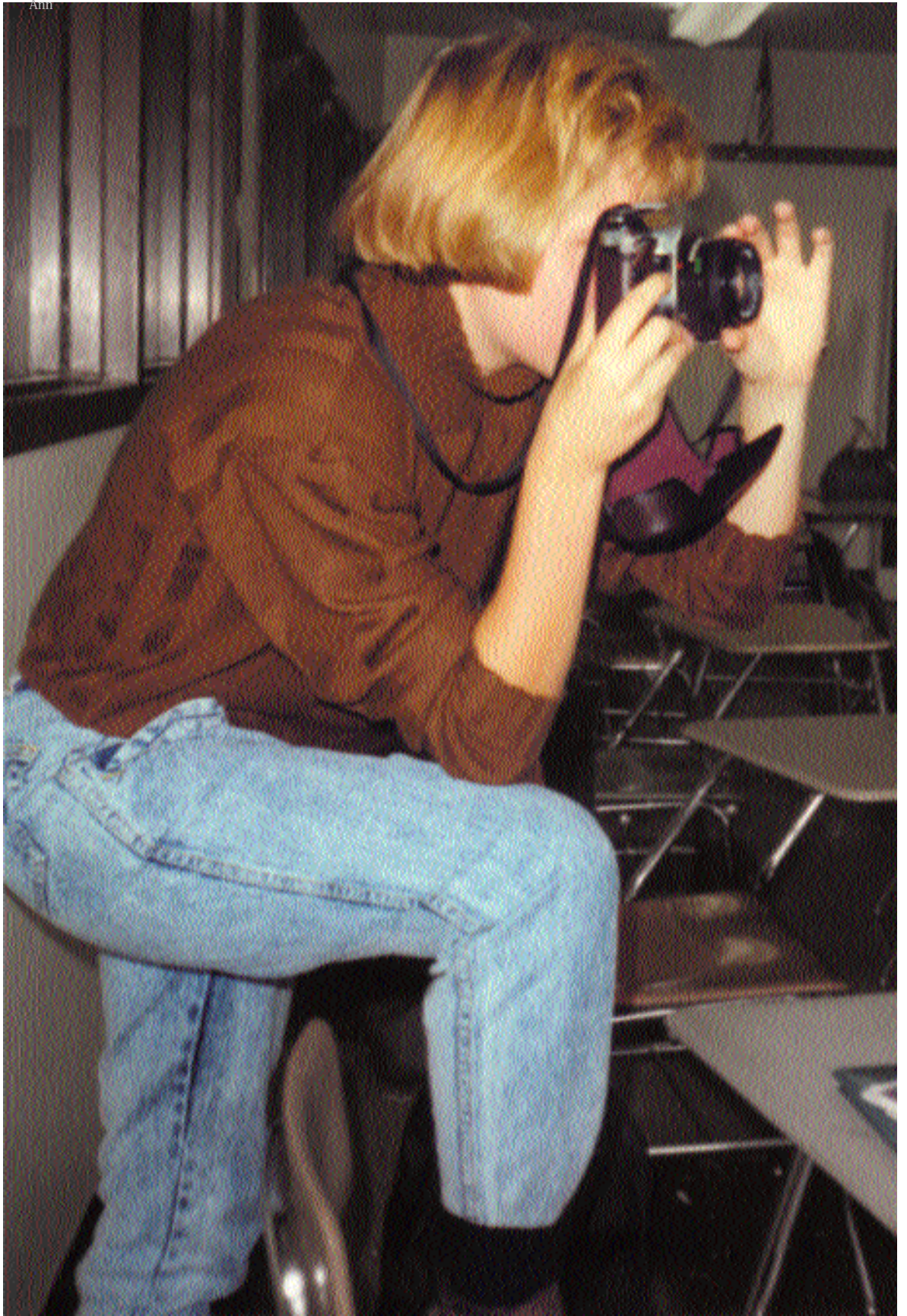
Ariane





Ann and art collage







freedom of speech

Miami Freedom billboard, Bruxelles Belgium "freedom of speech" poster and Naples palm trees at Christmas.





Lisa on the pier.



Resurrected slides, devil-crowned mannequin, a 45 RPM record adapter and a graffiti image



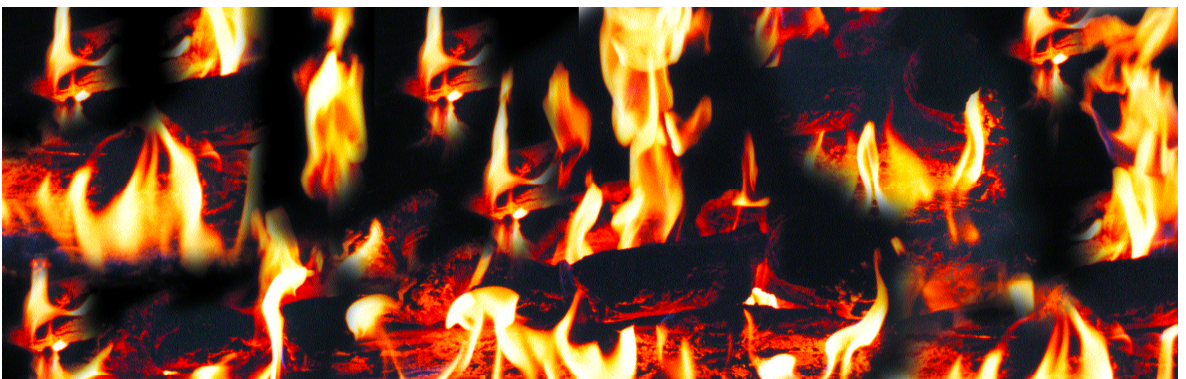


Dan.





Andy







Lori on the beach in Michigan.



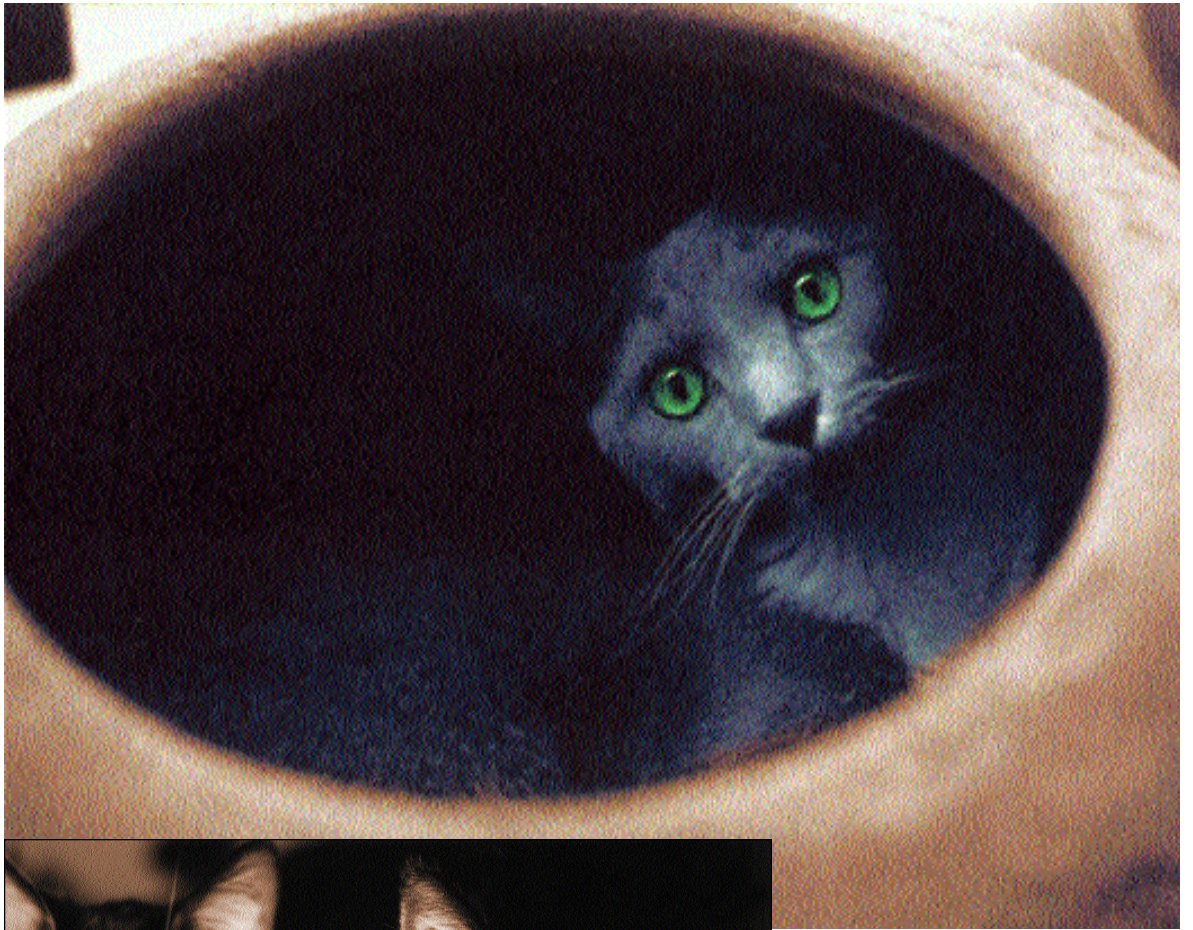




This statue of a pig was on display in Seattle, 2001; photographed with John Yotko.

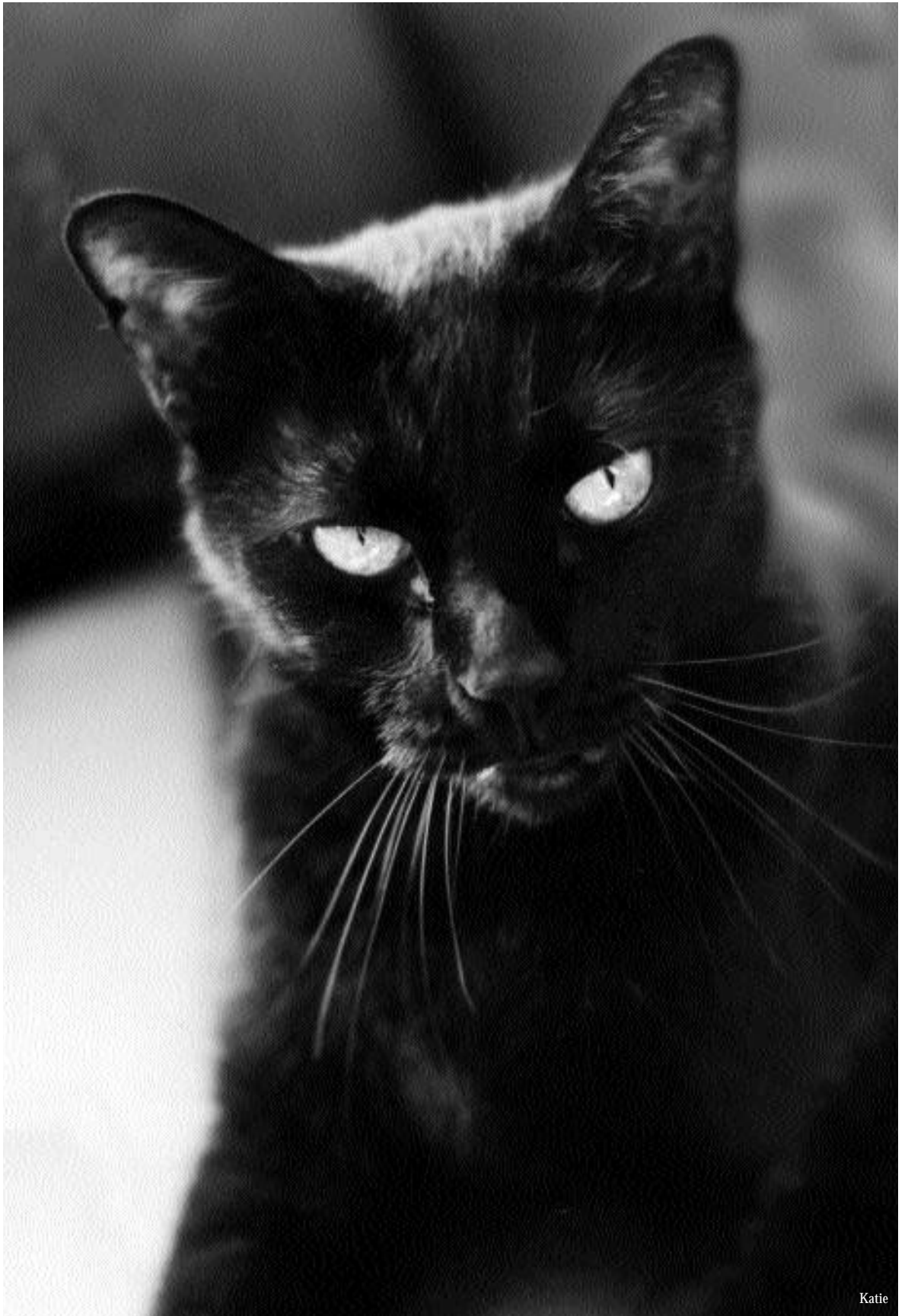


Doorway photographed in Bloomington, Indiana. Inset: Deer.

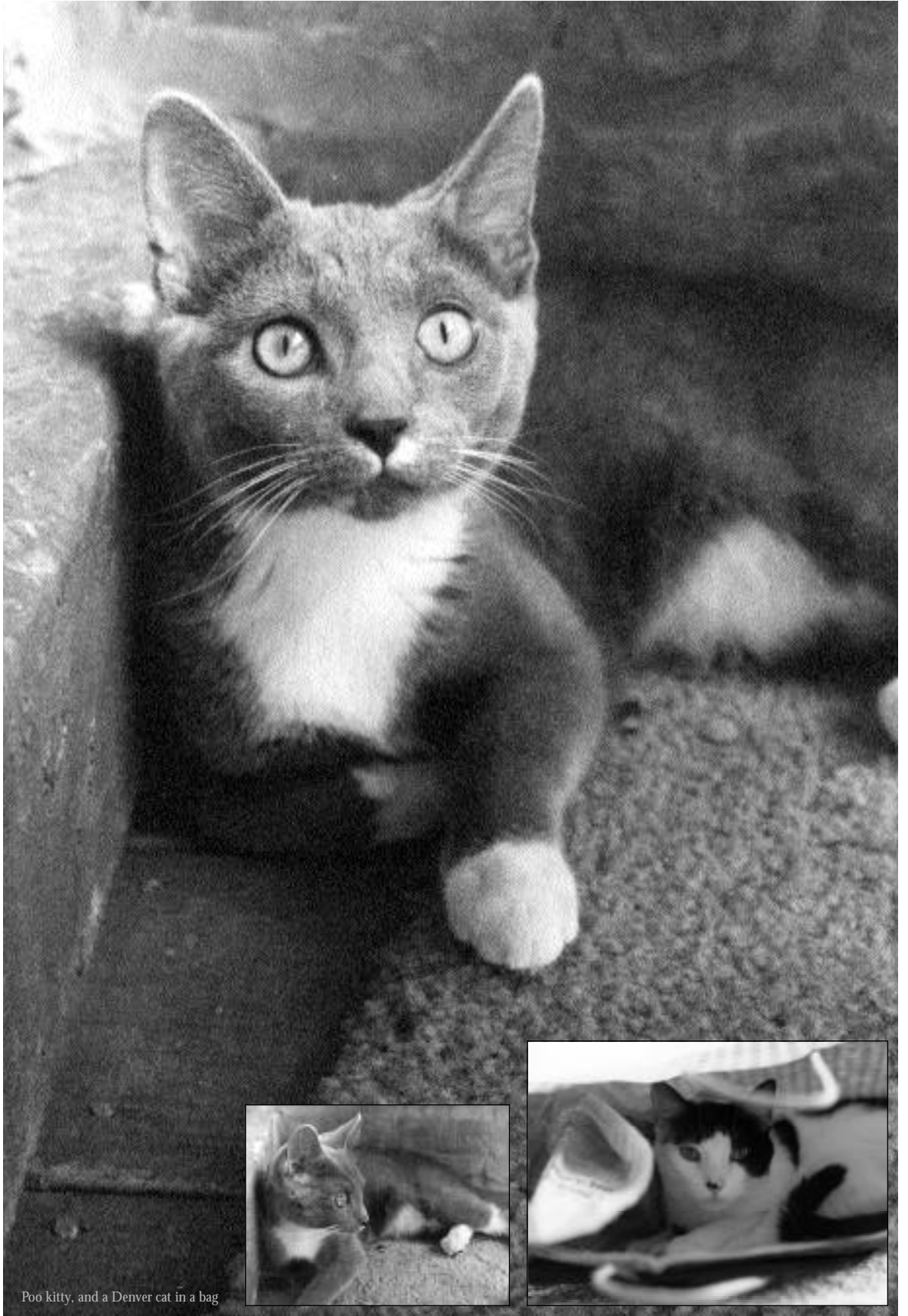


Cats: Sequoia/Poo kitty; Kaiser & Soze; John Galt; Zach & John Galt. Also: white cows (above) in Luxembourg. Lower left corner: a horse in Puerto Rico.





Katie



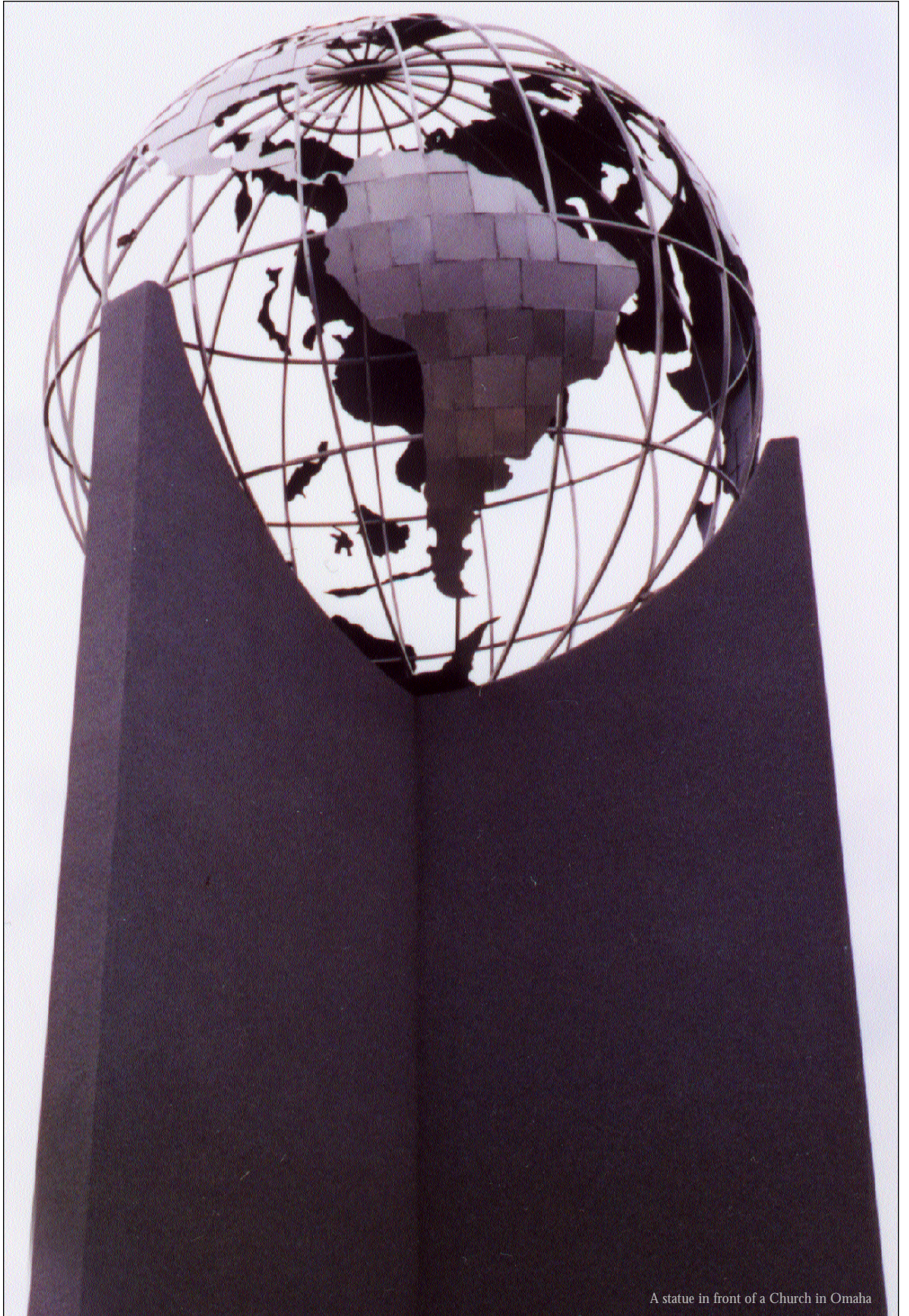
Poo kitty, and a Denver cat in a bag



Sequoia/Poo kitty.
Bottom Left opposite page: Soze.
Inset this page: Zach with kitchenware, Zach playing guitar, and Zach in cords.







A statue in front of a Church in Omaha

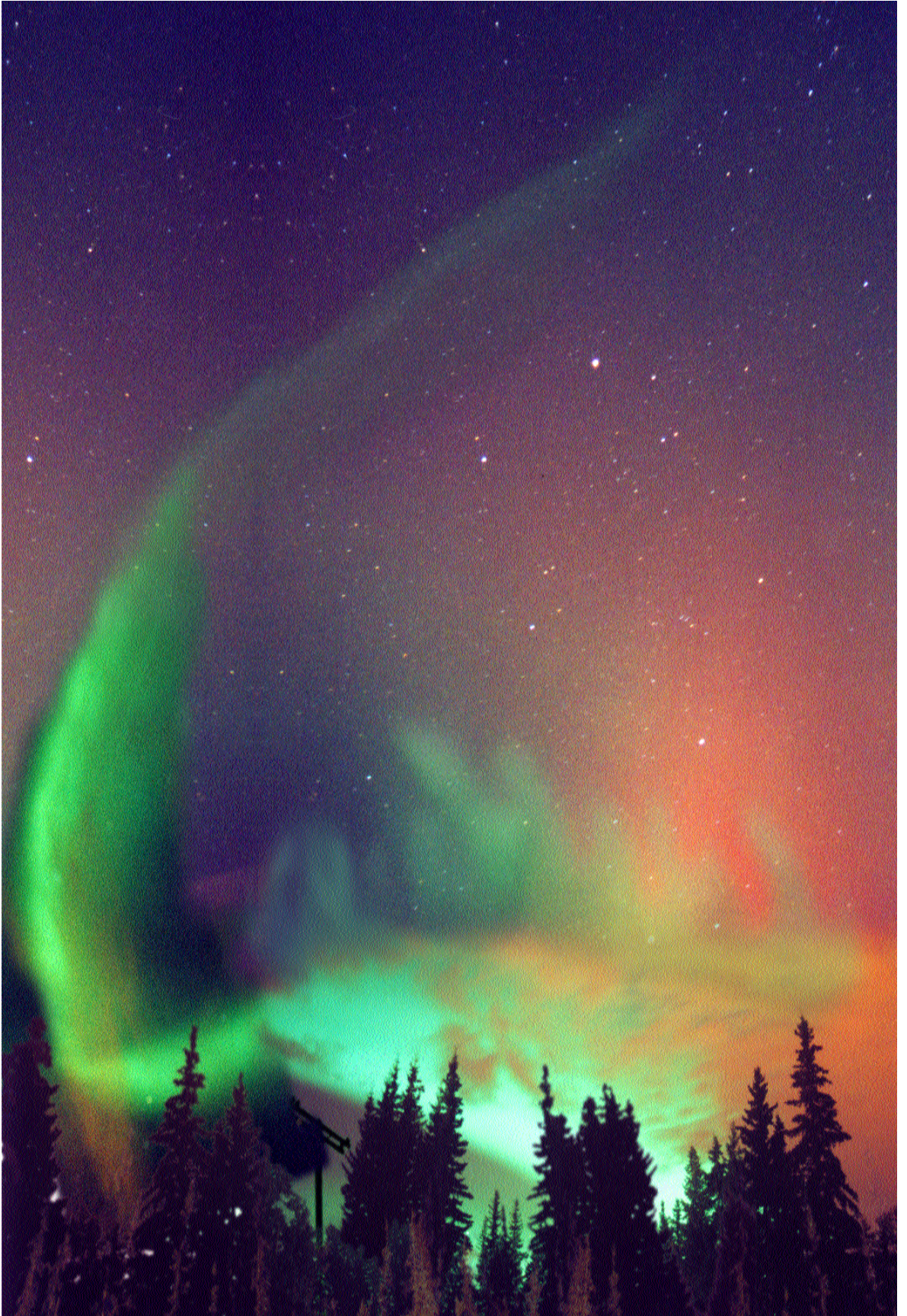
Michael Stipe (R.E.M.)





Adrian. John Galt on a book shelf.





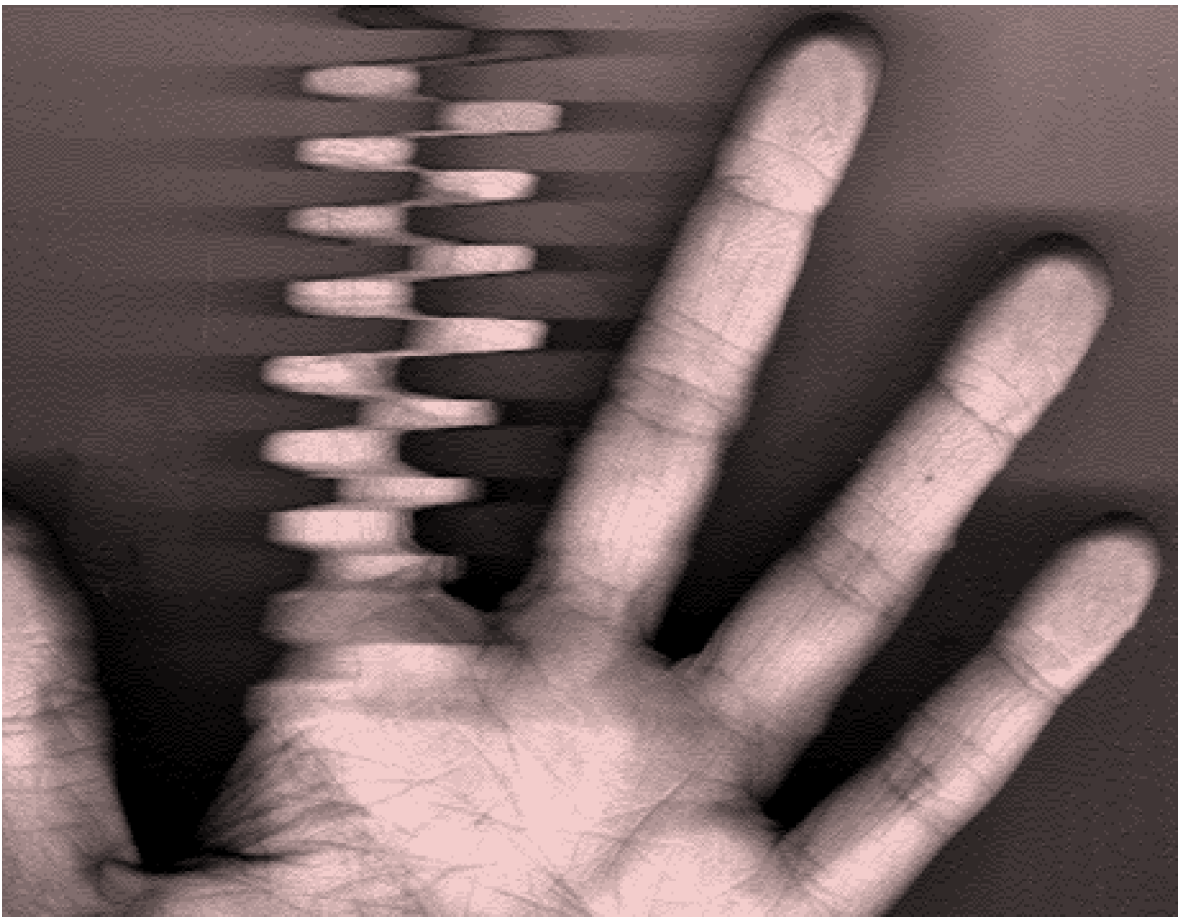
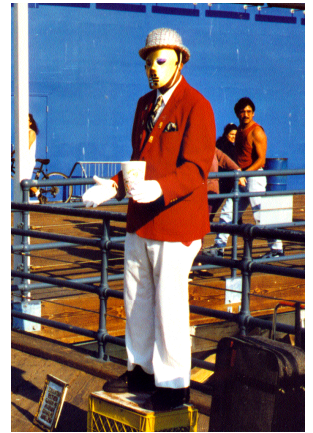
Aurora Borealis



Top: Boat along side a cruise ship in the Bahamas. Bottom image is a portrait taken on assignment in Monticello.



A different view of the Space Needle, Seattle, Washington.



Vicki, a mime in Los Angeles and a finger accident



A statue on a building in Chicago. Inset: Vodka box, designed as a casket



1976 painting "Desert of the Mountain." Opposite: 1978 painting, "Night Sky Over Water."





Illustrations. The mat in one frame has Japanese calligraphy that means the balance between opposing forces.





Marty at a pool, and images of the Viet Nam Memorial Wall in Washington DC.





Above: Vanilla Ice collage on the refrigerator at a friend's house.





Joe, after scaling a tower on a mountainside in Pasadena.



These photos were designed for use for future acquaintance rape and feminist work.





Black lit
silk flowers,
Champaign