

BEHIND EVERY WINDOW

BY HAYTHAM EL CHAER



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PHOTOGRAPHER, WRITER, STORYTELLER.

Born in Byblos, Lebanon, Haytham El Chaer - known to many as Shlomo - approaches photography as a third eye: a way to hold history, movement, solitude and hope in the same frame. His work moves between the Mediterranean, Europe and the United States, finding poetry in people, architecture, reflections and the unnoticed details of daily life.

I was born in Lebanon, in the city of Byblos, one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world to this day; swaying on the shore of the Mediterranean, showered by the sun, submerged by waves, and towered over by the glorious mountains of Lebanon and its immortal Cedars.

Haytham El Chaer / Shlomo

The dozens of civilizations and cultures that have passed through Byblos live within me, and have created in me the personality of a writer and photographer who sees in his eye a different perspective of life; an eye that sees even beyond the details and captures magic in the folds of existence: An eye of the famous Phoenix who gains new life by rising out of the ashes of those who came before him and continuously embracing rebirth.



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Even before the arrival of Christopher Columbus, ships sailed from the shores of Byblos to the United States of America. I couldn't have known that all those years ago my Phoenician ancestors were in love with freedom like me and sailed to America searching for this freedom.



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QH 5CKPVU .GDCPQP

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It is not easy to be born in Lebanon in the middle of the Lebanese war. You do not know when a rocket will fall and hit you, or when a bullet will penetrate your heart.

Even so, the war taught me heroism; it taught me to replace the gun with a pen, a camera, and a lens. With these things I can change the ugliness of events, and their pain, to a great hope for humanity.



OQFGN CUMGF OG VQ RJQVQITCRJ JGT CP
JGT RQUGU \$QKUG HQQVJKNNU \$QKUG +&



6QFC[+ IJV YKVJ O[RGP CPF O[ECOGTC + IJV KP C FKHHGTGPV YC
YTKVGTU C YCT YJKEJ JQPQTU VJG ECOGTCOCP YJQ UVCPFU JKU ITQW
YKVJ ECOGTC KP JCPF

OQFGN CUMGF OG VQ RJQVQITCRJ JGT CPF + FKTGEVGF
JGT RQUGU \$QKUG HQQVJKNNU \$QKUG +&

I am a Phoenician and an adventurer, and I love sailing against the stream.



6JG EQCUV QH %JGMMC .GDCPQP

.KHG YKVJQWV CFXGPVWTG KU C UNQY FGCVJ CPF UCKNKPI CICKPUV
CP QRRQTVWPKV[VQ FKUEQXGT JKU QYP FGRVJU 5Q + CO YKVJ VJ
'XGT[QPG MPQYU OG CU 5KPDCF DGECWUG + CO KP NQXG YKVJ VTCXC
QH EQWPVTKGU HTQO %JKPC VJTQWIJ VJG #TCD TGIKQP VQ 'WTQR
YTKVVGP VJQWUCPFU QH TGRQTVU CPF VCMGP VJQWUCPFU QH RKEV
ECXG KP C FGUGTVGF 'CUV CPF KPUVGCF FQXG KPVQ C PGY GZRCPUG

There, a new mission started. With my camera hung around my neck, I walked miles and miles, days and nights In the streets of the Eternal City.



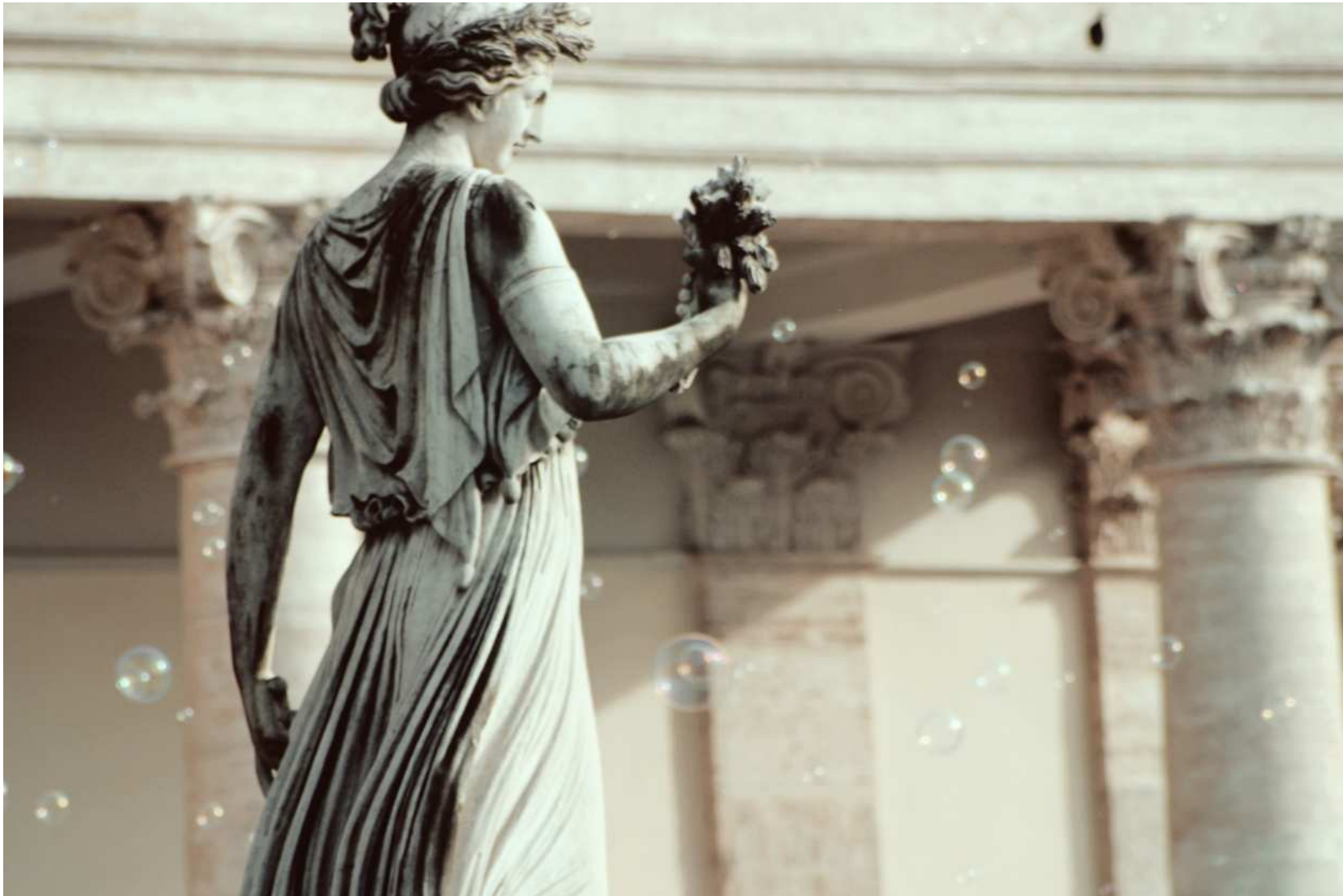
YQOCP UOQMKPI C EKICTGVVG KP 4QOG +VCN[

There, history was mixed in me: The Phoenician history of Byblos, and the ancient and Renaissance history of Rome.



YQOCP VCNMKPI QP C EGNNRJQPG KP 4QO

I loved Rome, and spent four years there intermittently. There I embraced the statues in the streets and whispered to them about my passion and my dreams. I asked them for a picture, and they kindly obliged.



PGY MKPF QH ETGCVKXKV[YCU DQTP KP OG 4QOG TGXXXGF KP OG
CTVKUV YCU DQTP YKVJ VYQ UYQTFU C RGP CPF C ECOGTC

UVCVWG YKVJ DWDDNGU UWTTQWPFKPI JGT 4QOG +VCN[

The door of the arts was opened to me, and I look forward to keeping it open with my passion and studies.



#P QNF FQQT KP .GDCPQP



YQOCP NKUVGPKPI VQ OWUKE D[C HQWPV
FTQRRKPI DGJKPF JGT 2KC\C FK RQRZNDQ\C4B0RQ+QONQ 4QOG +VCN[

I am a small weed that is looking for growth
under the sun of art).



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VWNKR OKF YCVGTPKI \$QKUG +&



TQUG XGPFQT YCVGTPKI JKU TQUGU 4

Beauty motivates my creativity and gives birth to the artist in me. I am an eagle (as my Lebanese name means) kept in the cage of the East. I am waiting to be free in the sky of arts and photography in the United States.



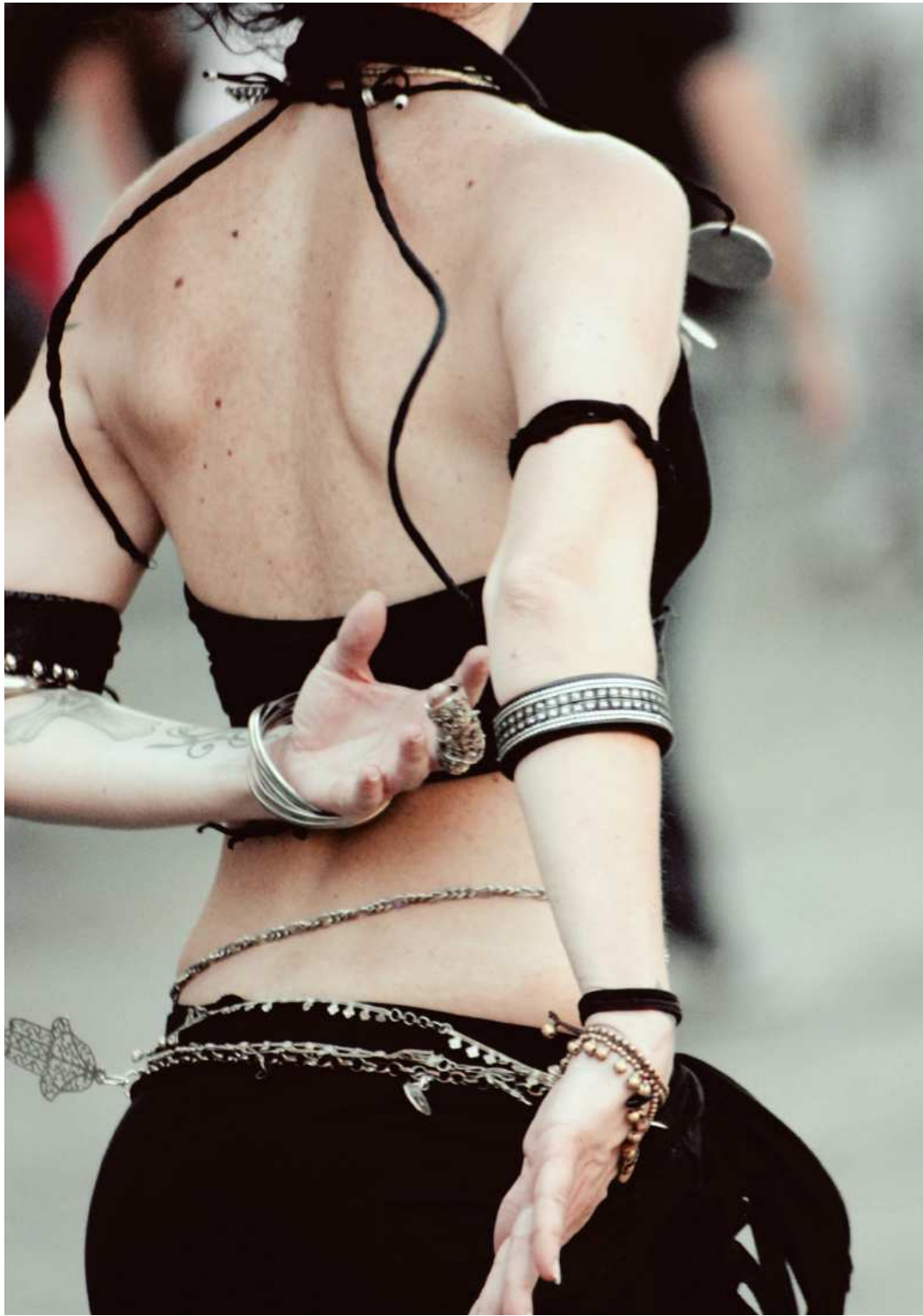
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Every moment of your life is a picture. Sadness is a picture, joy is a picture, and you are the creator of your own portfolio. When you collect photos and breathe life into them, you immortalize moments.



ETWORNGF NGCH CV VJG \$QKUG TKXC

These moments tell the world about real life; a life of hardships and adventures, of victories and failures. A photographer is a kind of creator who takes a moment and keeps it alive for centuries. He is the God of moments. People adore his works and beg for his intercession in maintaining the freshness and truth of their moments.



I[RU[IKTN FCPEKPI KP VJG UVTGGV 4QOG +VCN[

They ask him to make their moments better; to change moments into fantasies. He is the God of story and myth.



YQOCP UKVVKPI CV 2KC\\C FK URCIPC KP 4







Architecture

is an art



NEW WORK / SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS

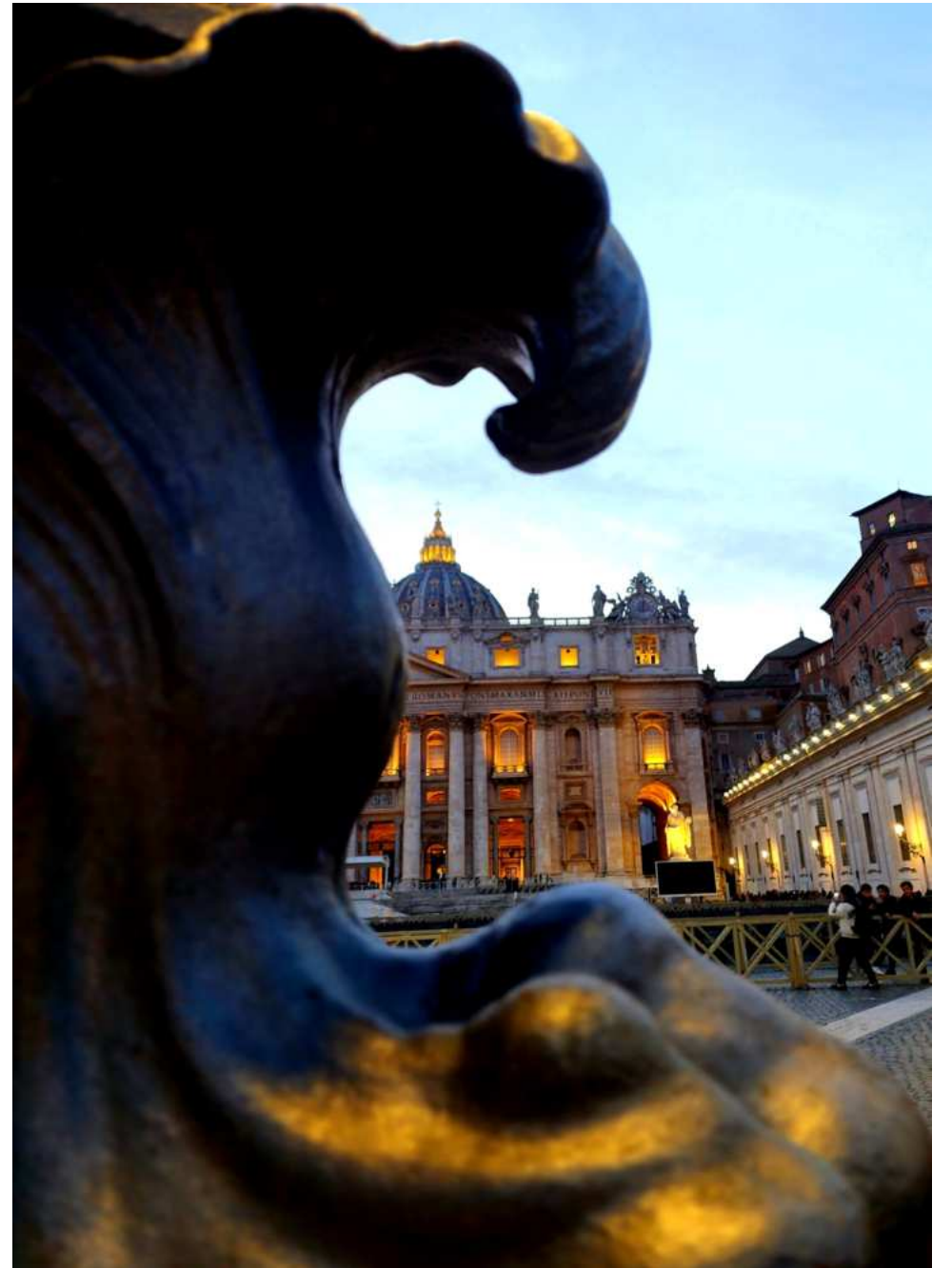
CITIES, SURFACES, LIGHT.

A visual passage through Rome, streets, monuments and reflection.

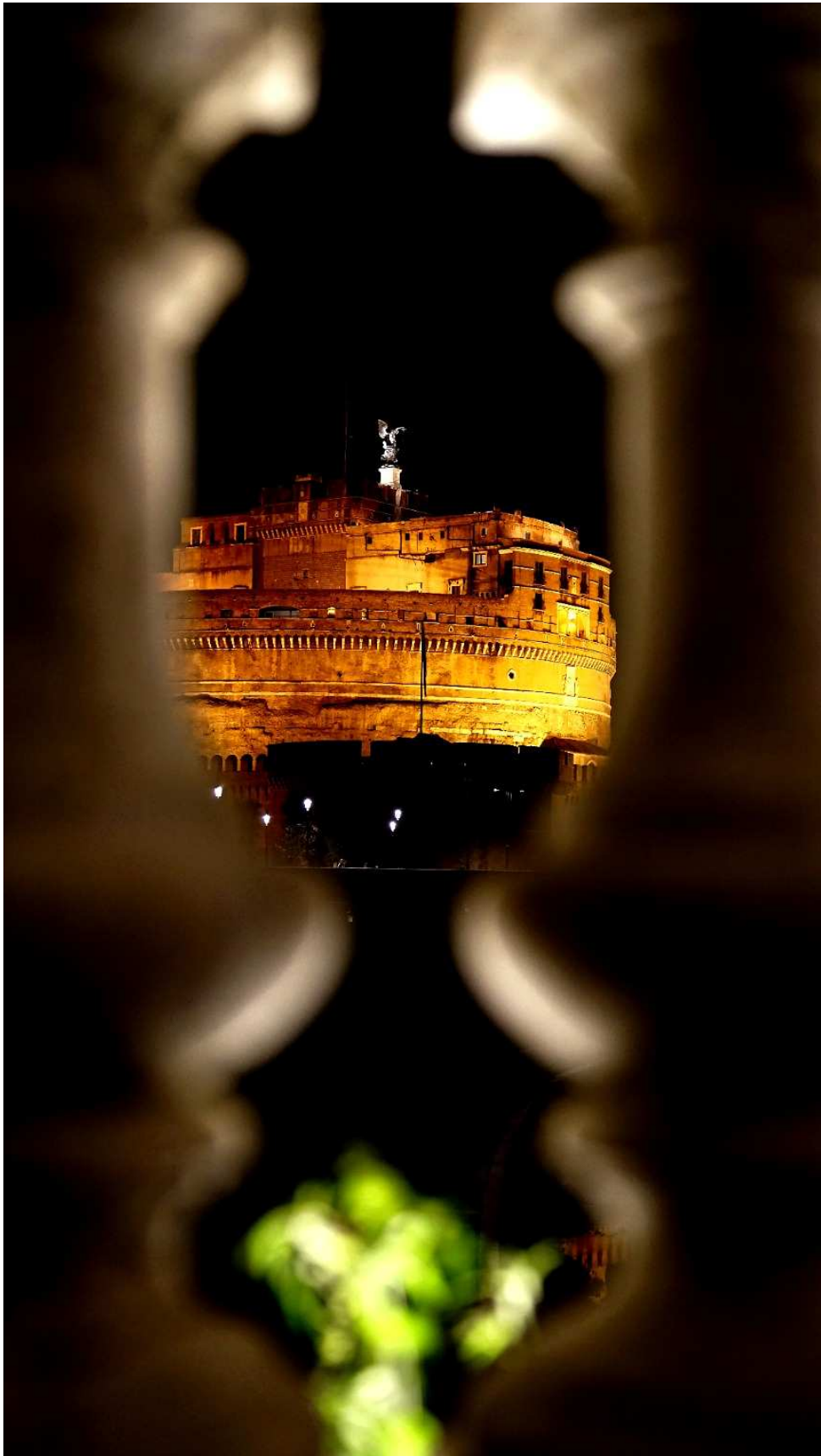
“Behind every window, another story waits for light.”











CASTEL SANT'ANGELO / NIGHT STUDIES







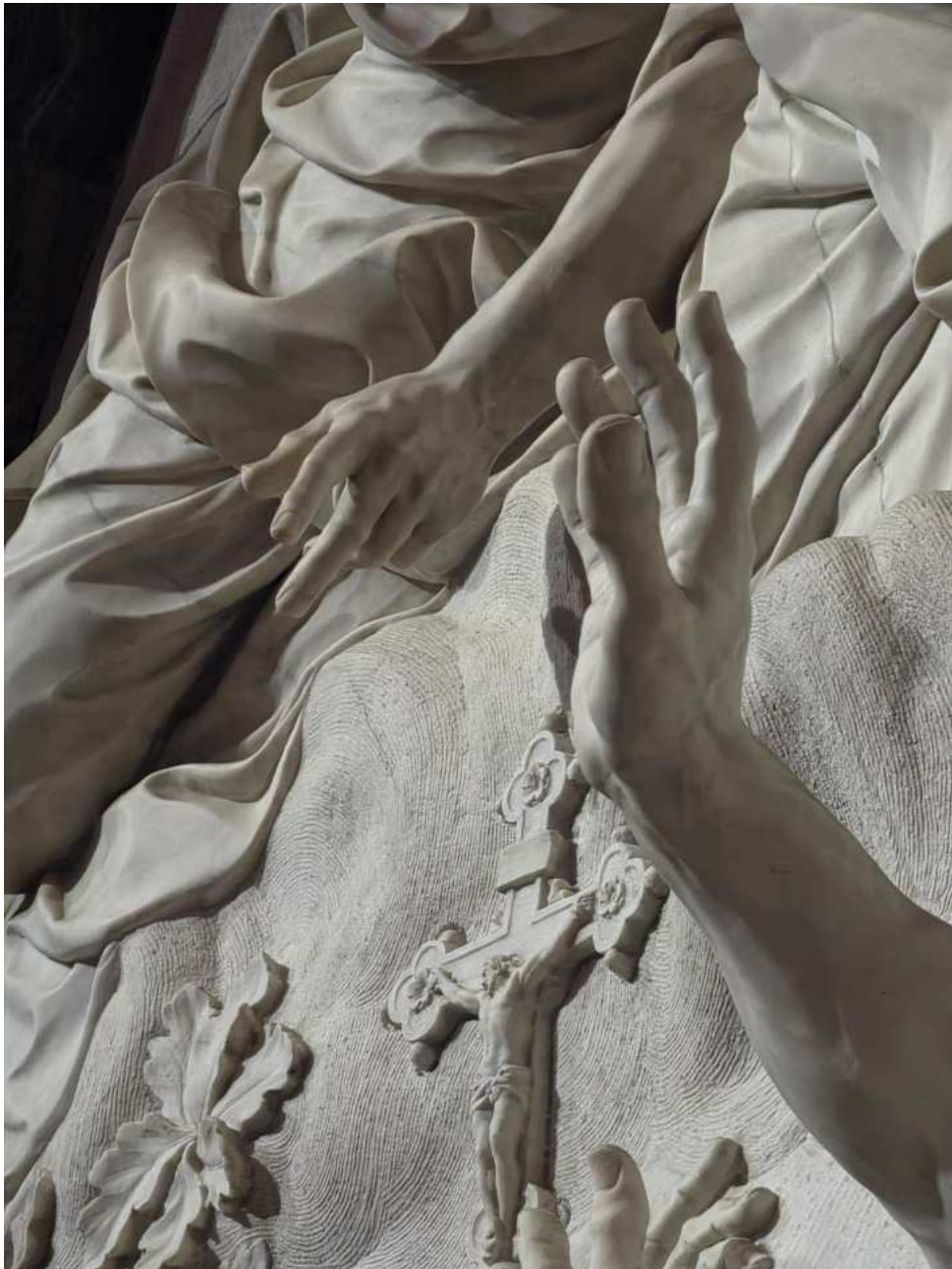
STREET / SHADOW





AFTER RAIN















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PHOTOGRAPHY

MORE THAN IMAGES / A WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD



EVERY FRAME, A STORY

BEHIND EVERY WINDOW

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