



In Praise Of Spring

A SoFoBoMo practice book

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A SoFoBoMo practice book  
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So, what is In Praise of Spring?

It is a short practice book for SoFoBoMo. Last year, I put a book together in one day, using one camera, one lens, one location, one CF card, one hour to shoot. It was challenging and fun.

I had never done a book, or project for that matter. All of my work heretofore had been singular images. It was a unique challenge, to be sure.

This year, in order to get into 'shape' for SoFoBoMo, I wanted to do a practice book. My tool of choice for putting it together is Scribus, an open source desktop publishing tool.

Last year's approach was rather haphazard and last minute. This year, I am taking a different approach ... hopefully. I plan to pick the theme, shoot the pictures, layout the story and the text first, then introduce them into Scribus. In this way, I won't have to keep changing the layout. At least that's the theory.

So what's this book about? Mainly, I guess, it's about spring. The way that spring affects my senses, not only my hayfever, but the sight, sound, smell, taste, and feel of the season.

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# In Praise of Spring Sight

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." - Heraclitus

Have you ever sat by the edge of a river and marveled at its raw power, simply stood in awe at what Nature has to offer? It is, in a word, fascinating. It is constantly moving, always seeking the lower level. Humble. It clears away the dead and decaying and feeds the living. It asks nothing for itself.

If we are fortunate, we will receive rains almost daily, nearly filling rivers, streams, and creeks to capacity. This life giving water is just what is needed after a long, hard winter.

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# In Praise of Spring Sound

The Way of Heaven is to benefit others and not to injure.

The other day I found myself a bit sleepless. I had awakened at about 3:00 AM and couldn't go back to sleep, so I opened the window to listen to the sound of rain, which always calms me. However, to my surprise, I heard another sound. A mockingbird. She was singing at 3:00 AM during a downpour. How considerate of her to put me back to sleep. I soon dozed off and slept until about 8:00 AM.

What a wonderful time that was.

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# In Praise of Spring Smell

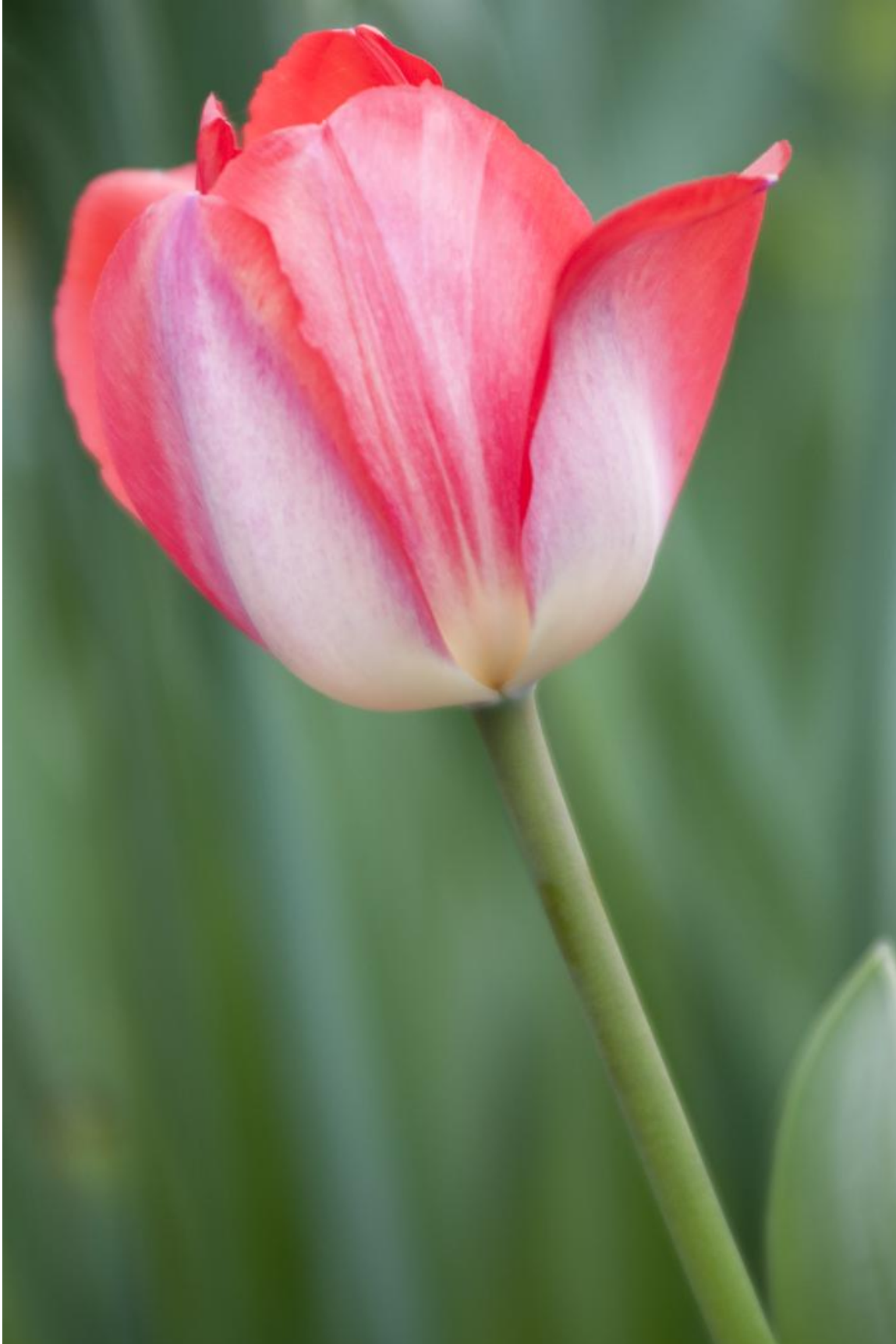
"When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you." -- Tao Te Ching

The next time that you go to a florist, or perhaps a grocery store, stop and smell the roses. Literaly. Mankind has developed many different kinds of roses. These roses are bred to look pretty, stay fresh longer, and be more vivid in color, yet they lack one thing ... a beautiful smell.

Smell is one of the most wonderful sensations that we have. Nothing, for me sparks more vivid memories than a certain smell. It could be a smell that reminds you of your grandmother's house, a favorite time of year, or almost anything.

Today, I walked through the garden and was assaulted by a variet of absolutely wonderful smells. I smelled tulips, roses, lilac (I think), honeysuckle, etc. Talk about aroma therepy! It's all there for the taking.

# In Praise of Spring



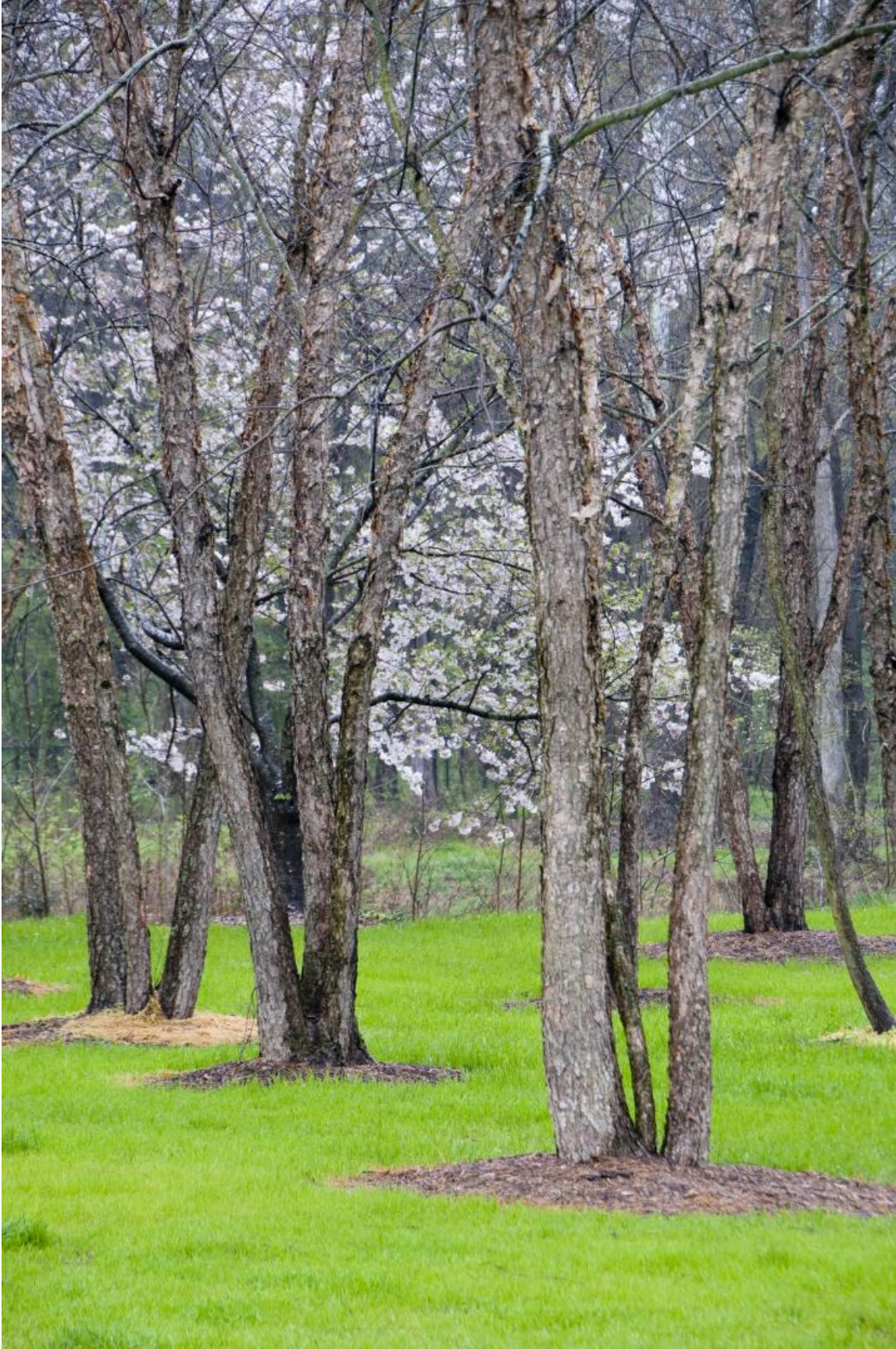
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# In Praise of Spring Touch

"When spring comes the grass grows by itself." -- Tao Te Ching

Yes! Spring is a present for us. The grass does grow all by itself. The tender young blades of grass provide a visual feast for us with its vibrant color. It also provides a delicious treat for some animals and insects. We need do nothing and there is nothing that we can do to hurry it along. We simply need sit back and enjoy. That's it.

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# In Praise of Spring Taste

I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures. --Lao Tzu

Alas, spring is a time for training. A time for learning new things, new techniques. It may also be a time where a pup who has learned to sit earns a tasty treat!

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