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## John Lanterman Photography

My photography documents “the real and imagined west.” “Real” in the sense that the authentic west is a place of beauty, independence, and reverence for nature embedded in our country’s history. “Imagined” in the sense that the iconic landscapes of the west are part of our country’s mythology.

Recording the west is a way to practice photography and refine my eye. The vastness of the west, the solitude, and overpowering beauty are recurring themes. My intention is to tell a compelling story through a photograph. A memorable photograph conveys a sense of place, and connects people to that place and moment.

Capturing the authentic west, set against the backdrop of constant change, whether it be cultural or environmental, provides a focus for my work. Ideally the images remind us to protect the landscape and cultural heritage of the west.

### The backstory

Photography is an integral part of my life. As a youngster, I borrowed my Dad’s camera and explored the mountains around our home. Wherever adventure led, I wanted a visual journal. I marveled at the pictures of Alfred Eisenstadt and Ansel Adams. Looking back, that begins to explain why I have a passion for black and white photography. A career and family redirected my trajectory, with photography continuing to play a supporting role. When photography once again knocked on the door, it was welcomed with open arms.

### Base camp

Steamboat Springs, Colorado is the perfect base camp. There is a mix of ranching and agriculture, outdoor recreation, natural landscapes, wildlife, and stunning beauty available outside our front door. The

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Yampa River flows through downtown, and is one of the few free-flowing rivers left in the west.



*Ensō represents a moment when the mind is free to let the body create.*

Ensō is a symbol in Japanese calligraphy that symbolizes many things; strength, elegance, the universe, simplicity, completeness, the visible and invisible. It’s a reminder of what makes a great photograph – the instant everything comes together to capture what is seen and felt.