



THE

# PORTFOLIO

A LOOK AT THE RECENT WORKS OF PHOTOGRAPHER CHRIS JAMES

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## REVIEW

A look back through some of the projects and works from the 2019-2020 period

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## STYLES AND DESIGN

Capturing the moments that captivate your heart. Capturing the beauty of your everyday life.





THE DARK HEDGES, NORTHERN IRELAND





A moment of inconvenience for the tired commuters of Ginza District, Tokyo Spring 2019. Although a moment of beauty for others. This is one of the hubs of brief respite for the so called salary men (and women) of the area.

They might enjoy a nice portion of Maki Sushi and a Asahi Super Dry to wash it down. These white collar workers will think nothing of working 16 hours a day, 6 days a week. A few beers after work is the least they deserve!

TOKYO, SPRING 2019

## WELCOME!

This is a small collection of my Photographic works, I am forever improving, reviewing and inspiring. Please enjoy and for my latest works please visit- [www.ChrisJamesPhotography.com](http://www.ChrisJamesPhotography.com)

When I decided to put this portfolio together is was initially motivated to showcase my talents to potential clients of the future. During these difficult times however I'm also seeking to inspire others to follow their dreams and stay positive. I feel I can do this in two ways, firstly I hope my pictures are enjoyed and seen with some positivity to make others feel slightly better and hopeful, secondarily the act of putting this book together will show people they can strive for their dreams if they just keep putting one foot moving in front of the other, they can keep trying to be better than the version of themselves from yesterday.

I'm very lucky really as I'm in a position to travel to a lot of interesting places around the world (and at home!) and with my Canon in hand always (albeit slightly restricted in 2020!). Having a passionate interest in photography for as long as I can remember and coupled with an interest in people and places has greatly fueled my continuing drive to be the best photographer possible. This is indeed not an easy task as what makes a good photo? Any art form has a healthy amount of subjectivity but I believe there is a universal truth that overrides the usual rules, capturing life and emotion in all its glory is the eternal target.

“Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people.” – Leo Burnett













In Kanazawa many Chinese tourists like to look the part.

KANASAWA, SPRING 2019



9.6 million Chinese people visited Japan in 2019 and it seems the majority enjoy getting into the feudal swing of things.



A fire safety lesson for a class of Japanese school children (Near Senso-ji Temple).

TOKYO, SPRING 2019

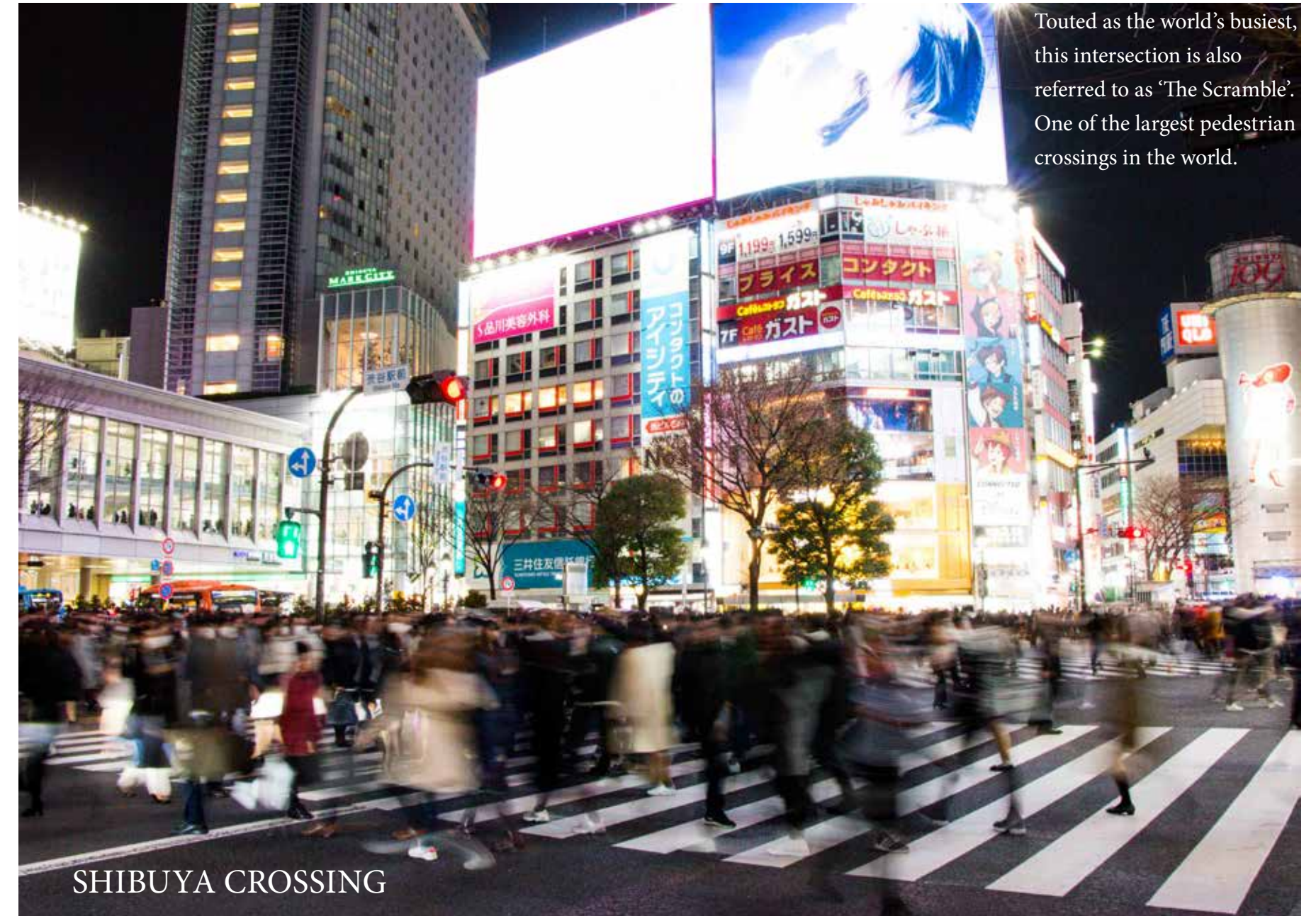


## FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE



Fushimi Inari Shrine is famous for it's 10,000 gates but really there are over 32,000 gates and sub-gates called torii in Japanese.

One could even say it's a gateway to more gates! You walk through one and there's another. When you thought you walked through them all, there are more and you could go one forever in a circle if you take a wrong turn at the top.



Touted as the world's busiest, this intersection is also referred to as 'The Scramble'. One of the largest pedestrian crossings in the world.

## SHIBUYA CROSSING



## THE NERD IS KING LONG LIVE THE NERD

A walk and talk through the world of Comic-book Conventions

Back in the late 60's in the UK comic book conventions were still in their infancy and was actually only concerned with physical comics! Today it's part of a multi billion dollar industry that has connections with mostly mainstream interests these days. From the Walking Dead to the MCU, the modern convention covers mainstream and niche comics, characters and long running franchises all under one roof. For me this is where you meet people not afraid to express themselves, they love the attention and they love the camera. Never is there a lack of enthusiasm and cool poses from the Comic Con fandom.

On the right you'll recognize the stalwart comic sellers but the people dressing up take it very seriously and really inhabit their roles.

Under one roof contains possibly the most eclectic range of people to ever walk the earth. Some characters you'll recognize, some familiar and some a complete mash up or gender switch. It's always a fantastic chance to talk to like minded or even unlike minded people but all the more interesting for it. Anime is in full flow in the UK thanks to Netflix offering a plethora of streaming options, so the fan base for previous unheard of comics and animations is increasing exponentially year on year.





Dusk from the roof of the Vancouver to  
Toronto sleeper train.



The Toronto Cityscape during early  
Autumn











## WEDDING JITTERS!

Which countries do the best weddings? Who turns it into the biggest celebration and makes it a day (or days!) to remember. After many weddings Poland seems to pull out more stops!

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Polish weddings are well known for being major affairs, even more major than one would think when they attend an average English wedding. Poland still has strong ties to the Catholic church and other even older traditions that pre-date Christian influence. After the ceremony takes place (usually in a Catholic church) the traditional exchange of bread and salt must take place, this is

a sign of good luck for the new couple. The couple then chooses from two glasses, one with water, one with Vodka, the one who drinks the Vodka is said to be the dominant partner in the new union. Once this is out the way it's time to party, any reception that ends before 12 hours of solid eating and drinking is frowned upon, often they can last over two days. As you can imagine a photographer needs good stamina!





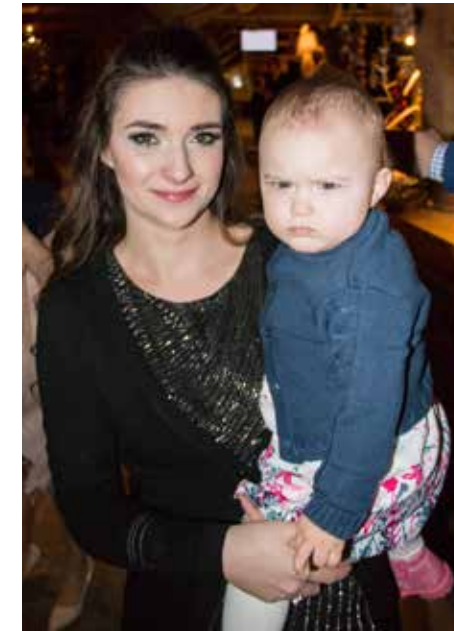
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Some traditions would be recognize in the UK. The way photos are taken differs somewhat but is not alien, the couple wants a quick group shot (it's very cold in Poland in the winter!) then it's onto the reception for ceremonies and fun.

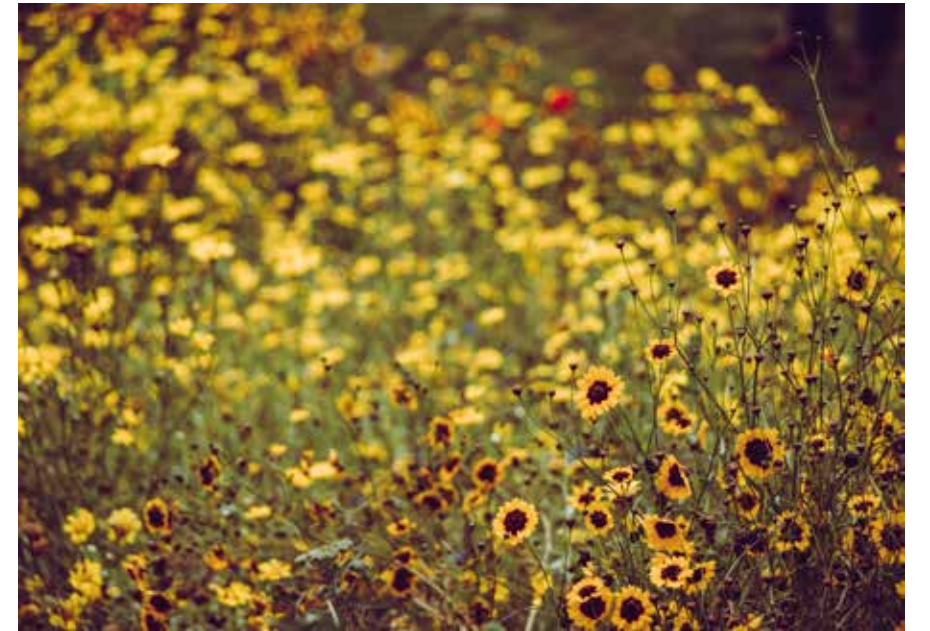
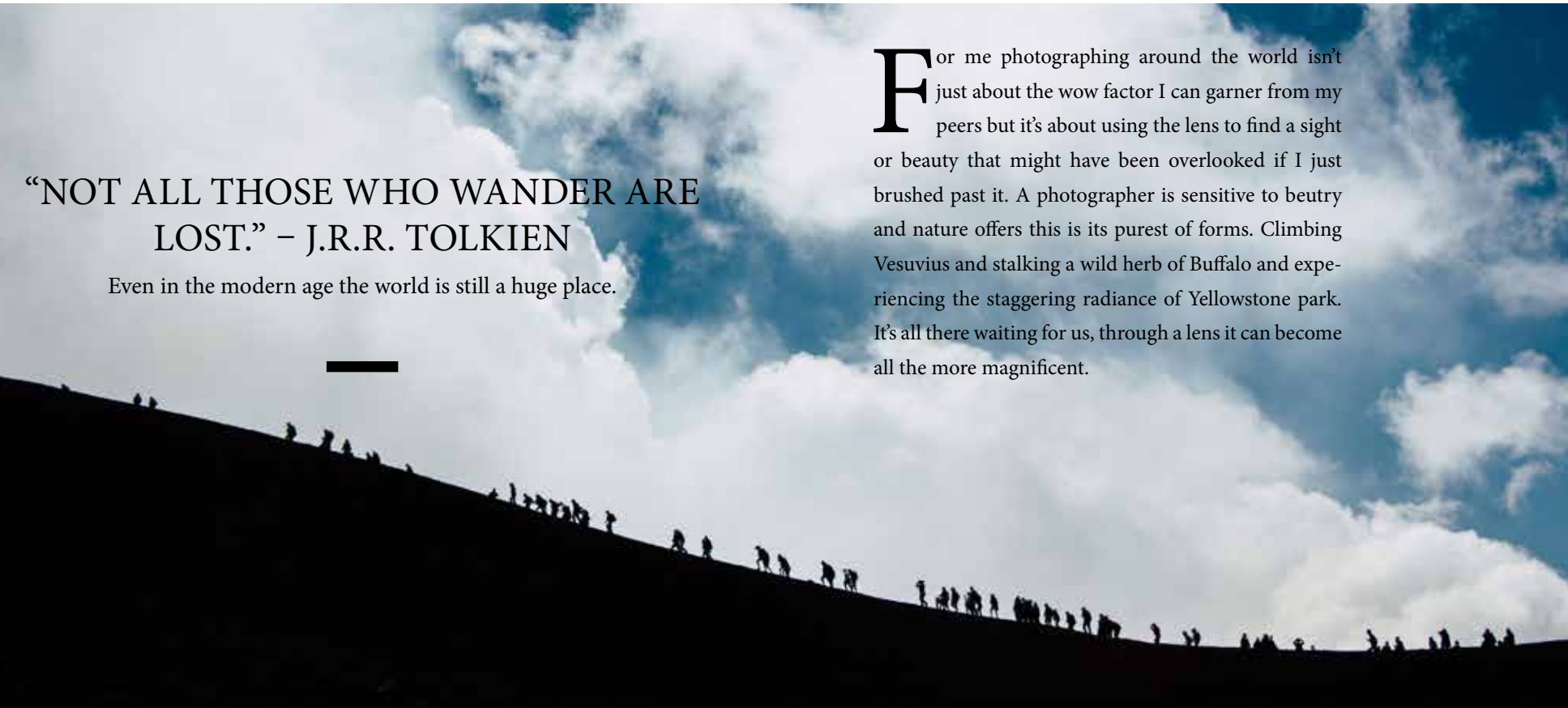
Photos after this is all about capturing that emotion and the action. A good photographer in this context is very quick on his feet with sometimes 3 cameras around his neck with different lenses and settings! He is ready for anything at a Polish celebration!



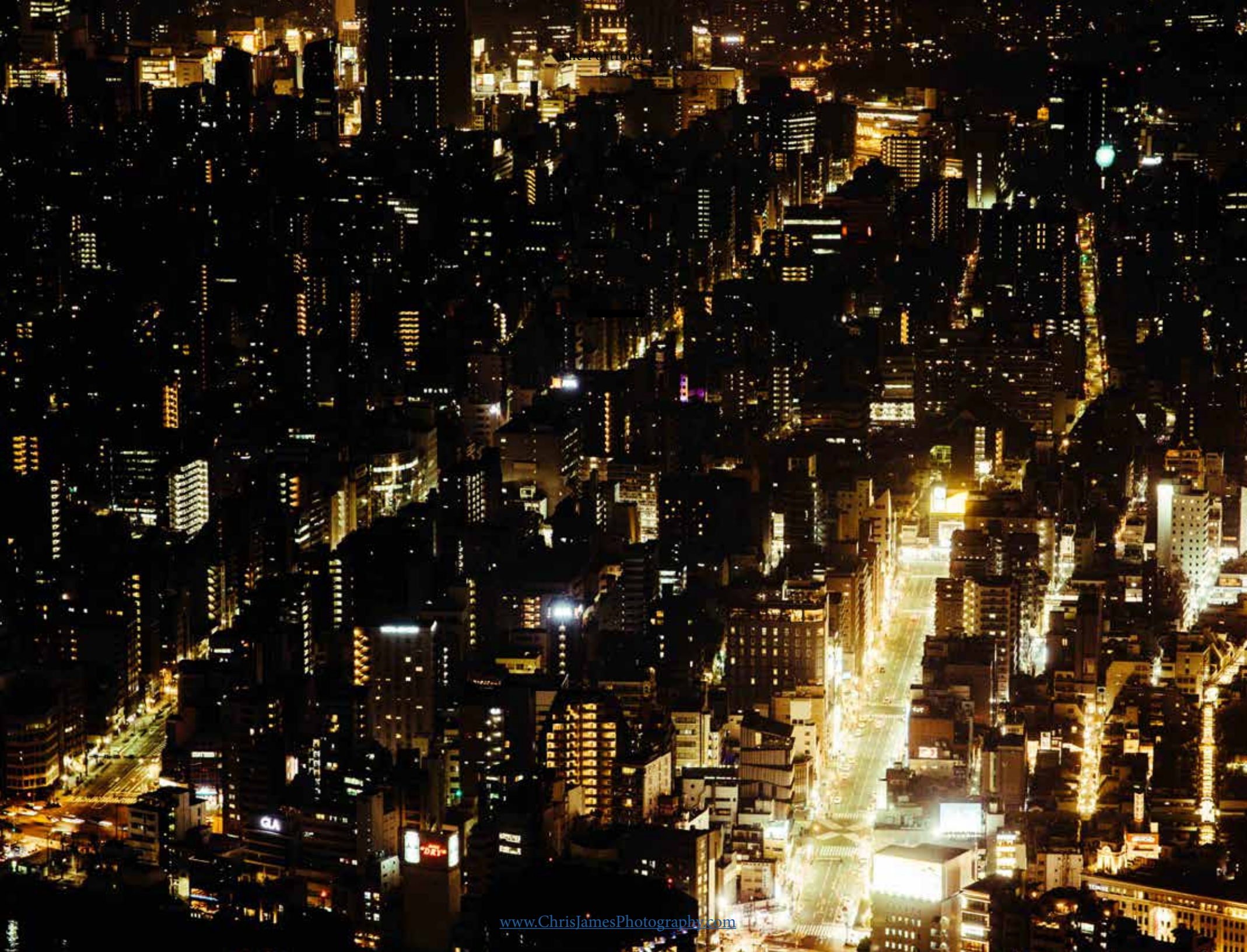












## A TAIL OF TWO DOGS

A WALK AND THE WONDER OF THE  
HANDBAG DOG

I like to think that I'm still relatively on trend and in the know about the latest crazes and fashions although this one took me by surprise. Innocently walking up towards yet another Japanese shrine to be confronted with not one but two handbag dogs.

This is very bizarre and unusual (I thought while asking to take some pictures). It turns out this is a common sight across Japan at weekends, this small breed of Mini Chow Chow is popular with those lacking space at home. The poor little things can't climb up all these steps muses my wife. So thus the ancestor of the fearsome wolf has found it's new home in a large, brown, hand bag and it being carried up to the Fushimi Inari Shrine to spare its poor little legs!





“My body is my journal, and my tattoos are  
my story.”  
Johnny Depp

—

Wanting to explore the unusual and the unconventional in London requires a little thought and research as once you’ve seen one circus of horrors you’ve seen them all. Being relatively desensitized to the weird and grotesque it took a project at ‘The London Tattoo Convention’ to open my eyes in shock at some of the sights, sounds and smells (mostly the strong smell of fuel) to help appreciate that things can always get weirder and especially on my home turf it seems.





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