

volcano's view

hendrik hol

[photographs from santorini, greece]

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To my imagination spoke the islands of Santorini for a longer time when I arrived there for the first time in 2004. As most of the people interested in stories told by old myths, the myth of Atlantis was one of them. Some spoke that Santorini once was this infamous lost island of Atlas, the Titan that carries the heavens, planet Earth, Uranus. But such is mythology; stories in a language of different times gone by.

Santorini however still exists, with or without Atlas. Or at least what is left of it. A huge explosion of the volcano tore the island into pieces some 3.500 years ago. The Mediterranean sea flooded in and what is left we now know as the island of Thira, Nea Kameni and other small islands of raw and pure volcanic rock. Santorini must be one of the most photographed places on Earth because of this tragic fate and it's magical landscape.

In 2004 I shot a dozen rolls or even more, but the result was not to my satisfaction, although I have used a few photograpgs in this book. Before I left I already had made up my mind to visit the islands again and such became reality in 2010.

The five days I spent in May 2010 I was lucky not to experience an earthquake. I experienced long days from dusk till dawn, sweating like crazy, carrying heavy gear on my back all the way, exploring the islands of Thira and Nea Kameni by foot under the hot, burning, sun. The last days I took a few shots with my analogue Mamiya medium format camera; places I desperately wanted to shoot with “the real thing”, for deep down inside I need the feeling of taking a roll of film, open the back of the camera and do all the handling manual, the metering, to push the trigger and to pull the handle that transports the film to the next frame.

I love [to catch] the light in Santorini. I love the stunning nature, its caldera, the architecture. The way the houses and the streets are painted reminds me of abstract painters like Barnett Newman and Yves Klein. You can see the use of identical colors everywhere. I have also tried to capture the opposites between nature and culture in a few shots and have called these: “A Human Zip shows Nature his Abstract Expression”, which refers to the works of Barnett Newman. You will only see a few humans in this book, but no portraits. You will see them as a part of the overwhelming landscape. The pictures of the architecture, the fresco's and other artefacts speak already of human presence.

I admire the perseverance of the inhabitants who have build their houses and villages over and over again, earthquake after earthquake for thousands of years. Thanks to this, Santorini is such a little miracle. They share the same creative powers; the volcanic fires that give birth to these rocks and the humans who sculp these rocks into complete villages.

With this book I have tried to capture these powers of creation and to catch some of mine.

volcano's view [photographs from santorini, greece]

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the photographs are made with nikon and mamiya camera's, lenses and, when analogue, kodak film.

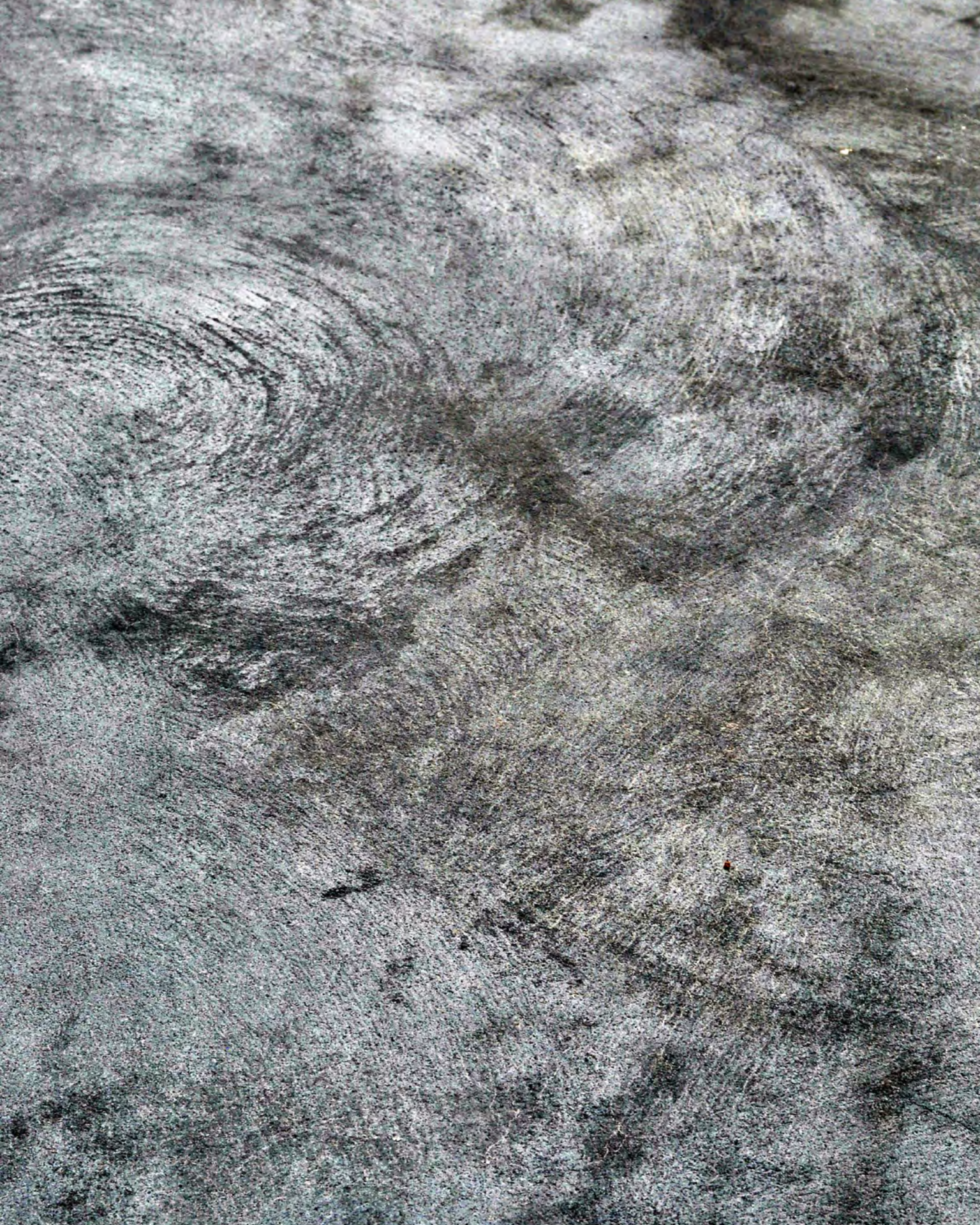
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< page 4/5 Vir Heroicus Sublimis I - Man Heroic Sublime I [after Barnett Newman]

> page 7 The Skin of the Earth I [after Yves Klein]





< [page 8/9 The Volcano of Nea Kameni](#)

> [page 11 Two Humans on Top of the Volcano of Nea Kameni](#)





< [page 12/13 Hotel under Construction near Oia](#)

> [page 15 Animal Fresco in Archaeological Museum Fira](#)





HOMERIC POEMS

< page 16/17 Boat Lost on Roof in Imerovigli [Homeric Poems]
> page 19 Dome, Cross and Lapis Lazuli {International Klein Blue}





< page 20/21 View in Oia I

> page 23 Closed Door I [waiting to be opened]





< page 24/25 View over Oia I

> page 27 The Skin of the Earth II [after Yves Klein]





< page 28/29 Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Fira

> page 31 Closed door II [waiting to be opened]

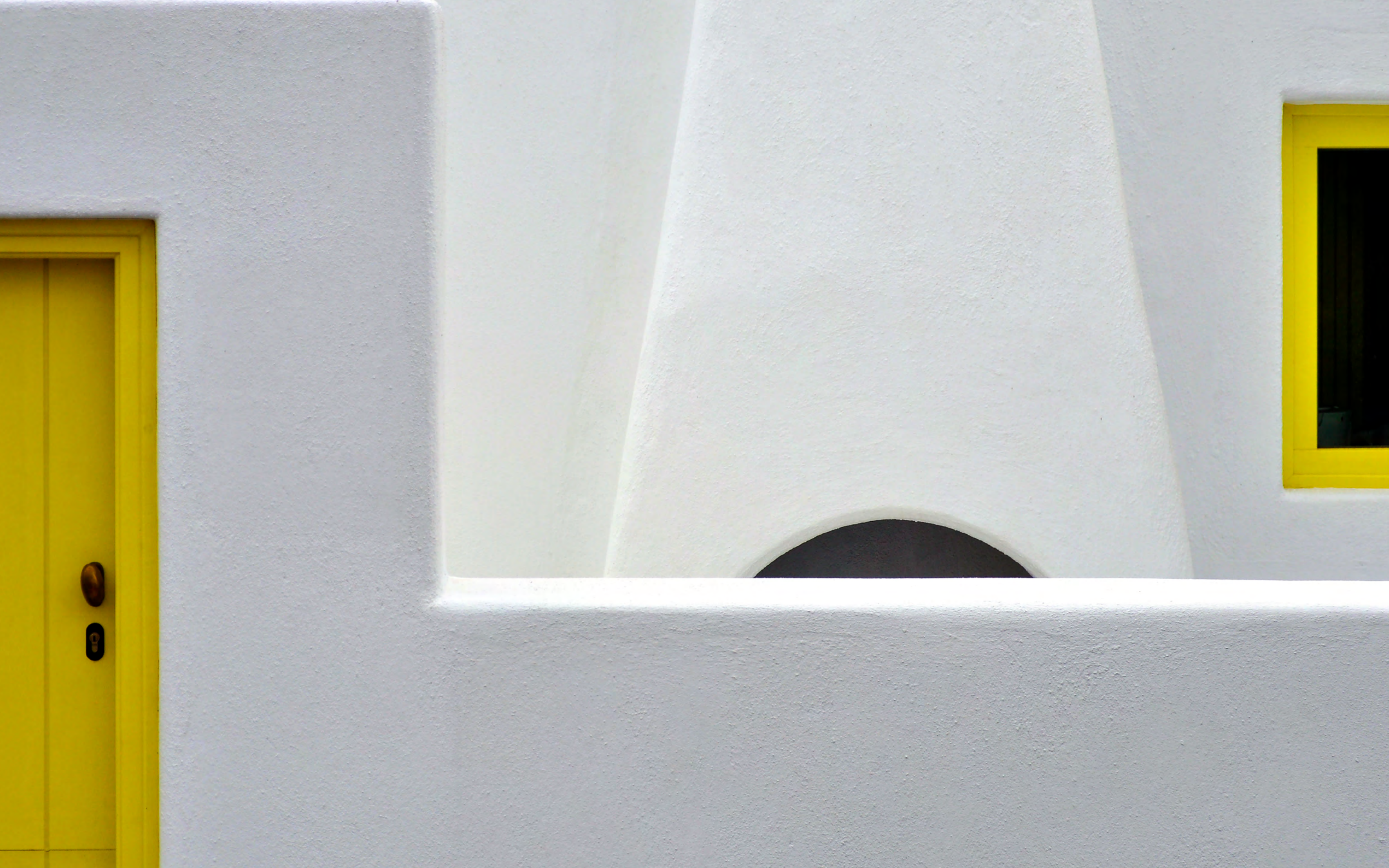




< page 32/33 Roof in Imerovigli

> page 35 A Human Zip Shows Nature his Abstract Expression I





< page 36/37 Door, Fireplace and Window of Villa between Imerovigli and Oia

> page 39 Vase and Void





< page 40/41 Bell Tower between Imerovigli and Oia

> page 43 Blue Monkey Fresco in Archaeological Museum Fira





< page 44/45 Roof, Door and Windows in Oia

> page 47 Donkey Ride in Fira





< [page 48/49 Mediterranean Meditation I](#)

> [page 51 The Skin of the Earth is Flowering I](#)





< page 52/53 View in Oia II

> page 55 Red Paint on Volcanic Rock





< page 56/57 Church Towers in Imerovigli

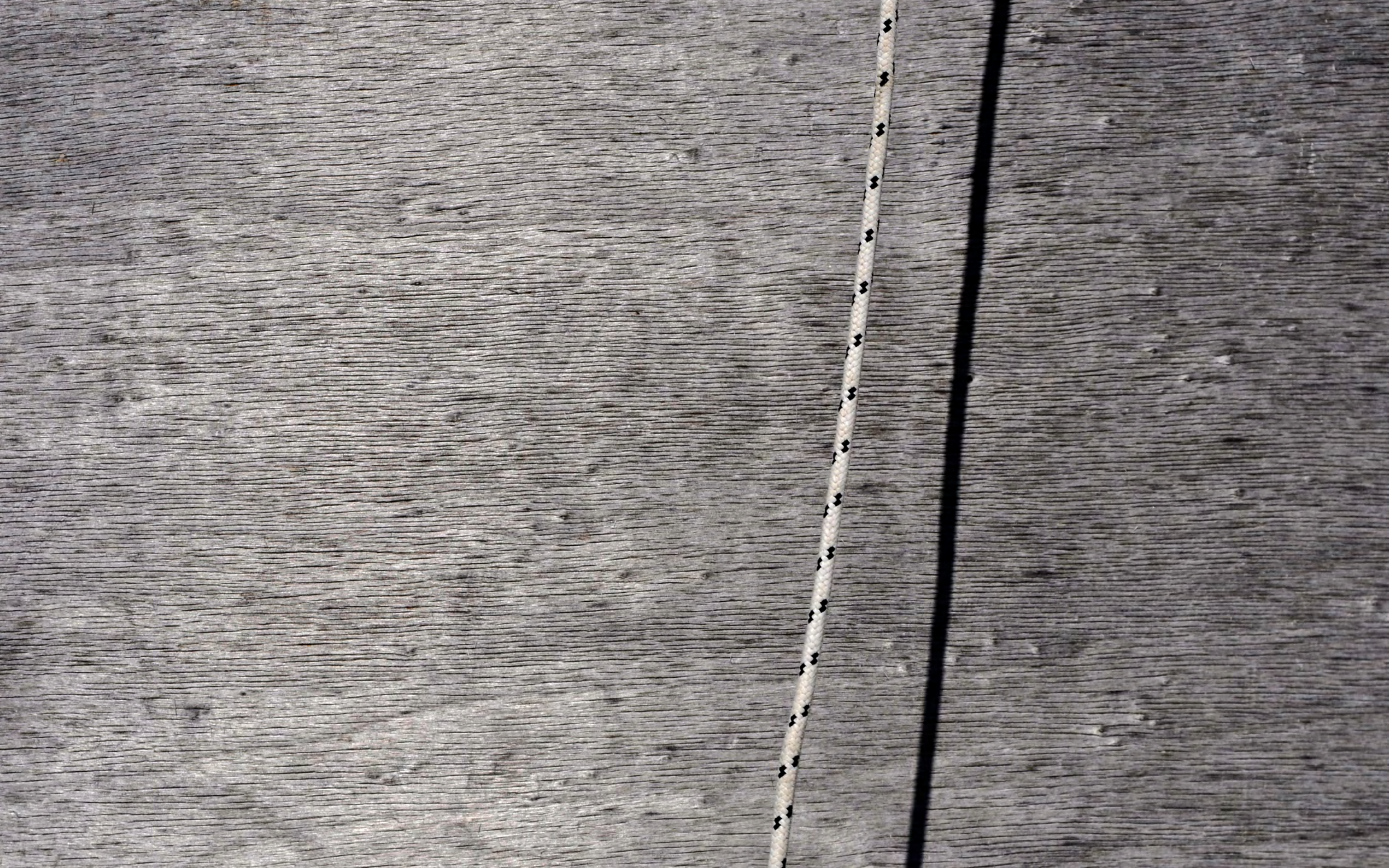
> page 59 Monochrome Door [waiting to be opened]





< page 60 At a Monastery in Fira

> page 62/63 Vir Heroicus Sublimis II - Man Heroic Sublime II [After Barnett Newman]





< page 64 Sculpture of Human at Sunrise in Fira

> page 66/67 The Intrinsic White Meets a Supreme Black Rectangle in Oia





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< [page 92 A Human Zip Shows Nature his Abstract Expression III](#)

> [page 94/95 The Skin of the Earth is Flowering III](#)





< page 96 A Human Zip Shows Nature his Abstract Expression IV

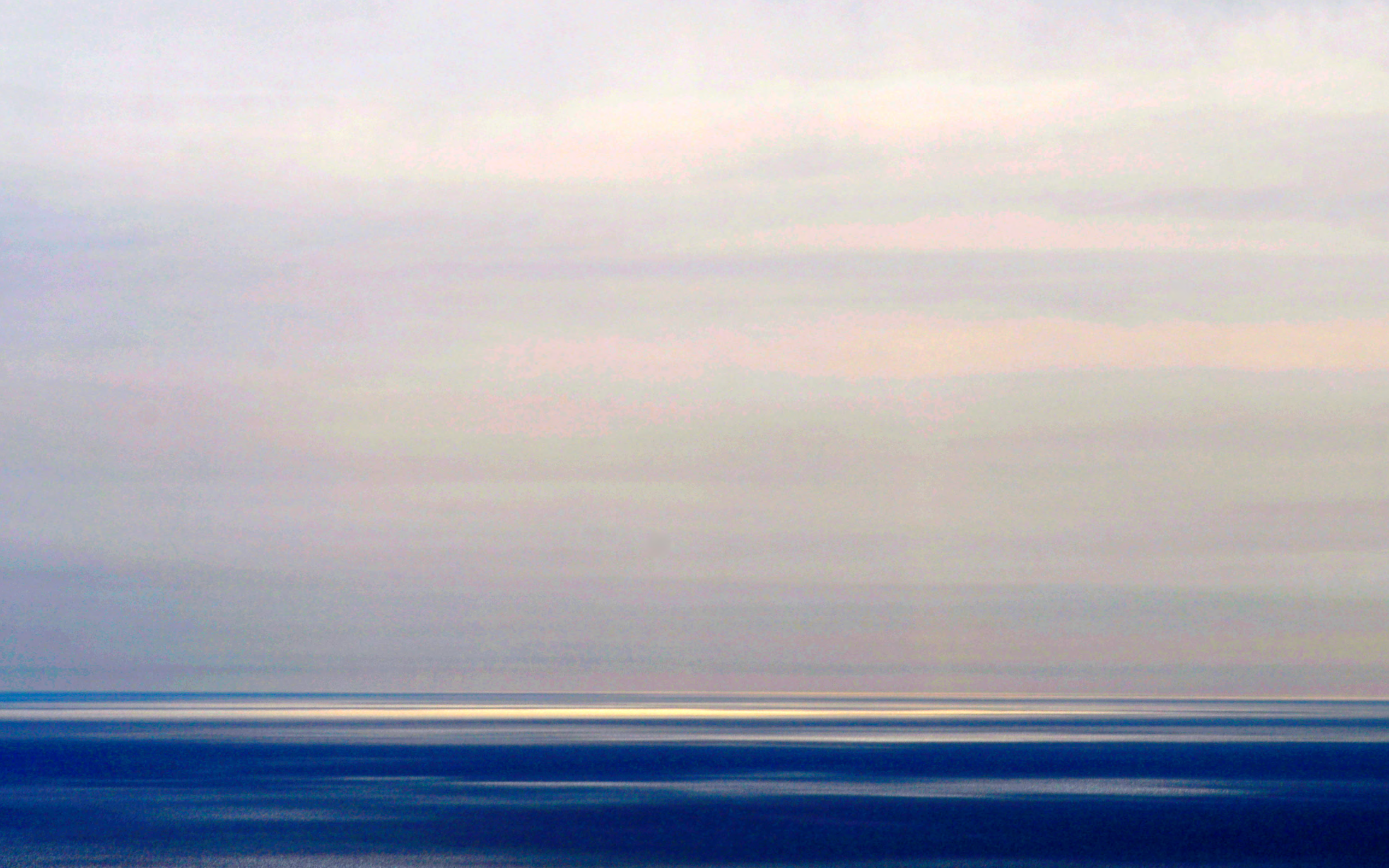
> page 98/99 Door and Fenced Wall in Oia





< page 100 Chapel between Imerovigli and Oia

> page 102/103 Mediterranean Meditation II





< [page 104 Nea Kameni Rocks and Sea](#)

> [page 106/107 Couple Walking on the Edge of the Caldera](#)





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< page 112 The Skin of the Earth III [after Yves Klein]

> page 114/115 Windmill in Oia





< page 116 Window with an Open View

> page 118/119 Mediterranean Meditation III



how colorful life can be
how the diligent urge to create
is crossed by the deepest
red yellow and blue
the intense fires that stream
underneath they have the will
to pierce through to lay open
the core of being to
follow in his footsteps till
the doors of perception
cleanse and open the window:
man heroic sublime

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