

COMMON GROUND
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BOOKS

**Sacred Destinations and
Journeys along the Way**

By Louis M. Brill



Louis M. Brill, a San Francisco artist, has created a unique photography book about the reflections of life, both figuratively and literally. By wielding reflected light as a scul-

tural medium, Brill has transformed his art into a visual narrative where photographs of his light art are used to reflect upon the nature of the world around us. These images are created by an ingenious light-art sculpting process known as Lumia, a technique developed by Thomas Wilfred, a Danish American who lived from 1889 to 1968.

Whereas conventional artists manipulate materials such as stone or paint so that the object's reflected light creates the desired image in the viewer's eye, Brill's Lumia sculptures capture light directly as a freeze frame of a composition that changes slowly over time with color and form. The images, replicated in the book, exhibit a wide range of delicate refracted light patterns whose varying intensity are otherwise difficult to record and impossible to play back—even using a high-quality monitor. The imagery presented is lush and deeply evocative, ranging from the familiar to the phantasmagorical, but all very striking in their illuminated presence.

Described as an "Ode to Light Art," Brill showcases each image with titles such as *Angels in Conversation* that inspire a dialog akin to visual haiku—a narrative that may "remind" the viewer of something, even if it falls short of replicating the full visceral impact of the live work. As such, *Sacred Destinations and Journeys along the Way* can equally be enjoyed among friends as a kind of Rorschach "tell me what you see" parlor game. A rare visual treat for the mind's eye and beyond.

—JACKIE CASSIDY