

*Gate of Passage*, by Lisa Ross

Art selection and comment by [Lil Copan](#) in the [July 6, 2016](#) issue



New York artist Lisa Ross photographs landscapes and the objects that inhabit them. Over one ten-year span, she visited the desert near the ancient Silk Road in Uyghur China and followed the trail of pilgrims to *mazars*, the sacred burial sites that honor Uyghur Muslim saints and holy persons. These markers of faith date back to the tenth century. “The holiness of this place became all-consuming,” Ross said. “Everything was created by hand. Each object that I passed had been carved, sewn, built, or placed with intention.” In her photographs, Ross honors the physicality of a people’s longings, prayers, and devotion.