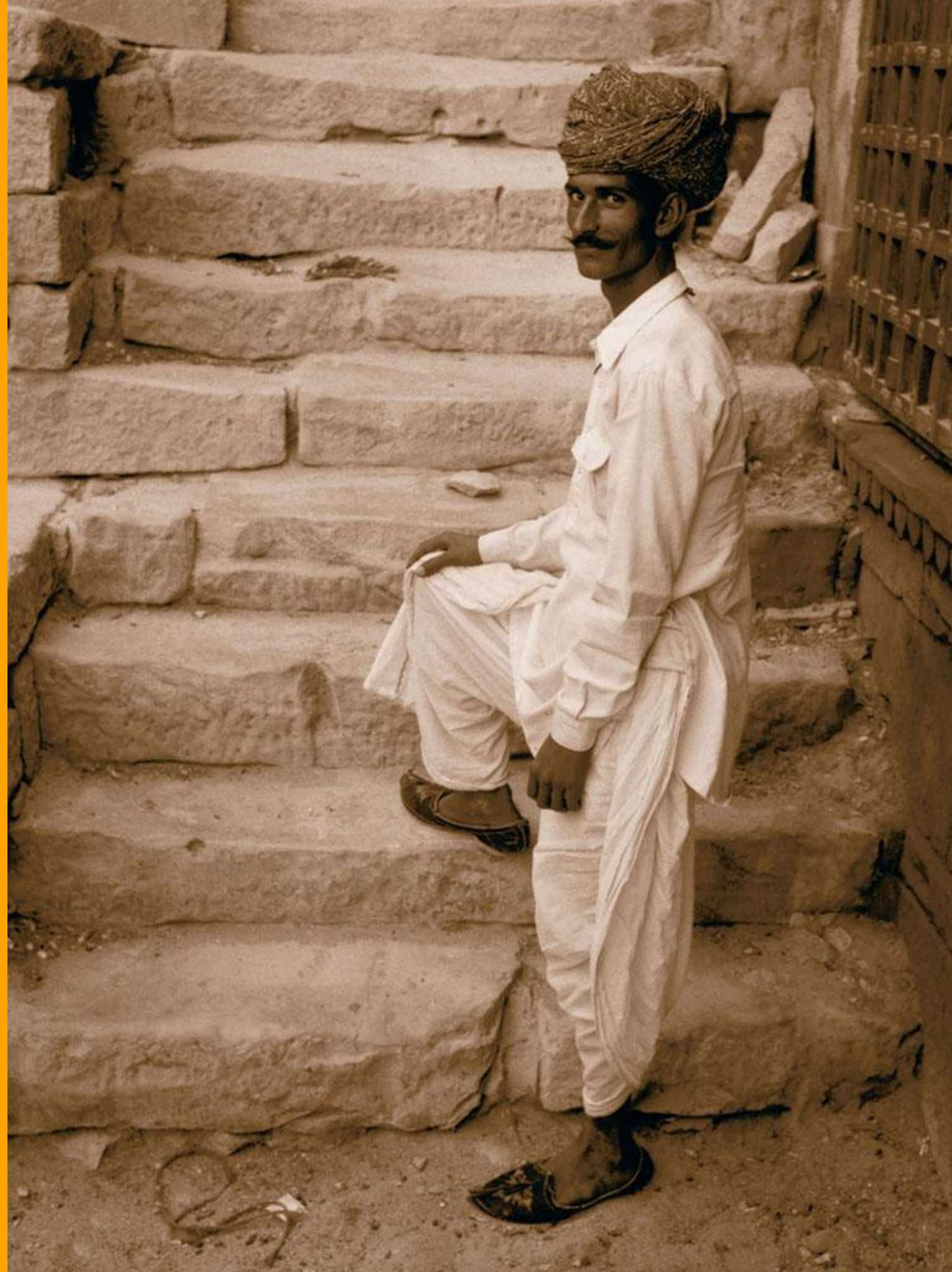


MAP DISCOVER

# WORLDS OF WONDER

India Poems by  
Waswo X. Waswo





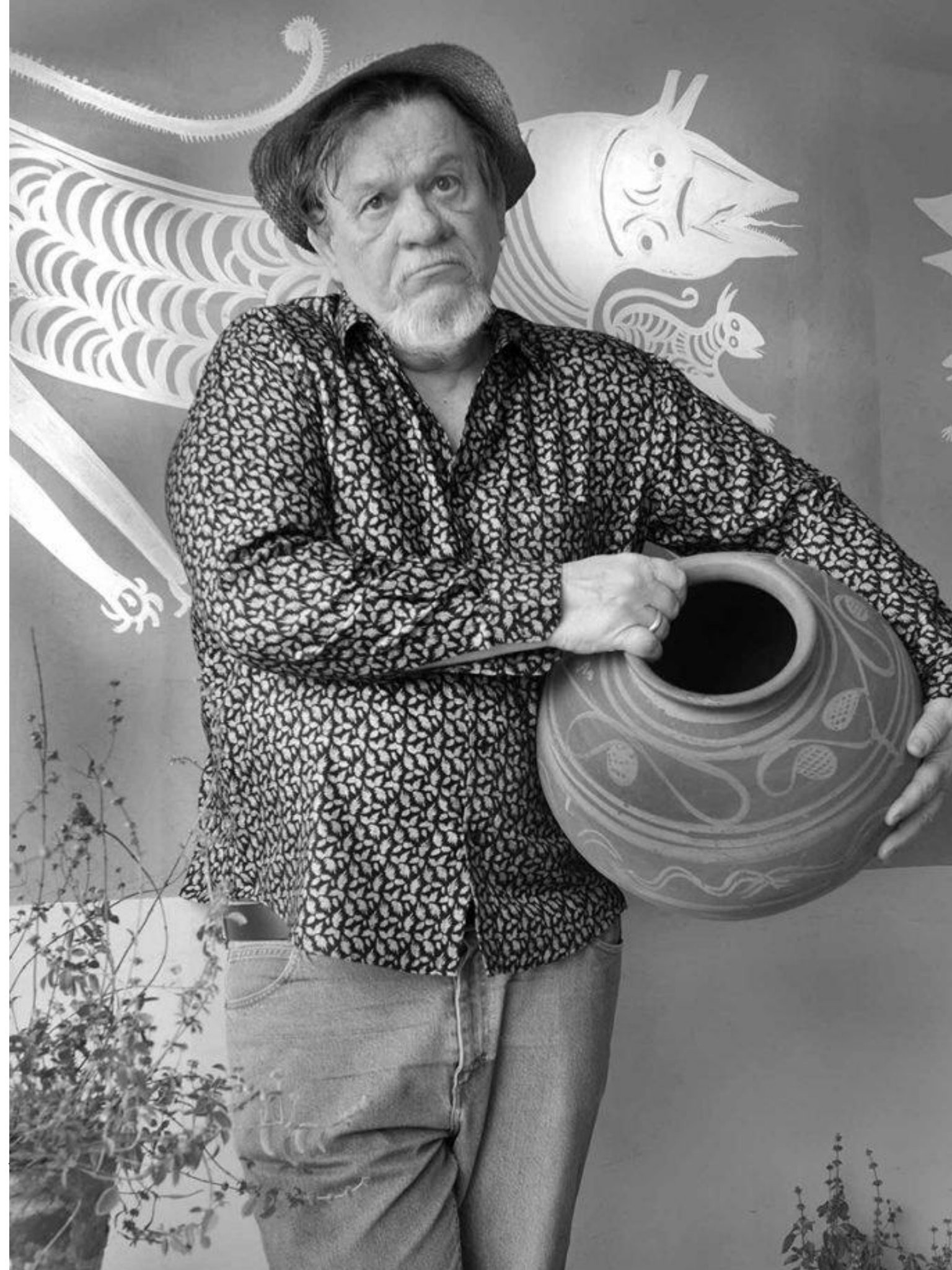
Waswo X. Waswo is an artist with an interesting name, who makes equally interesting art.

He is an American who now lives in Rajasthan, India.

### **THINK.**

Why do you think he chose to move to India and to continue to make art involving the people and places of this country?

Image: Facebook Account of the artist  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2612680005724924&set=t.100009488502288&type=3>



Do you find his name unique? It is composed of one name reproduced twice, joined by a third component.

What do you think the X stands for? And what different meanings do you think his name could make, if it:

- were an alphabet?
- were a symbol?
- were a numeral?

# WASWO

# X

# WASWO

At birth, Waswo was given a different name, but he chose to be known by this name, because he felt this one suited him better.

## **EXPRESS.**

If you could rename yourself anything you liked, perhaps highlighting your personality better, what would that be?

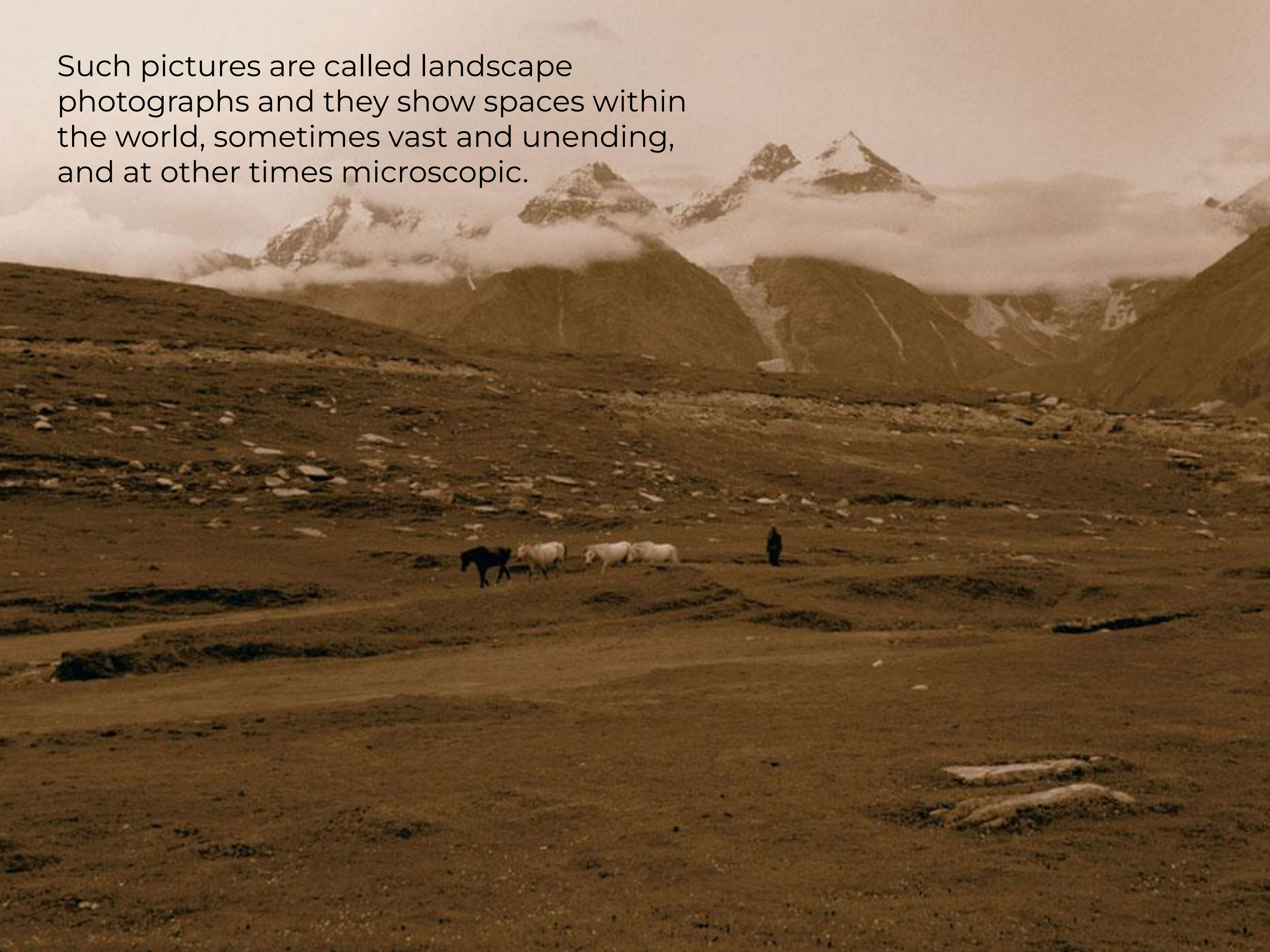




When he first came to  
India, Waswo took a lot  
of photos like this.



Such pictures are called landscape photographs and they show spaces within the world, sometimes vast and unending, and at other times microscopic.







## **LOOK CLOSELY.**

Go back and observe the images you saw, along with this one.

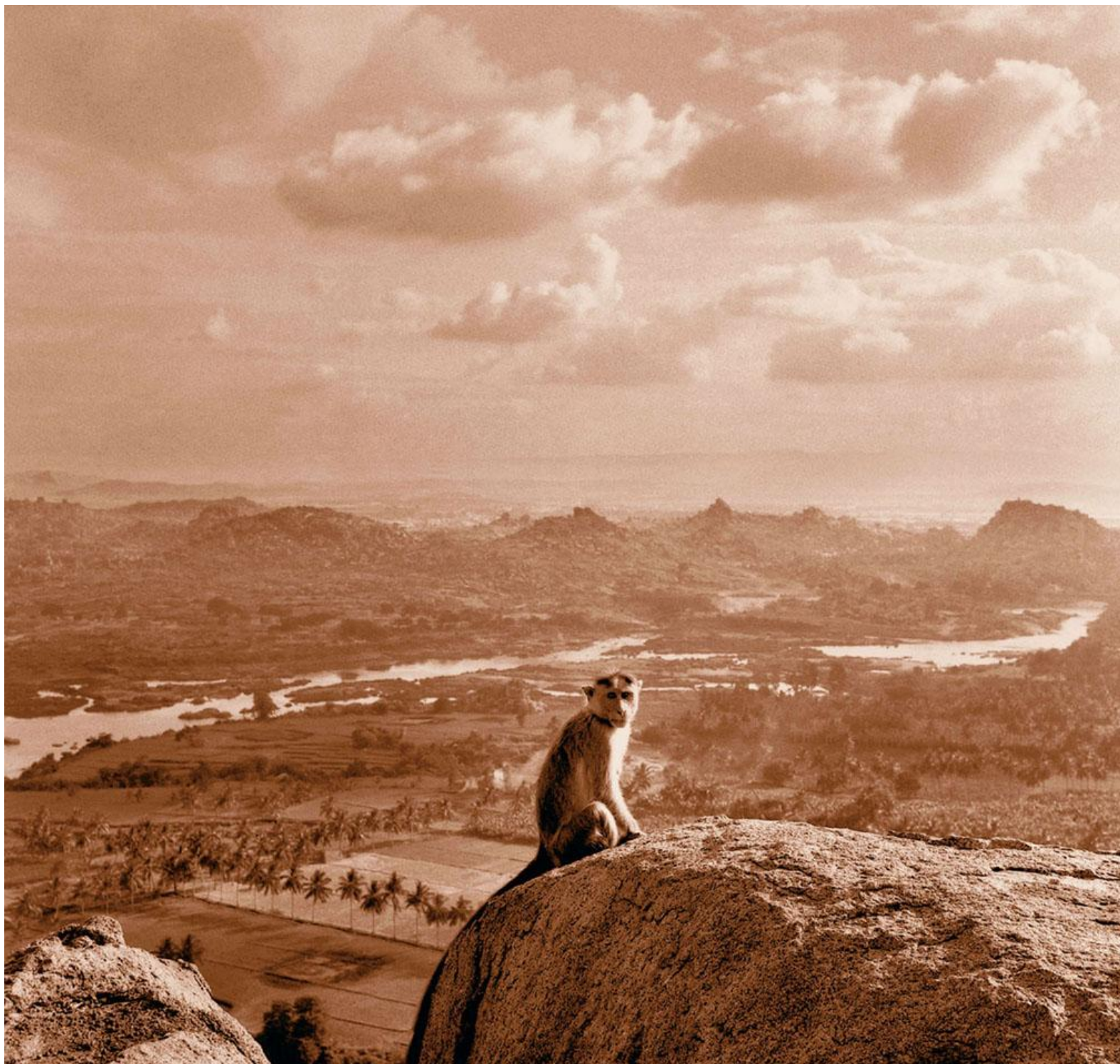
Do you notice any similarities? What about differences?

Is there anything unique about the colour? Have you seen any photos that look like this?

## **THINK.**

Have you ever taken photos like these? When and why did you do that?





## ART SPEAK!

This reddish-brown colour you see in the photographs is called a **sepia tone**\*. It is created by adding chemicals to a black and white photograph to change its colour.

## THINK.

How old do these photos look?

What do you think Waswo is trying to say by choosing this tone?

\*In art, tones refer to the brightness or darkness of colour. You might have played around with tones, using the default filters on Instagram.

## CREATE.

When papers or photographs get very old, they sometimes naturally take on the sepia tone due to aging. But did you know that you can also treat a regular paper to give it that old, vintage feel?

All you need is some **A4 sheets**, a **tray** big enough to hold them and a jug filled with **hot water** and some **teabags**!

**Step 1:** Put 3 to 5 tea bags in the jug. Use a spoon to give this solution a good stir. Wait for a while and you will see the solution becoming a dark brown colour.

**Step 2:** Tip this solution onto the tray and now dunk all your A4 sheets into it. Use your spoon again to make sure that the sheets are completely covered by the solution.

**Step 3:** Once the papers soak up enough liquid and swell up a little, drain and throw away the tea. Take out your papers, dry them using a hair dryer (or in the sun) and you're done!

Your vintage feel sepia-style paper is ready! What will you use them for?





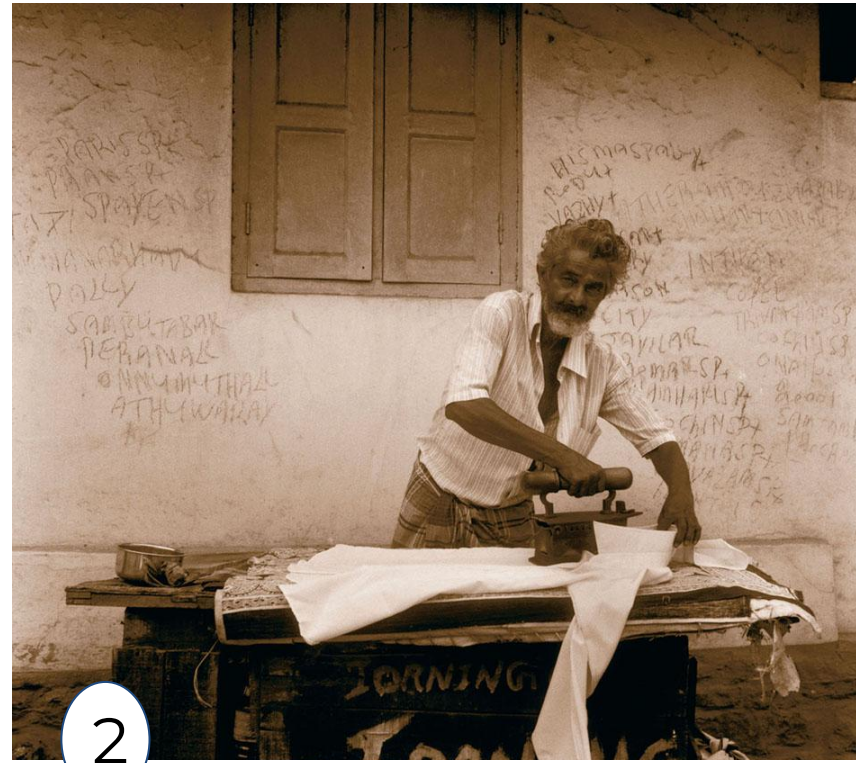
Apart from his landscape images, Waswo also took pictures of people on the streets.

### LOOK CLOSELY.

- Can you guess where this photo is taken?
- Do you think any of the subjects know that they are being photographed?

Check out our **DIY Guide** for an activity about photography and people you meet everyday.

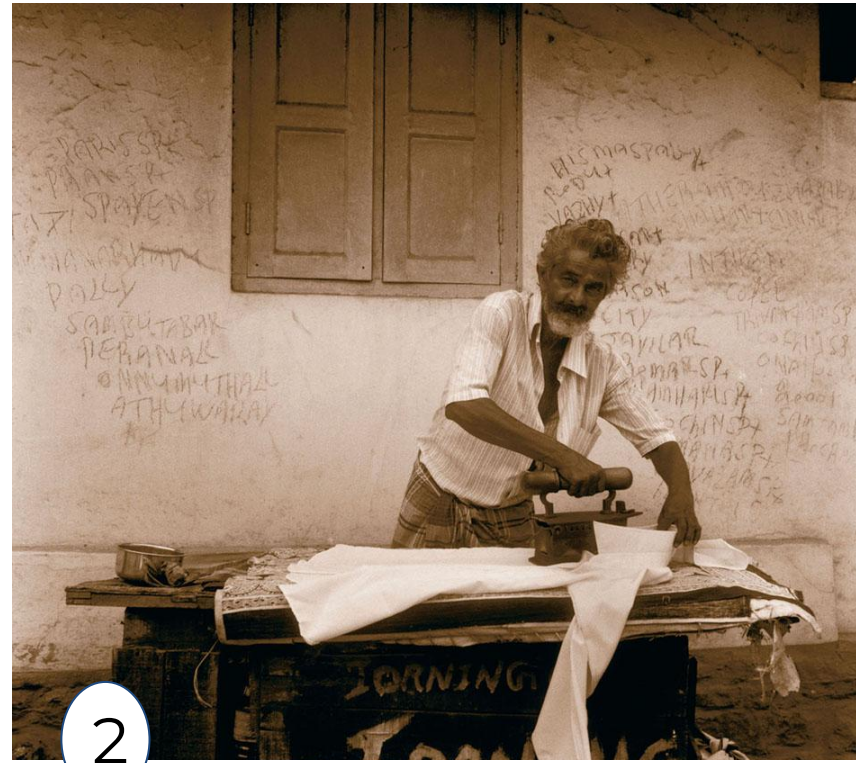




Waswo also took photos of people doing everyday things, in their everyday jobs, where you can spot the 'tools of their trade'. Do these tools give a clue towards knowing each person better?

Can you guess the occupation of each person?





Did you get them all?

1: A Farmer

2: An 'Iron-Man'

3: A photographer

Have you seen someone like this in real life? What do you usually call them? Do you have a specific word for this profession in any other language you know?

Have you seen a photographer like this before? What can we see in the image to tell us that he's a photographer?



## REFLECT.

Waswo was taking these pictures of everyday life, to record the things he saw, the people he met and show what India is like.

Do you think Waswo is successful in doing that?

What is the story of India that you see in these photographs?

Do you think there is there a single story that can describe a country? Or do you think there are many different stories? Why do you feel that way?





## LOOK CLOSELY.

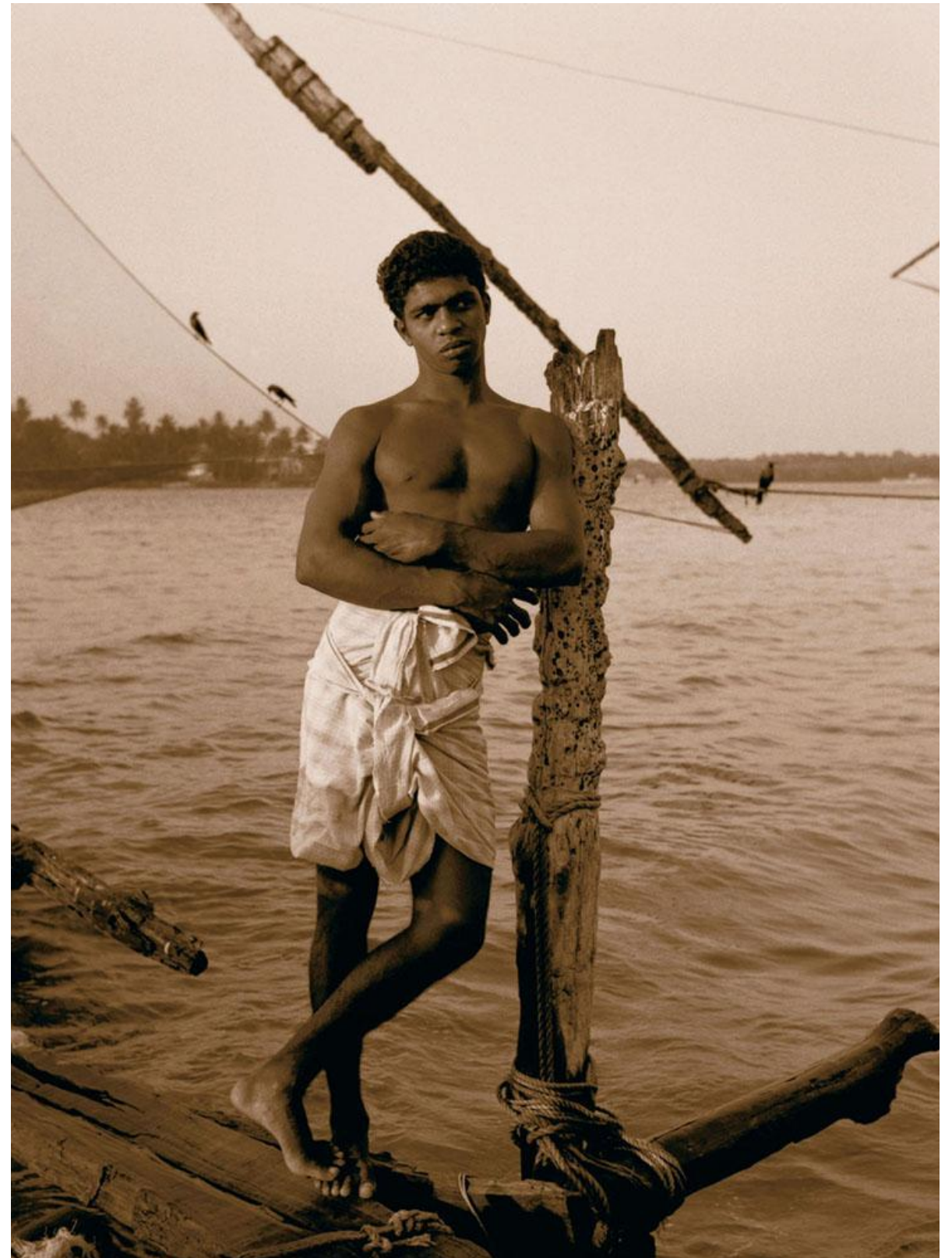
What do you see in this photograph? Pay attention to both the figure and the location. What can you learn about the figure?

If you now learn that this photograph is titled *Fisherman*, does that change what you had deduced about him?

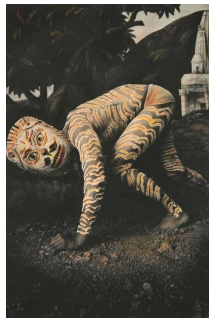
## EXPLORE.

Waswo collected his sepia-toned photographs and made a book called *India Poems*. He called it that because he thought each photograph was like a poem.

Head to our **Stories With Art** downloadable to create your own Waswo-inspired poems!



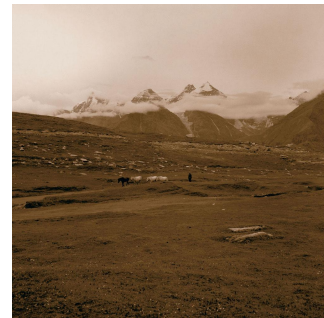




Night Prowl, 2008  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Hand coloured pigment print  
H. 60.5 cm, W. 40.5 cm  
PHY.07431



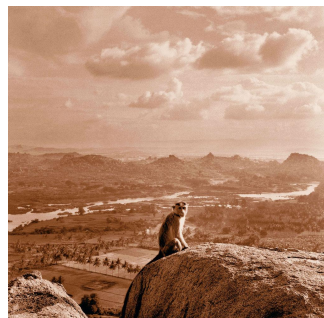
A Flight of Birds – Jaisalmer, 2001  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 32.5 cm, W. 48 cm  
PHY.07472



On the way to Ladakh - Himachal, 2003  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 32.5 cm, W. 48 cm  
PHY.07514



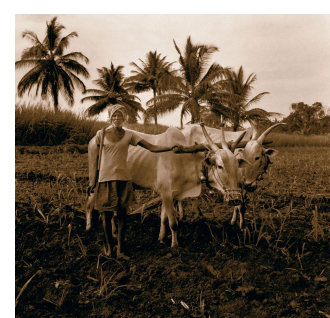
Near the River's Edge – Kerala, 2002  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 23.5 cm, W. 23 cm  
PHY.07489



View from Monkey Temple – Hampi,  
2001  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 24.7 cm, W. 25 cm  
PHY.07481



Counting their Coins – Jaipur, 2002  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 32.5 cm, W. 48 cm  
PHY.07499



Field Worker with Ox Plow – Karnataka,  
2001  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 32.5 cm, W. 48 cm  
PHY.07482



Ironing Man – Trivandrum, 2002  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 24.7 cm, W. 25 cm  
PHY.07494



Street Photographer – Jaipur, 2004  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 24.7 cm, W. 24.5 cm  
PHY.07520



Rickshaw-Wallah – Hospet, 2002  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 26.5 cm, W. 24.7 cm  
PHY.07505



Fisherman –Kerala, 2003  
Waswo X. Waswo  
Sepia-toned silver gelatin print  
H. 24.5 cm, W. 26 cm  
PHY.07518





**MAP**

Museum of Art  
& Photography

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