



# SHORT STORIES

*A Monograph Series by  
George Klass*

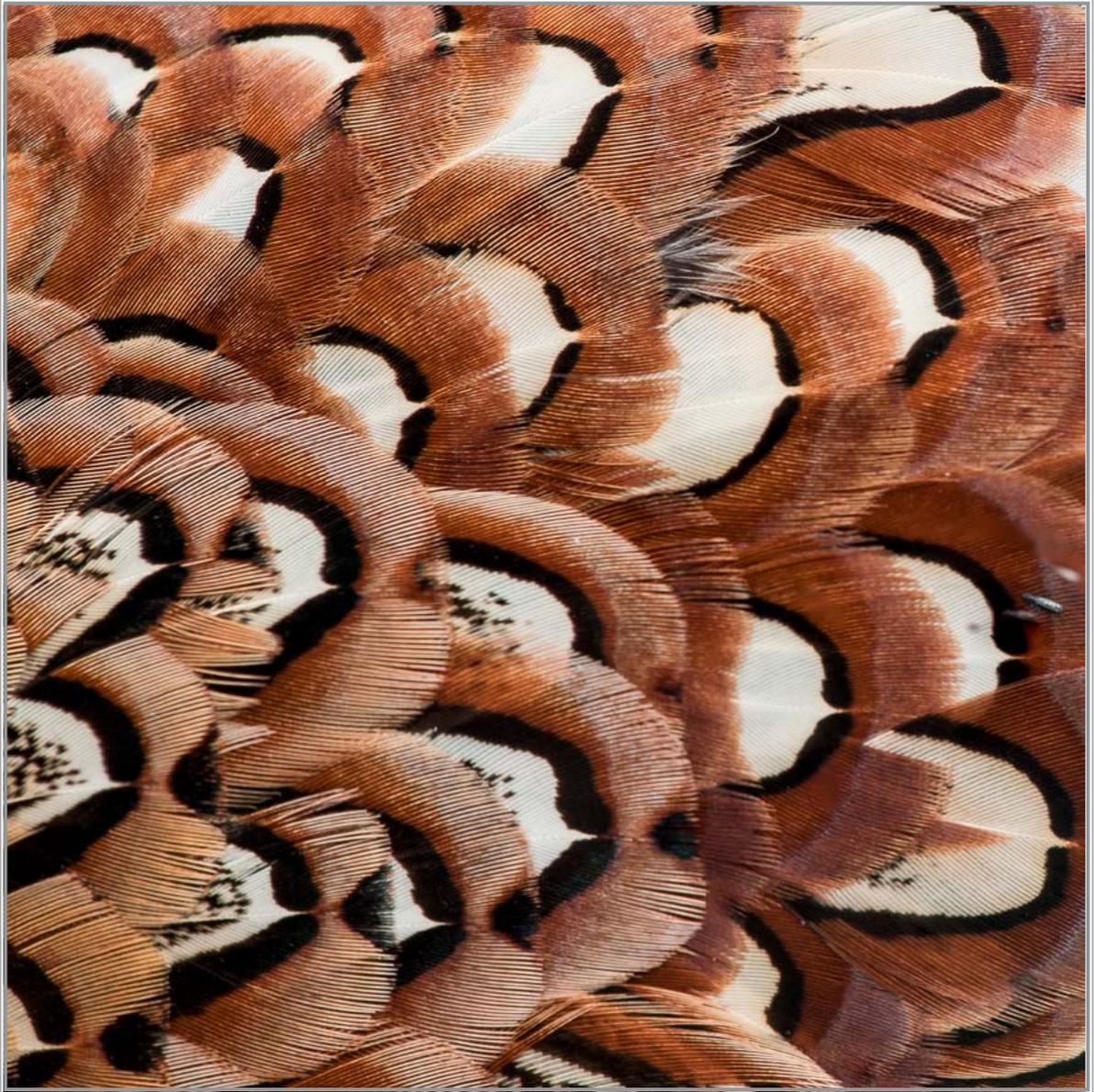


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# Shan Ji

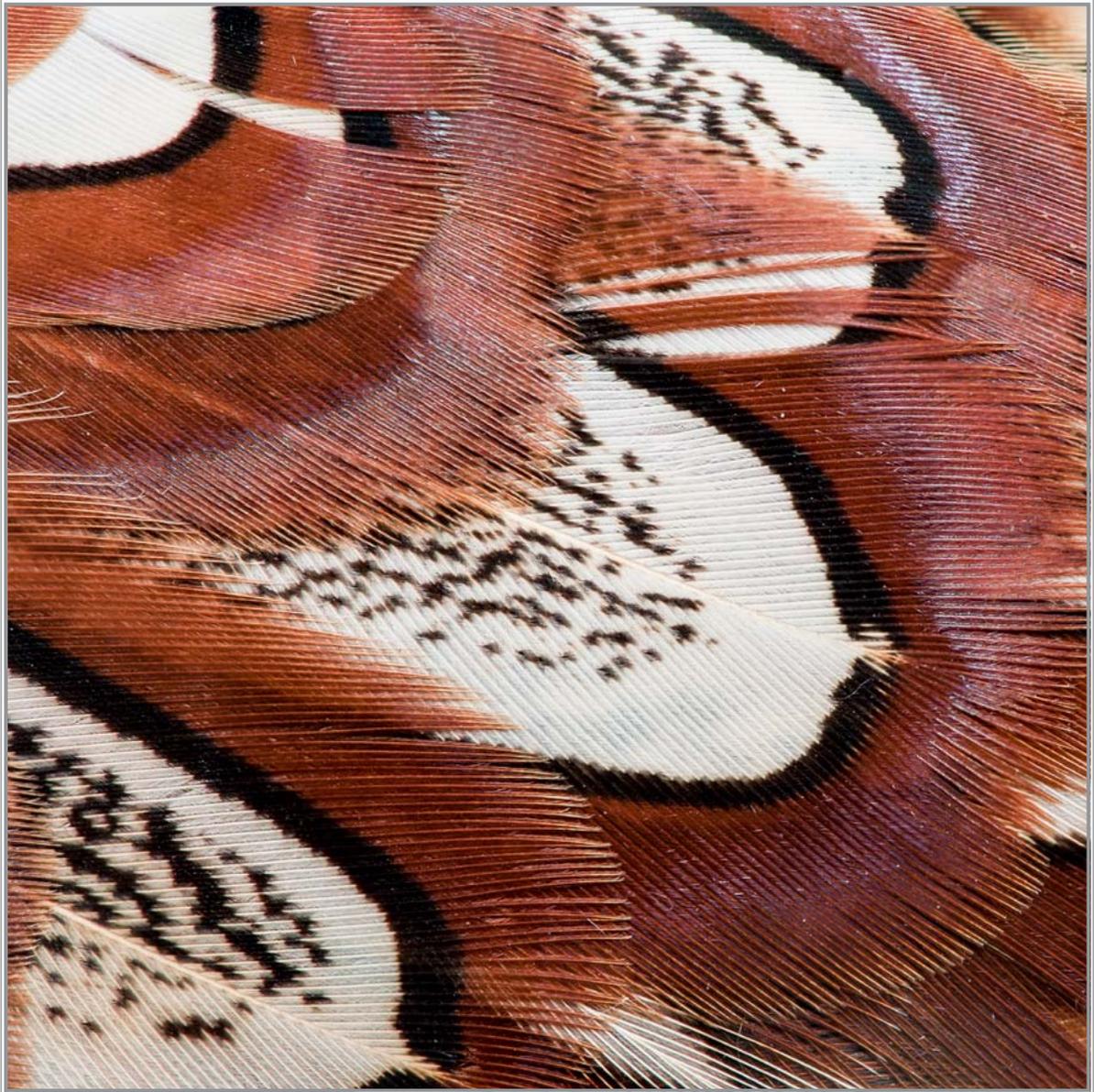
George Klass





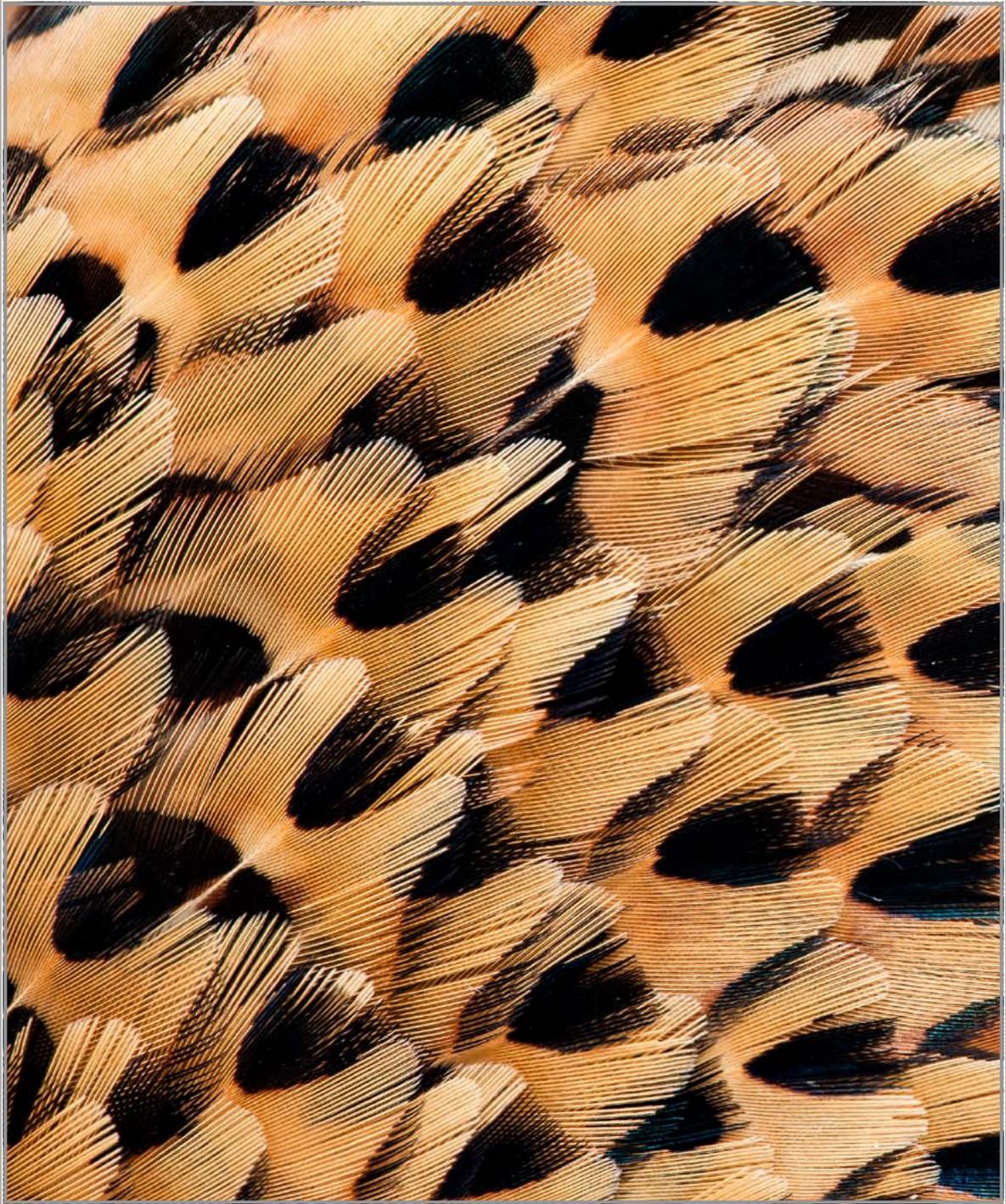
**D**riving home from Pugwash I came across a male pheasant in full winter plumage, it must have just been struck by a vehicle as it was still warm and seemingly uninjured. I picked it up and took it home to examine and photograph as I had never seen one this close before. Normally they are extremely hard to approach and immediately run or fly away if one tries. Also they are fairly rare around here because of the many foxes.

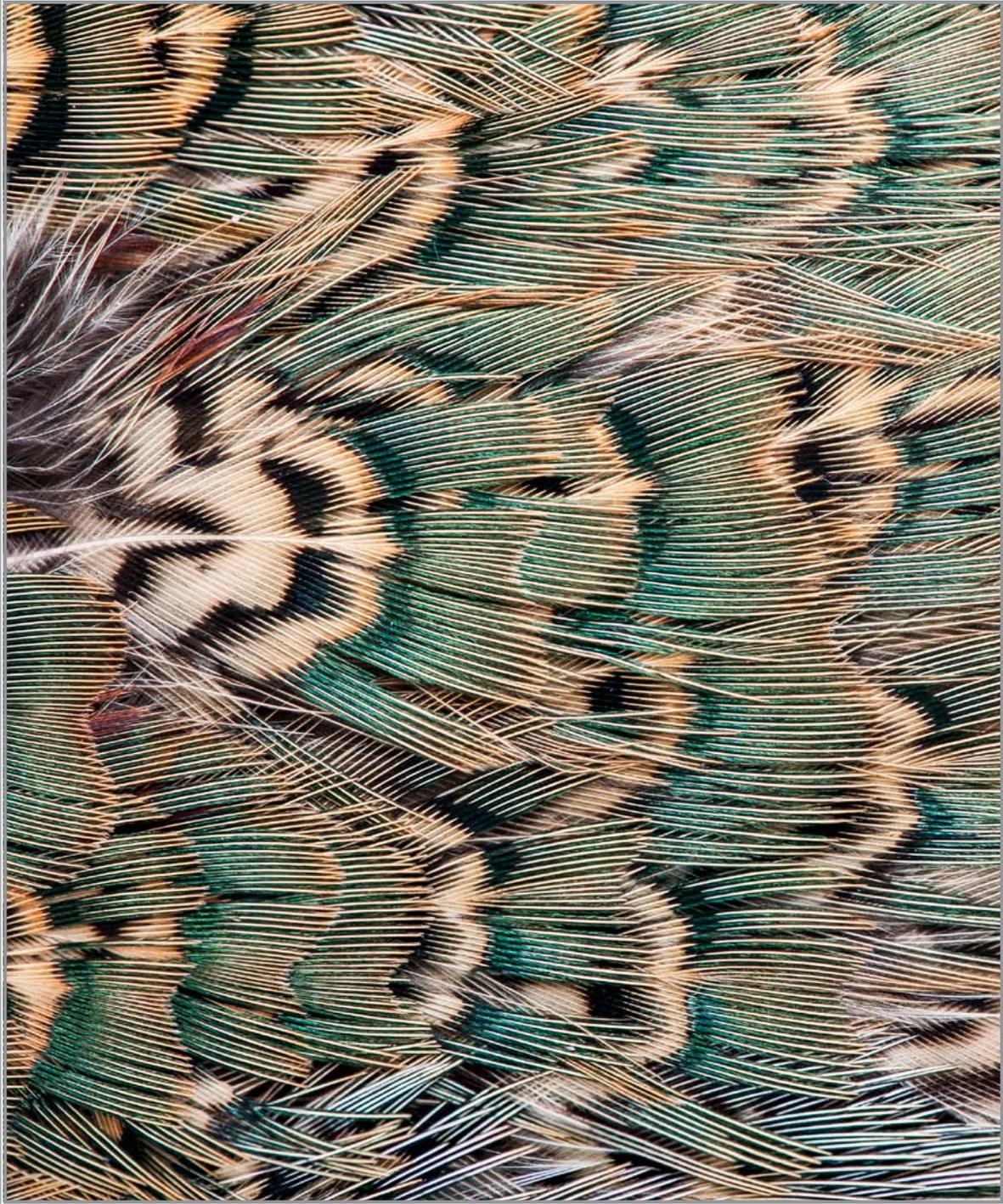
I collect textiles as their patterns interest me, in this creature I found nirvana as the complexity of its patterns and colours was astounding, as were the many quite different types of feathers I discovered. Survival of the fittest is the premise of the theory of evolution. Evolutionary traits that confer an advantage to the bearer over the competition will be passed on. Looking at this animal and imagining that its characteristics have been carefully selected for success over the past few thousand years one cannot but wonder why it needs such elaborate

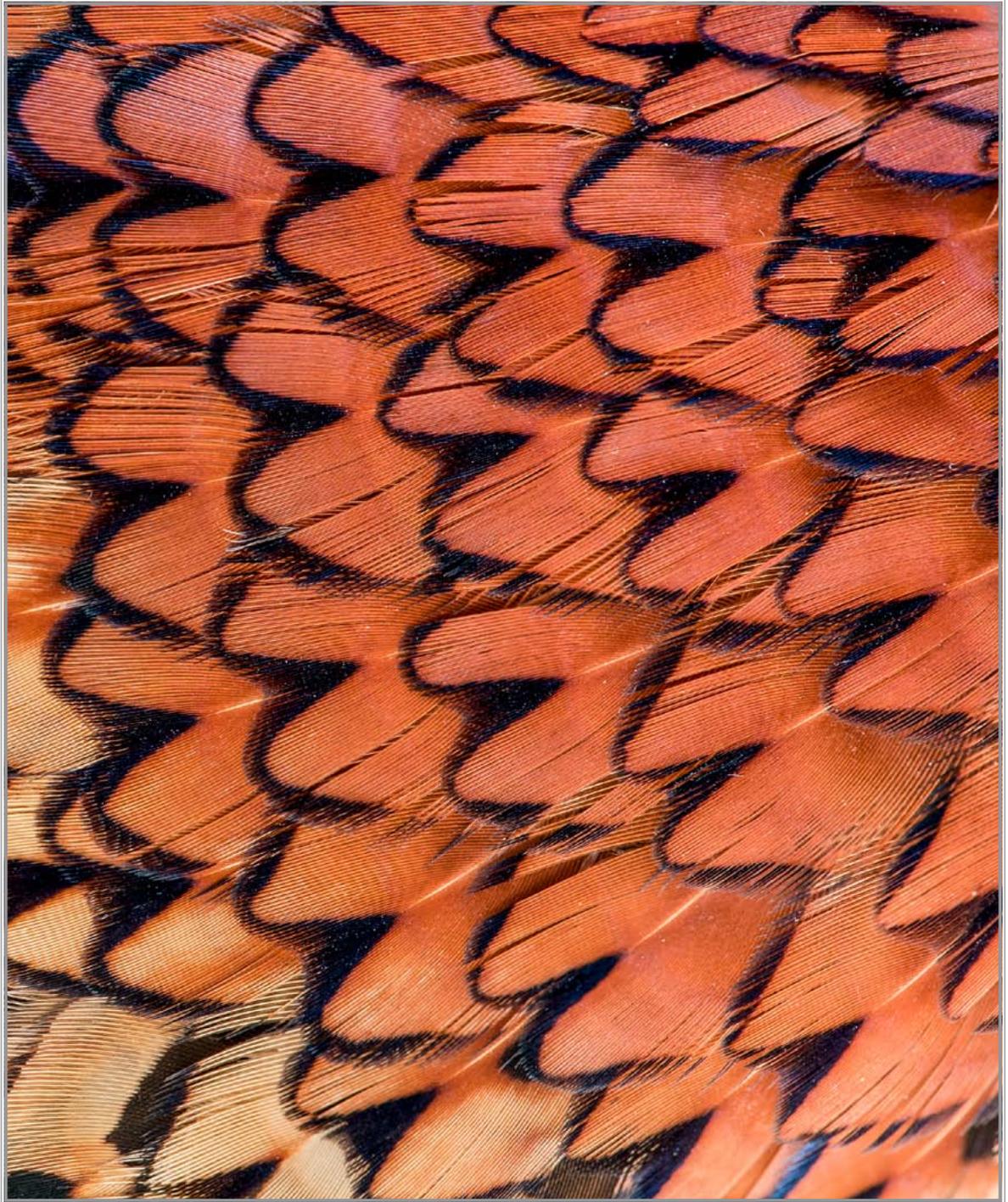


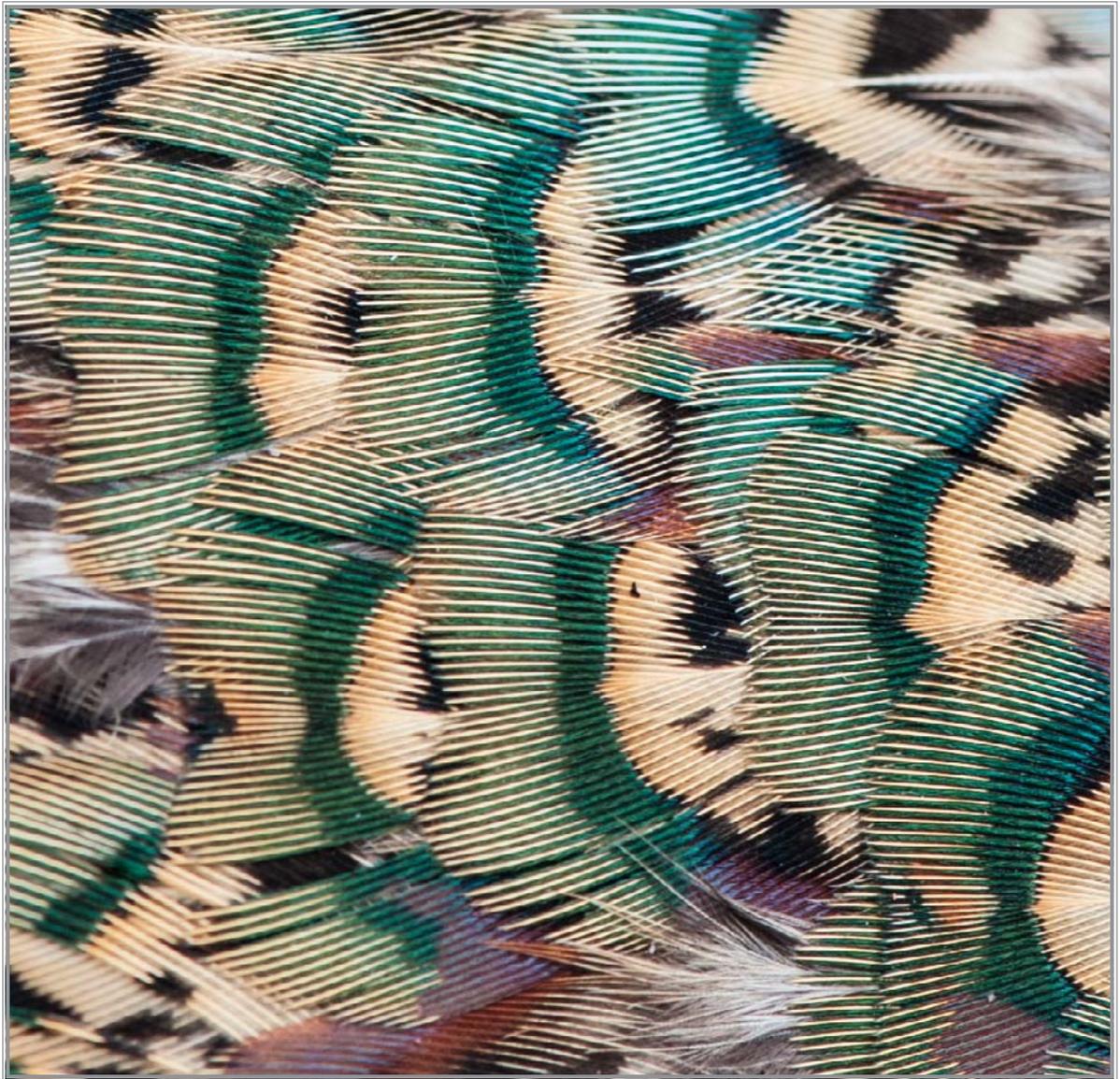
colouring and patterns to be successful when most of our birds are rather plainer. If it were the product of a computer programme, which as we now understand it essentially is, the code would be extremely complex. Not only is this creature a fully functioning sentient being but it also has an incredibly complex highly functional covering, in my view far more complex than ours where we have just a few bits of hair here and there, which most of us try to colour or remove at one time or another, or later add back as we begin to loose some. Fossil discoveries clearly point to the fact that birds are direct descendants of reptiles. In this case it is easy to see when closely examining the foot. Clearly an excellent model for the velociraptors of Jurassic Park.

In Chinese they are called Shan Ji, meaning mountain chicken. A common emblem for beauty and good fortune, the pheasant is one of the Twelve Imperial Symbols of Sovereignty representing literary refinement. All in all a good sign which I hope was in some way conferred upon me when I gave him a proper burial.



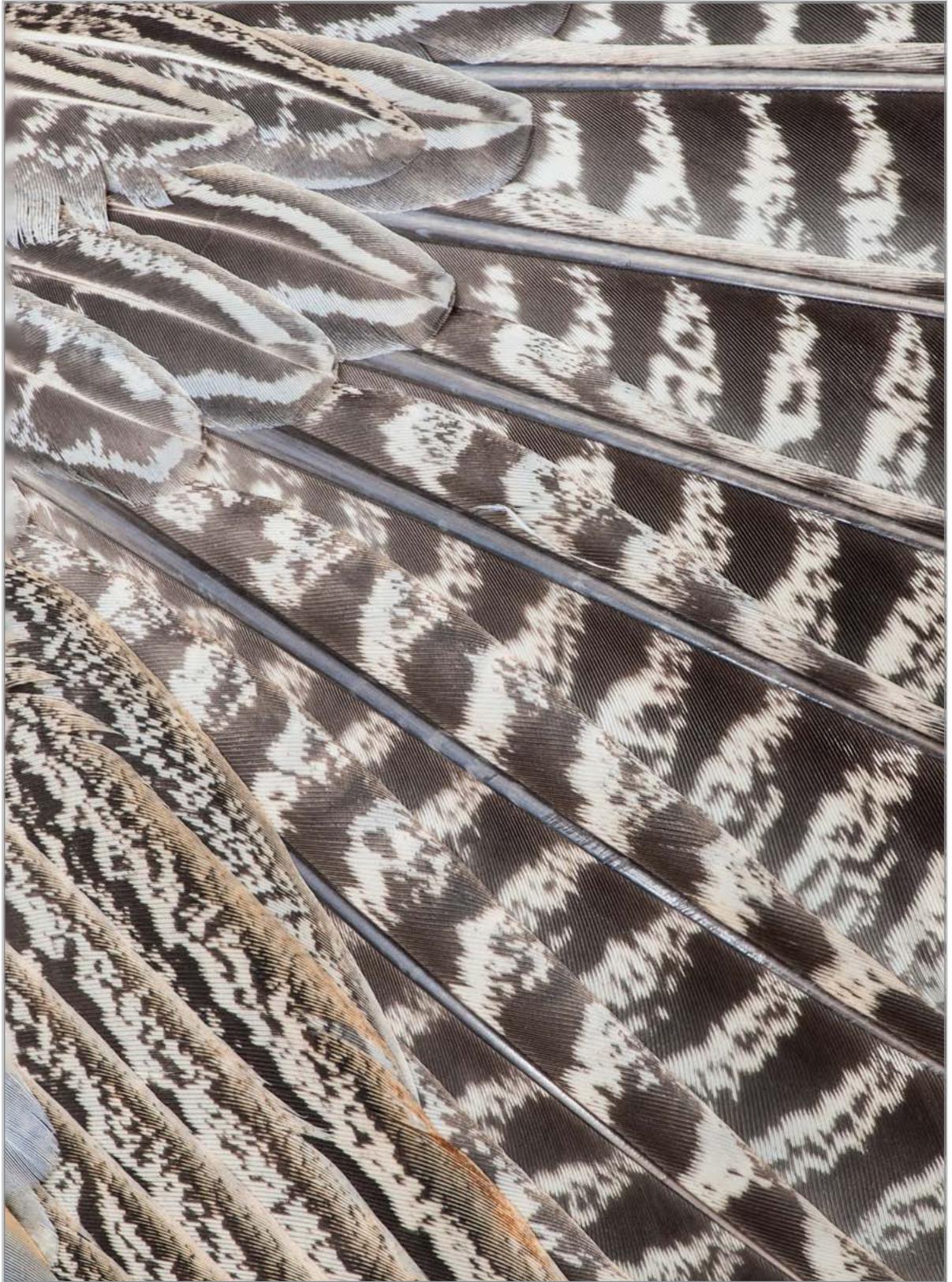






colours caught my eye at the road's edge  
bright in the morning sun  
spirit flown, silent wings remain  
as beauty fades

*George Klass, Nov. 2012*





# *Short Stories*



*A Monograph Series by*  
*George Klass*

## *Shan Ji*

This edition is numbered of which this is

This monograph is also available as a hand made 10 page artist Chap Book.

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Not made in China, hand made in Malagash, Nova Scotia!



*to have fun, laugh a lot, and capture images that enrich the lives of others*