



Image: *Sea Spray #1*

As a fine art photographer, my goal is to present the wonders of the world around us as a sanctuary to be contemplated, honored, and preserved. I am intrigued by the fundamental structures of nature and the way the elements – Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Gravity, Light, Space and Time – imprint our world with their magic.

With or without a camera, I am constantly composing images in my mind's eye. What engages me is the special way the light falls on a subject, the unique juxtaposition of elements, or the atmosphere of a scene. I spend time photographing from different angles, creating multiple compositions. Back in the studio, I select the strongest images for processing and printing. I always create in a series, some of which are ongoing and develop into larger portfolios. The ideas I capture with a single photograph inspire me to delve deeper and expand the concept.

My introduction to fine art photography was through the work of Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, and Minor White. I immediately resonated with their portrayal of nature and landscape. However, I was first influenced artistically by painters. I admired the ability of impressionists to render the feeling and experience of a scene, instead of simply an accurate depiction of it. The abstract expressionists have also been a major creative influence, with their move away from realism in art.

Some of my images do indeed border on the abstract. By focusing on a certain element of a subject, it becomes distilled to its basic shapes and forms, revealing patterns and textures inherent in nature.

Debra Achen

Fine Art Photographer

Artist Statement

www.debraachen.com | debachen@comcast.net



"I have always loved patterns, textures, abstracts and nature photographs and you have beautifully combined all of those elements in your work."

- Steve Dakin, Collector
San Jose, CA

Image: *Sand Reliefs*

Other work falls into the category of photo-impressionism. Here I use long exposures to blur the borders between objects and the space that surrounds them. Movement of the subject or the camera adds the element of time, transforming points of light into "brushstrokes" and creating a fluid, impressionistic interpretation of the scene.

With the devastating impacts of climate change, I have come to feel nostalgic about the natural world, even as I am photographing it. Images take on a vintage appearance with a dreamy, timeless quality that also carries hope for nature's resilience.



"Less is more. A strategic dab of color here and there is powerful in the context of these celebrations of nature."

- Jim and Lorraine Rice
Collectors, Carmel, CA

Image: *Rocky Brook #1*

The exploration of nature on all levels is at the heart of my photography. I can't think of better words to describe it than these by John Muir, "The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness."