



Sand Etched by Water

Jim Messer



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Each Spring a small rivulet makes its way down from the Santa Lucia Mountains onto Garrapata Beach. As it crosses the beach and joins the Pacific Ocean, the stream carves exquisite shapes and patterns into the sand. On clear weather days the water reflects a blue sky. Other times soft light from an overcast sky makes the water invisible, its traces only evident by the designs left in the sand. Whatever the conditions, the water and its etchings create a wonderful panoply of artwork, yet another gift Garrapata bestows upon us.











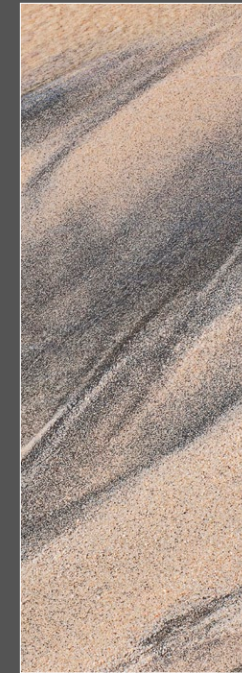




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I'm strongly attracted to Garrapata and the ocean. Photographing along the coast is a natural extension of that attraction. Since a return to the area after a ten year absence, I've spent many days wandering Garrapata's trails and beach. There are few bad days to photograph here because the coast's frequent overcast skies or foggy days provide that beautiful soft light which brings out the best in a scene. For me there is no better place to photograph. Here we stand at the edge of a continent staring at one of Earth's great seas all the way out to the horizon.

It moves me every time I visit. I hope that you too will come visit and experience the beauty of Garrapata and Big Sur. It has inspired people for years. May it continue to be available to inspire future generations.

A bit of the technical. All photographs were made using a Nikon D3x camera and lenses. Images were edited in Adobe Photoshop. Layout was produced with Adobe InDesign and published using Adobe Acrobat.