

DARK WATERS



Brooks Jensen

A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication



Certain universal themes recur in art. In photographic art, *the water's edge* is one such theme. Perhaps it is because our planet is mostly water. Perhaps it is because we are mostly water.

It is strange that we should be so compelled to the water's edge where just under the water's surface live terrors that seduce and simultaneously scare the daylights out of us — the deep and the mysterious, where danger and unimaginable creatures lurk and wait to lunge at us when we least expect it.

Then again, perhaps I'm just speaking for me — and Ulysses. And Melville and Captain Ahab. And Jules Verne. And Lovecraft and his creepy Cthulhu. And there's Kraken, Ogopogo, and the Nabooian sea monsters, and giant squid and octopi. The Loch Ness monster, and watery ghosts and graves. Slimy creatures with spiny pincers and beady eyes, down there in the dark and the muck, waiting, waiting.







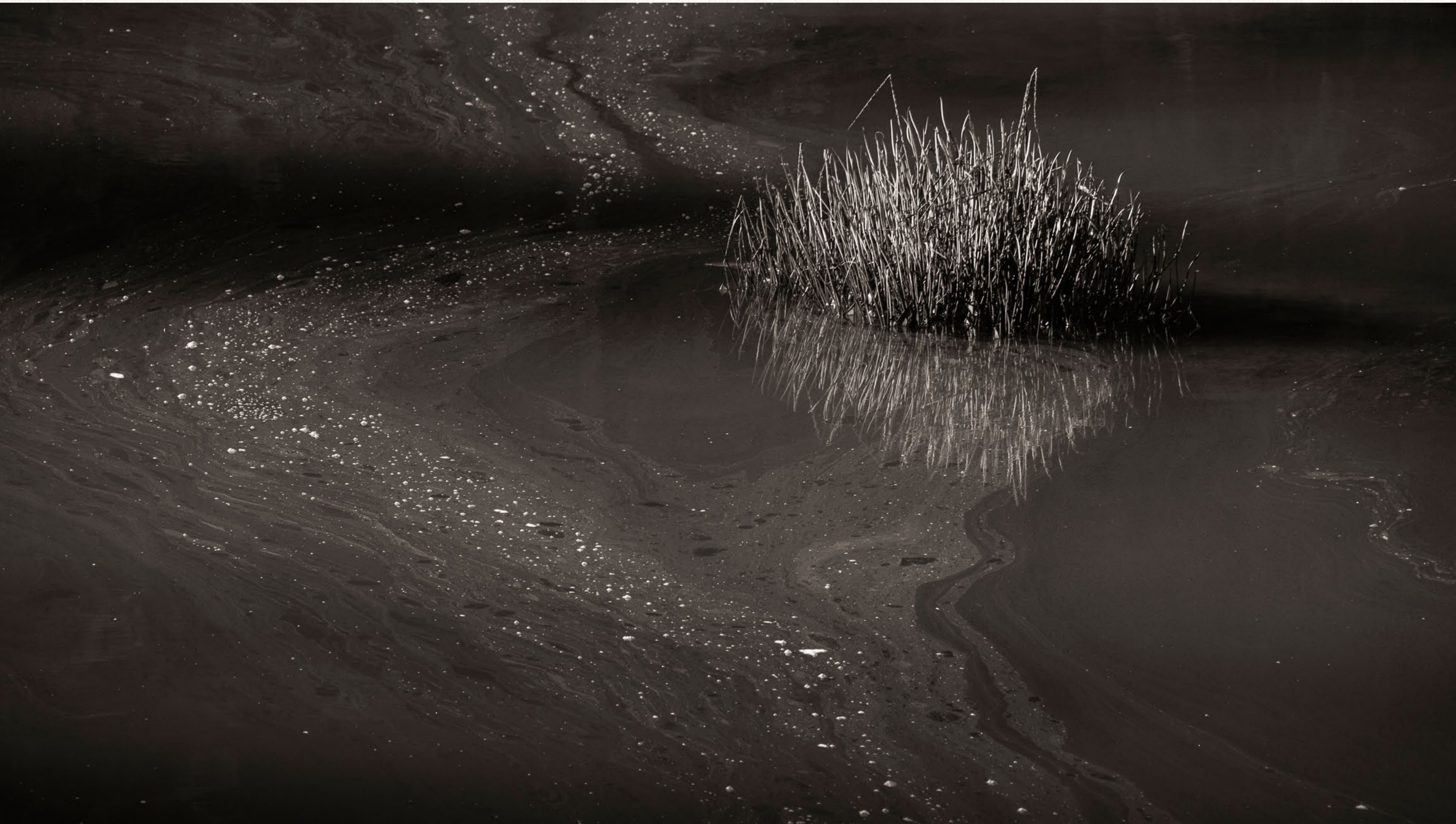


I inherited from my grandfather an old turn-of-the-century, giant Webster's Dictionary. There, I found pages and pages of line drawings of deep sea fish and strange creatures that looked like fantasies, but were *real*. I can still see them in my mind's eye, swimming in the deep, mouths open, teeth at the ready, a far-off look in their hungry eyes. I can still see them . . .





All I know for certain is that sometimes,
photographing at the water's edge gives me the creeps. Sometimes.





Brooks Jensen is a fine-art photographer, publisher, workshop teacher, and writer. In his personal work he specializes in small prints, hand-made artist's books, and digital media publications.

He and his wife (Maureen Gallagher) are the owners, co-founders, editors, and publishers of the award winning *LensWork*, one of today's most respected and important periodicals in fine art photography. With subscribers in 73 countries, Brooks' impact on fine art photography is truly world-wide. His long-running podcasts on art and photography are heard over the Internet by thousands every day. All 900+ podcasts are available at [LensWork Online](#), the LensWork membership website. LensWork Publishing is also at the leading edge in multimedia and digital media publishing with *LensWork Extended* — a PDF based, media-rich expanded version of the magazine.

Brooks is the author of seven best-selling books about photography and creativity: *Letting Go of the Camera* (2004); *The Creative Life in Photography* (2013); *Single Exposures* (4 books in a series, random observations on art, photography and creativity); and *Looking at Images* (2014); as well as a photography monograph, *Made of Steel* (2012). His next book will be *Those Who Inspire Me (And Why)*. A free monthly compilation of of this image journal, [Kokoro](#), is available for download.

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