Our days march on. Life progresses. But on occasion, we pause – and visit the sea.

Aware of it or not, the sea, the surf, and the wind all dance, rush, and pound the shore every moment of every day and every night, not waiting for us to notice, not caring if we do. It is a rhythm of cosmic endurance. Wave after wave, tide after tide. A rush in with enthuasisam, an ebb with reluctance. Hour after hour, century after century. The same shapes and forms, but no two waves ever the same, never making an aesthetic mistake. They say every seventh wave is larger, but counting is fruitless. Countless waves like the grains of sand they create – beyond counting, beyond measure. Day after day, waves to drops to spray to waves.

A gust of wind, a steady gale, a moment of calm, another gust. Sunrise after sunrise after sunrise. Carving, circling, rising, rushing. Moonrise after moonrise, storm after storm. There is magic in the pattern. Clouds, then rain, then sun, then clouds. The never-ending cycle repeats, never tiring, never changing, never needing to change.

It draws us – it draws me. I can hear the surf far inland beyond the reach of sound. I know the same sun that shines on me here shines on the sea, too. The rain that surrounds me here is the same rain that fell from the cloud back to the ocean – and then the cloud comes to me; the same rain that falls on me runs back to the ocean to do it again. The cycle repeats – sea, wind, surf, cloud, rain, back to the sea. Day after day, life after life.
October Seas by Brooks Jensen
A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication
October Seas by Brooks Jensen
A BROOKS JENSEN ARTS PUBLICATION

Yaquina Seas & Storm Clouds
Rock Wall & Wind Tracings, Hug Point
Yorkina Lighthouse

October Seas by Brooks Jensen
A Brooks Jensen Arts Publication
Erosion, Sandstone Wall, Little Whale Cove

October Seas by Brooks Jensen
A BROOKS JENSEN ARTS PUBLICATION
October Seas by Brooks Jensen
A BROOKS JENSEN ARTS PUBLICATION

Sea Palms & Surf, Rocky Creek Wayside
Colophon

October Seas: Sky, Breath, Surf
by Brooks Jensen
PDF Version 2.0
March 2009
Originally Published November 2005

All images and text © 2005-2009 Brooks Jensen
Published and produced by
Brooks Jensen Arts
Anacortes, WA

Photographed during four days at the end of October 2005.
Images and layout produced November 2005.

This project is dedicated to the memory of Chris Anderson.
There is a magic to the sea that touches almost everyone who gazes upon it. The distance, the rhythms, the racing of the surf, the roll of the clouds across the sky - it is a magic that has also drawn artists to the water's edge as long as people have been making picture - or photographs.

“This portfolio is the result of a few incredible winter days in late October 2005 from the rugged central Oregon coastline. I've tried for over 20 years to photograph that silvery light in the surf that bathes the ocean on stormy days, but I've never been successful. During these three glorious days, however, the light and sea, the clouds and even a flock of birds, smiled on me.” The twelve images in this portfolio were photographed in the short span of one weekend.

These twelve images are offered as a pigment-on-paper printed folio, signed by the photographer and numbered, with an embossed cover.

Using archival pigments and paper, each image has been printed by the photographer and produced to archival, museum standards. To order this folio, click below.

Twelve prints in embossed folio cover $145 plus shipping & handling
Brooks Jensen was born in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1954, but was raised most of his life in Portland, Oregon. He realized his passion for photography while in high school, as well as his interest in debate, writing, and art in general. These interests and abilities would mature and later gel together in a purposeful way as an artist, and as the Editor of LensWork magazine.

A learn-by-doing kind of guy, Brooks attributes much of his photographic education to the making of photographs, looking at the great photographs in history, attending workshops, and having a good peer group. A capable teacher, he taught college-level photography classes during his 20s, while working as an electronics buyer for a large chain store. That successful retail experience led him to offer retail consulting for the next ten years—which resulted in extensive travel, and many opportunities for photographic adventures. During this time he was also served for a number of years as the Director of the Portland Photographers’ Forum, where he wrote regular articles—which was the precursor to his role as Editor of LensWork.

In 2002 he met photographer Maureen Gallagher, and they were married later that year. This relationship proved to be fateful and fruitful, as less than a year later they birthed the first issue of LensWork magazine. From their home-grown beginnings, the publication has received numerous awards and has subscribers in more than 65 countries.

Meanwhile, the passion for doing photography has not been lost, and Jensen continues to pioneer the print as well as the presentation. His earliest folio editions of Made of Steel were produced in 2003, using laborious pin-registration to marry the image and text on gelatin silver in the darkroom. In that series he produced three folios (The Shops, The Tools, The Portraits), with five images in each. It was an enormous undertaking, but opened the door to the concept of the handmade artist’s book, and alternative ways of producing and presenting his work. Since then, technology has expanded the artist’s toolbox tremendously, and Brooks is fearless in exploring the new possibilities.

While Brooks’ writing serves as “the voice” of LensWork, he has also authored two books on photography and the creative process—Letting Go of The Camera and Single Exposures—both of which have been very successful. He also features a regular podcast at www.lenswork.com, where he shares his thoughts on just about everything imaginable (relating to art and photography, that is).

In 2002 he met photographer Maureen Gallagher, and they were married later that year. This relationship proved to be fateful and fruitful, as less than a year later they birthed the first issue of LensWork magazine. From their home-grown beginnings, the publication has received numerous awards and has subscribers in more than 65 countries.

Meanwhile, the passion for doing photography has not been lost, and Jensen continues to pioneer the print as well as the presentation. His earliest folio editions of Made of Steel were produced in 2003, using laborious pin-registration to marry the image and text on gelatin silver in the darkroom. In that series he produced three folios (The Shops, The Tools, The Portraits), with five images in each. It was an enormous undertaking, but opened the door to the concept of the handmade artist’s book, and alternative ways of producing and presenting his work. Since then, technology has expanded the artist’s toolbox tremendously, and Brooks is fearless in exploring the new possibilities.