

THE WADDEN SEA

CRIS TOALA OLIVARES

CHASQUI | AMSTERDAM | MMXXVI



The Wadden Sea World Heritage Site is a place where nature shapes a living coastline that knows no borders. As one of the world's most important and largest unbroken tidal flat systems, it is a dynamic landscape where land, sea, and sky meet in harmony. Here, three nations are united by a shared commitment to conservation, forging a future where humans and nature can thrive together. It is a sanctuary for wildlife, a heartbeat of the earth, and a testament to the power of collaborative stewardship. This is a place where the world's breath is felt, and its pulse is visible — a timeless wonder, conserved for generations to come.

In 2009, UNESCO put the Wadden Sea onto the World Heritage List, recognizing its uniqueness in the world. At the same time, we understand the designation as a responsibility for Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and all of us, to protect the area for future generations.

Cris takes you on a journey through the Wadden Sea, its past and its present. From the sky, one sees the Wadden Sea being shaped by nature.

The same pattern you see from the sky repeats in the mud below your feet, even in your body. Cris also shows how humans shaped and are still shaping the Wadden Sea, and how we experience it, alone or together.

Part of responsible behaviour is being aware of where you are and what the effects of your behaviour are on nature and culture. Aerial photographs are great to make one aware of the bigger picture, at the same time drones especially disturb wildlife. I am happy only three photos in the book were made using drones. The other aerial pictures were made from a much higher altitude without disturbing wildlife.

Let this book lead to increased understanding and admiration of the unique Wadden Sea World Heritage Site, where primarily tides and weather shape the landscape, where we humans are aware of our role and responsibility. We all are stewards of World Heritage.

Thank you, Cris, for this amazing journey. It was a pleasure experiencing the Wadden Sea through your lens.

Sjon de Haan

COORDINATOR, WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE, THE NETHERLANDS



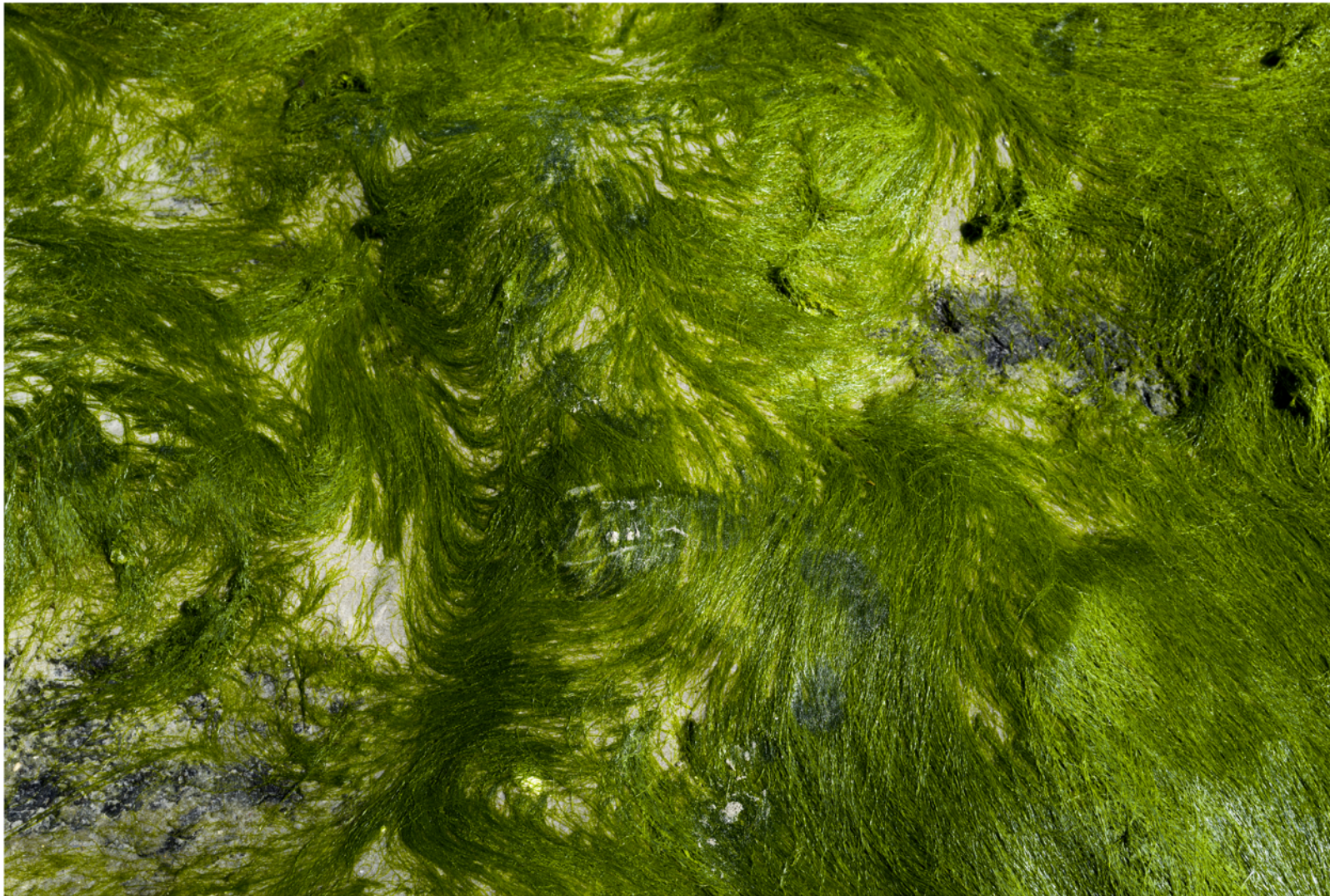


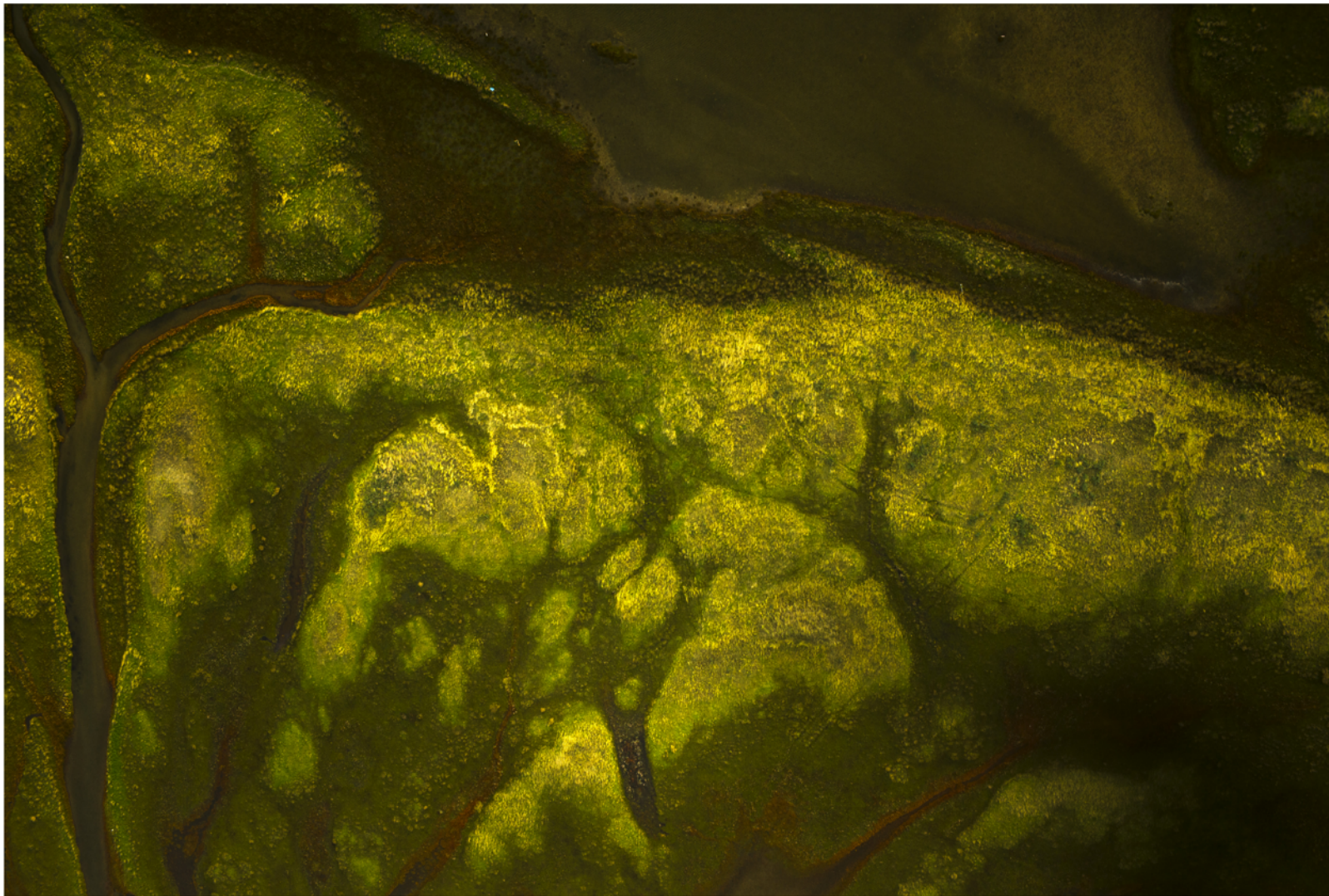
GENESIS

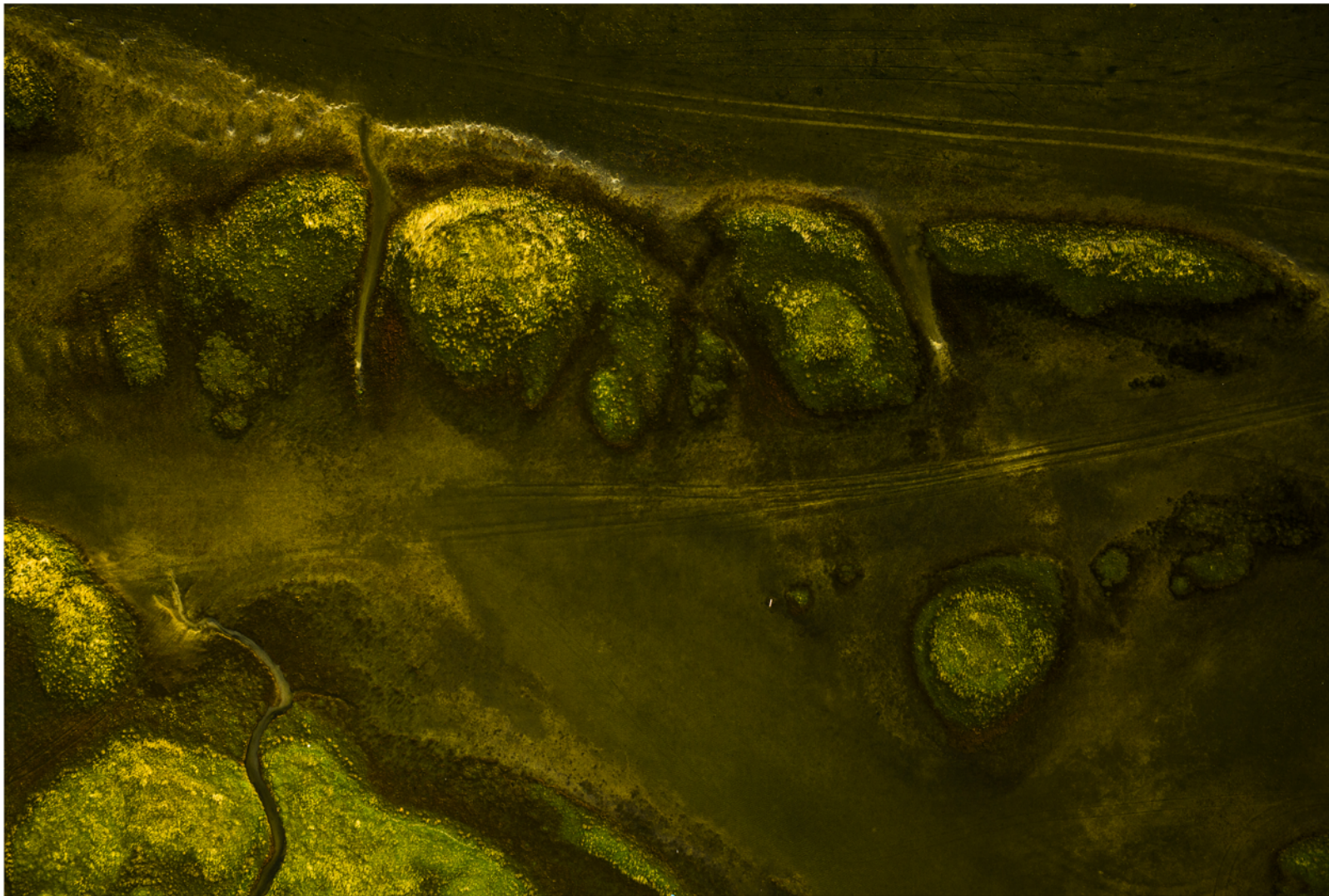
"Here, land, sea and sky
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— Sjon de Haan





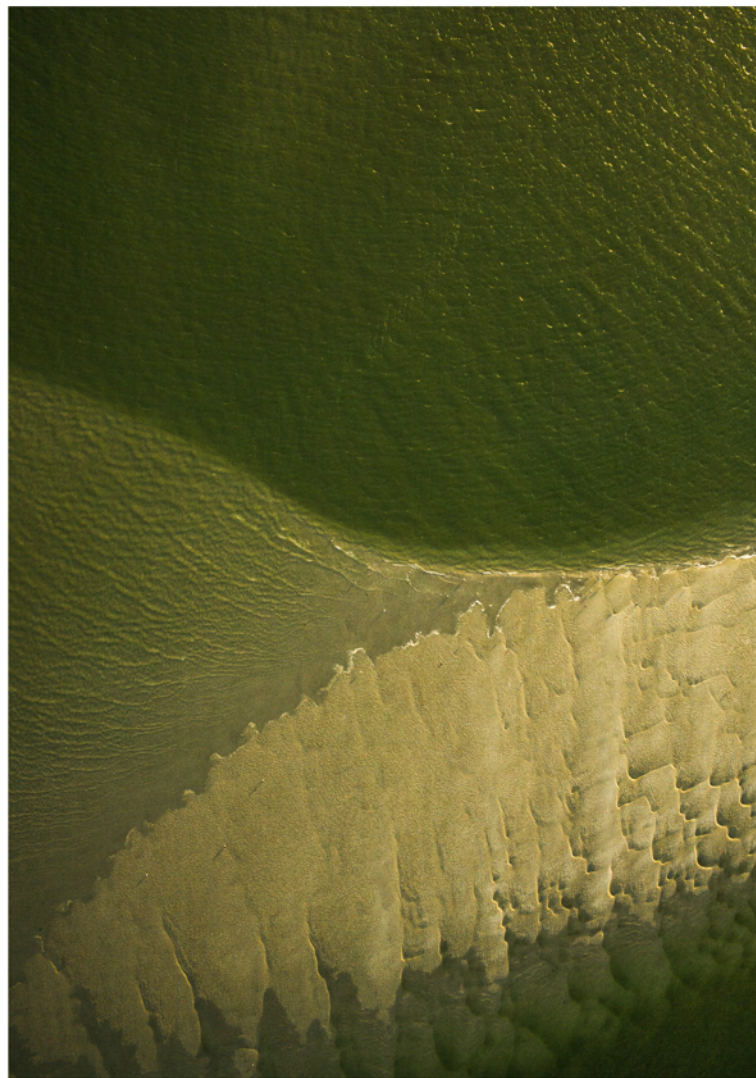






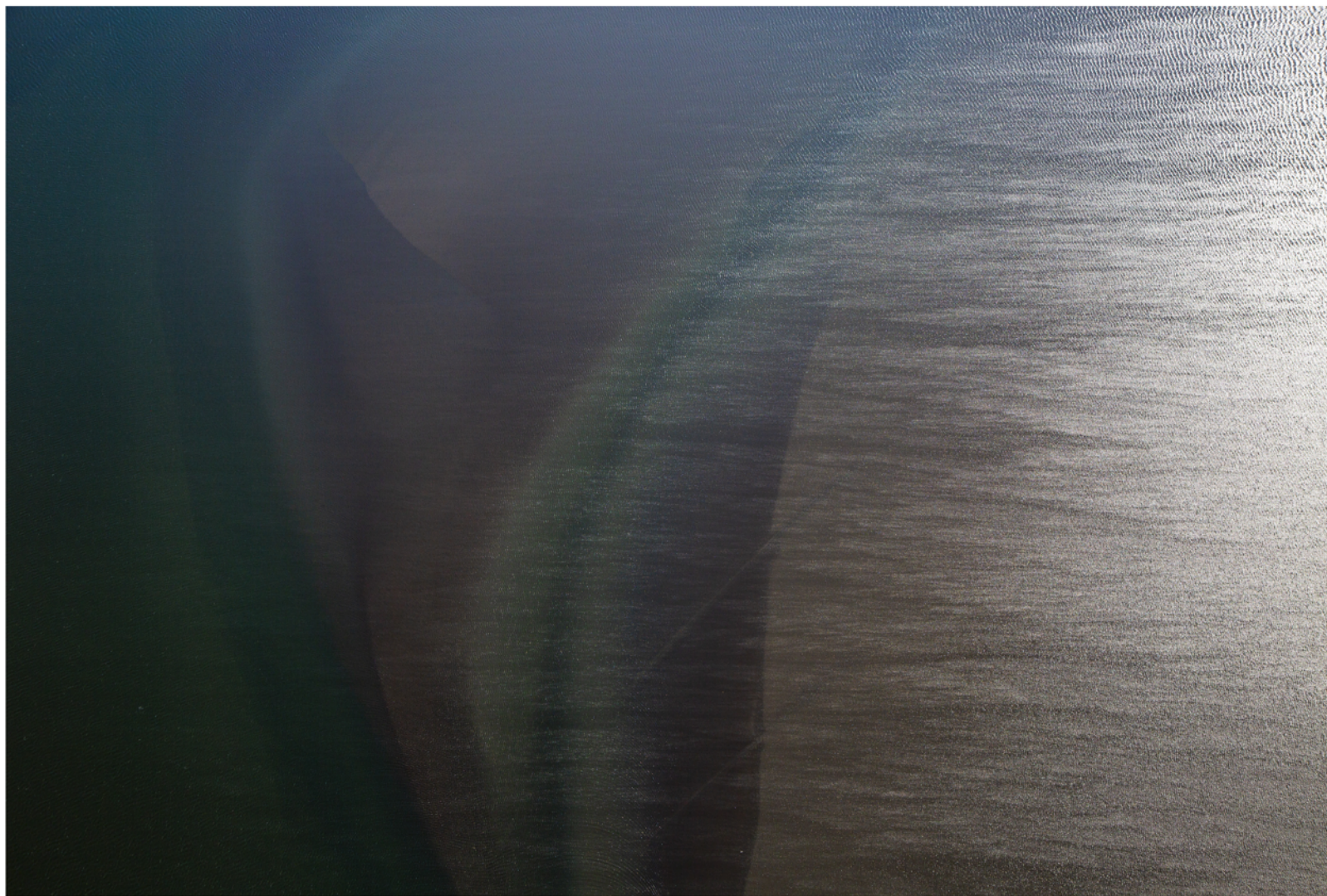












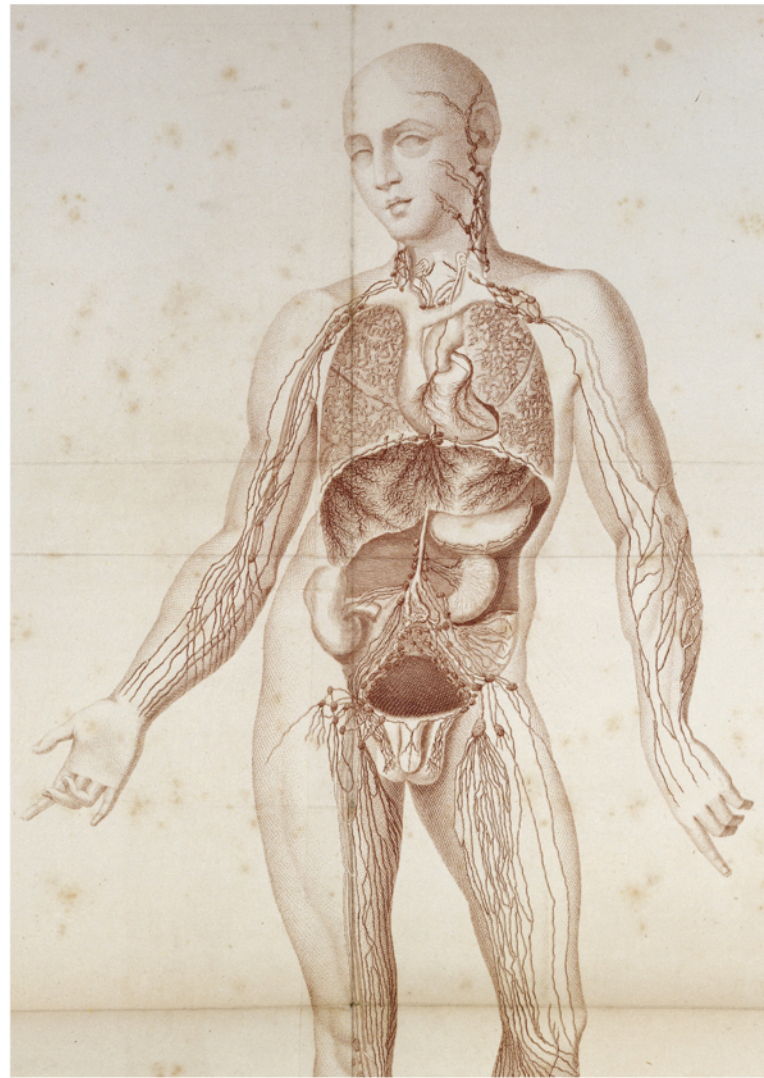
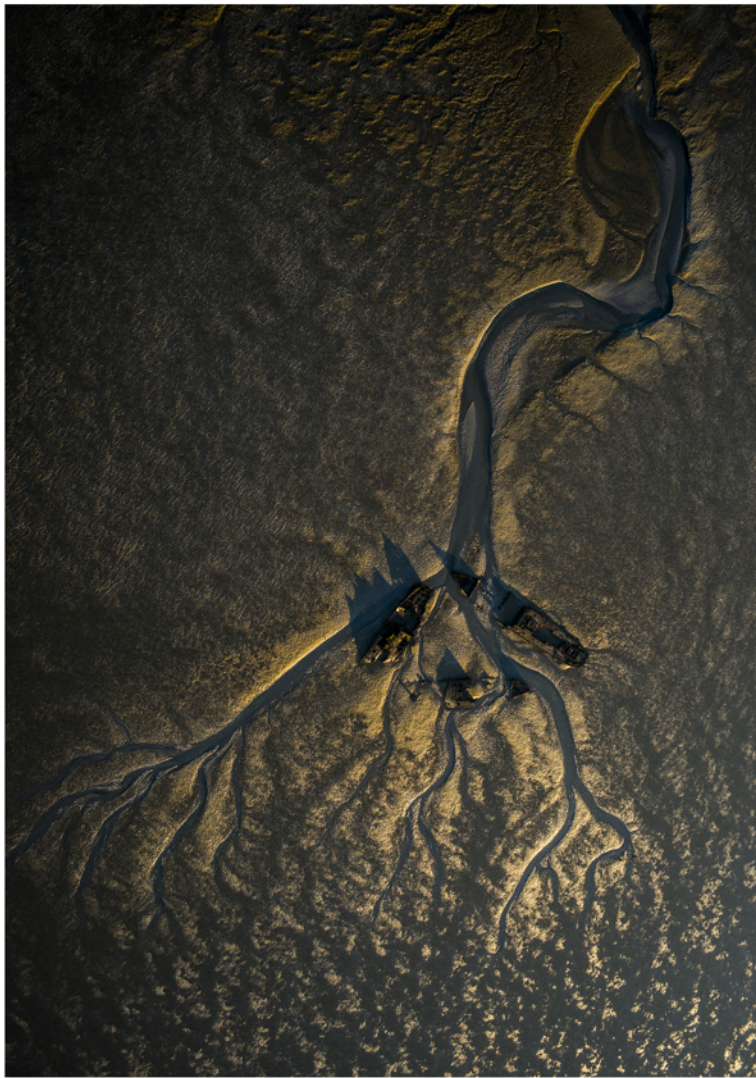


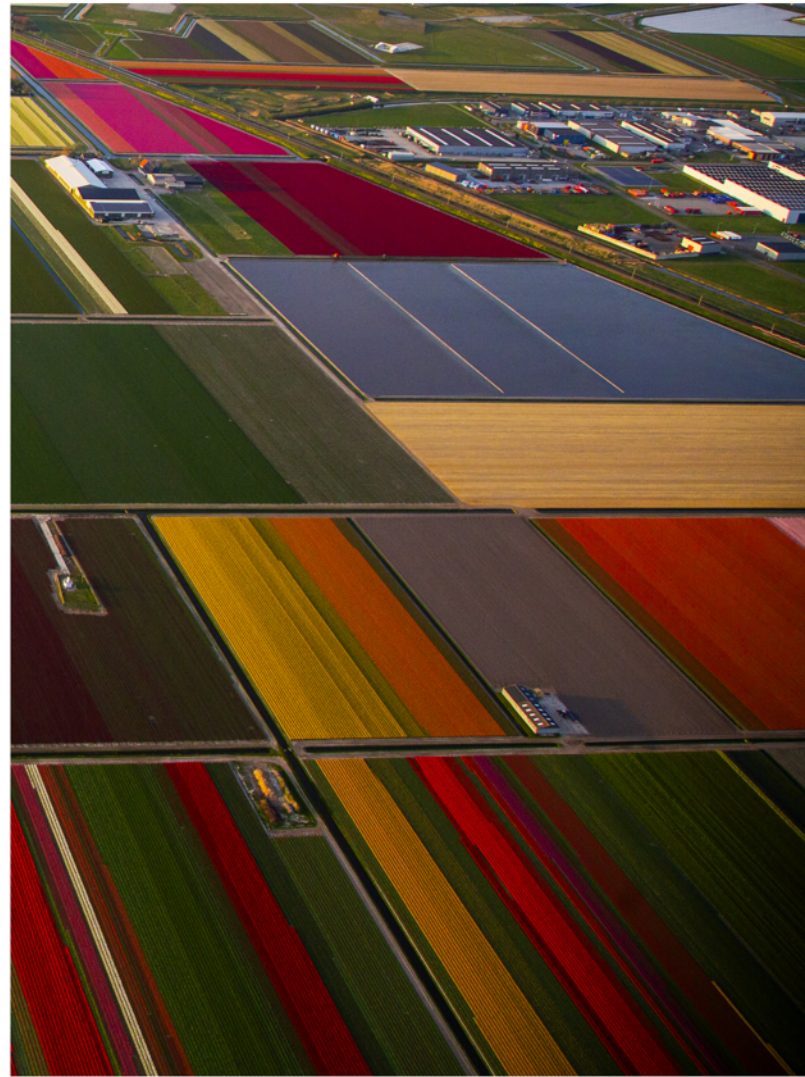
KNECHTSAND | GERMANY



032 DANGAST | GERMANY









TIKKUN OLAM

תיקון עולם

"Repairing the world begins
by restoring what has been
broken within ourselves."

Tikkun Olam

— a Hebrew concept





262 MAN SEEN FROM THE FRONT, HOLDING THE SKIN OF HIS RIGHT ARM AND LEG IN HIS RIGHT HAND



DEN HELDER | THE NETHERLANDS 263

Captions

004-005
Trilateral satellite poster of the Wadden Sea, produced under the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat's trilateral cooperation between the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, 2003. Copyright: Eurimage 2003, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Brockmann Consult.

GENESIS

008, 010-011
Vlieland, The Netherlands, July 2025
Close-up of a moss bank exposed at low tide.

012-013
Vlieland, The Netherlands, October 2014
Aerial view of the Wadden landscape, photographed from approximately 300 meters above sea level.

014-015
Vlieland, The Netherlands, October 2014
Aerial view of a moss bank, photographed from approximately 500 meters above sea level.

016-017
Between Texel And Vlieland, The Netherlands, October 2014
Aerial view of tidal sandbanks.

018-019
Noordvaarder, Terschelling, The Netherlands, December 2015
Aerial view of a tidal sandbank.

020
Terschelling, The Netherlands, December 2015
Aerial view of the North Sea coastline.

021
Terschelling, The Netherlands, January 2017
Breaking waves along the North Sea coast.

022
Between Texel And Vlieland, The Netherlands, October 2014
Seals resting on a tidal sandbank.

023
Vlieland, The Netherlands, October 2014
Edge of a tidal sandbank.

024
Between Vlieland And Terschelling, The Netherlands, October 2014
Seals resting on a tidal sandbank.

025
Between Vlieland And Terschelling, The Netherlands, October 2014
Seals resting on a tidal sandbank.

026-027
Near Mandø, Denmark, May 2019
Seals resting on a tidal sandbank.

028-029
Near Mandø, Denmark, May 2019
Aerial view of a tidal sandbank.

030-031
Föhr, Germany, May 2019
Sunlight across tidal waters.

032-033 top
Knechtsand, Germany, September 2020
Aerial view of tidal channels and sandbanks. Once used as a bombing range, Knechtsand is now protected as one of the Wadden Sea's most important habitats for migratory birds. Its quiet surface holds a history of conflict, resilience, and renewal.

032-033 bottom
Dangast, Germany, May 2020
Evening light on the tidal flats. As the water retreats, the mudflats reveal patterns and colours hidden beneath the sea for most of the day.

034-035
The Netherlands, September 2020
Tidal channels and sandbanks at low tide. From above, the receding tide reveals a landscape in constant motion. Channels carve their way through the mudflats, tracing patterns shaped by water, wind, and time.

036-037
Ameland, The Netherlands, January 2017
Tidal channels at dusk. At low tide, water traces temporary pathways across the mudflats before disappearing again beneath the sea.

038-039
Norderney, Germany, May 2019
Aerial view of the island and surrounding tidal channels.

040-041
Germany, September 2020
Tidal channels at low tide with offshore wind turbines on the horizon. A landscape shaped by tides for millennia. On the horizon, a new chapter powered by the same wind.

042-043
Ameland, The Netherlands, January 2017
Tidal landscape at sunset. From above, Ameland appears suspended between sea and sky. As the tide retreats, channels and sandbanks emerge, revealing the ever-changing edge of the island.

044, 045
Vollerwiek, Germany, May 2020
Low tide at sunset.

046-047
Richel, The Netherlands, November 2016
Rain shower over the tidal flats, with Terschelling in the distance.

048-049
Near Sylt, Germany, May 2019
Aerial view of a migrating sandbank.

050
J. D. L. Franz Wagner, Cell biology illustration.
Wellcome Collection, L0033028. CC BY 4.0.

051
Vliehors, Vlieland, The Netherlands, December 2015
Dune vegetation surrounded by shifting sand.

052-053 top
Wadden Sea, The Netherlands, June 2017
Tidal channel and sand patterns at low tide.

052 bottom
Near Mandø, Denmark, May 2019
Intertidal landscape.

053 bottom
Near Mandø, Denmark, May 2019
Intertidal landscape.

054, 055
Ameland, The Netherlands, August 2016
Sailboat stranded on a tidal sandbank during low tide. As the tide retreats, a sailboat rests on an exposed sandbank near Ameland. In the Wadden Sea, movement is dictated not by the wind, but by the rhythm of the sea.

056-057
Hohe Weg Lighthouse, Germany, May 2019
Aerial view of the Hohe Weg lighthouse surrounded by tidal channels and shifting sandbanks. In the Wadden Sea, the landscape is always changing. Channels move, sandbanks appear and disappear, and the sea redraws the horizon twice a day. Through it all, Hohe Weg remains a familiar landmark for those navigating these waters.

058-059
Nordspitze Amrum, Germany, May 2019
Aerial view of tidal channels and migrating sandbanks at the northern tip of Amrum. From the air, the sandbanks appear almost alive, constantly reshaped by wind and tide. During many flights over this coastline, they