

# *Isortoq*



*by*  
*Keld Jensen*

## Isortoq

*Isortoq is a series of photographs from my flights above Greenland for more than fifteen years. Isortoq means clayey, muddy water.*

*If the visibility from the aeroplane is good, it becomes an excellent flight above landscapes shaped by geological processes past thousands of years. Landscapes of patterns that astonish over and over again.*

*The coastal landscape of Greenland is characterized by mighty fiords that bring melt water from The Ice Sheet into the sea. The ice erodes the ground intensively. This lead to inner parts of the fiords, which consist of clayey, muddy melt water. The water is so muddy that it is not possible to see through a drinking glass filled with this melt water.*

*The fiords receive every summer large amounts of melt water from the ice sheet. The melt water transports lots of sand and clay, which is deposited on the bottom of the fiord. These processes have taken place since the end of the*

*last ice age, at least the last 10,000 years.*

*The inner parts of the fiords are traversed by a lot of streams that constantly intersect and constantly are changing position. In some places the clay and sand are forming temporary islands, which on all sides are surrounded by turbulent melt water from the Ice Sheet. These areas are called isortoq – the place with the clayey, muddy water.*

*The turbulent water and the banks of clay and sand form patterns that are recognizable, but still so diverse that all the fiords with isortoq are different.*

*The patterns are changing not only between the different seasons, depending on how much runoff of melt water from the glaciers into the bottom of the fiord. After just a few days of sun and heat, the water level in the rivers into the fiord increase significantly, and the forces of the melt water create a new delta with turbulent water and new-shaped banks of clay and sand.*



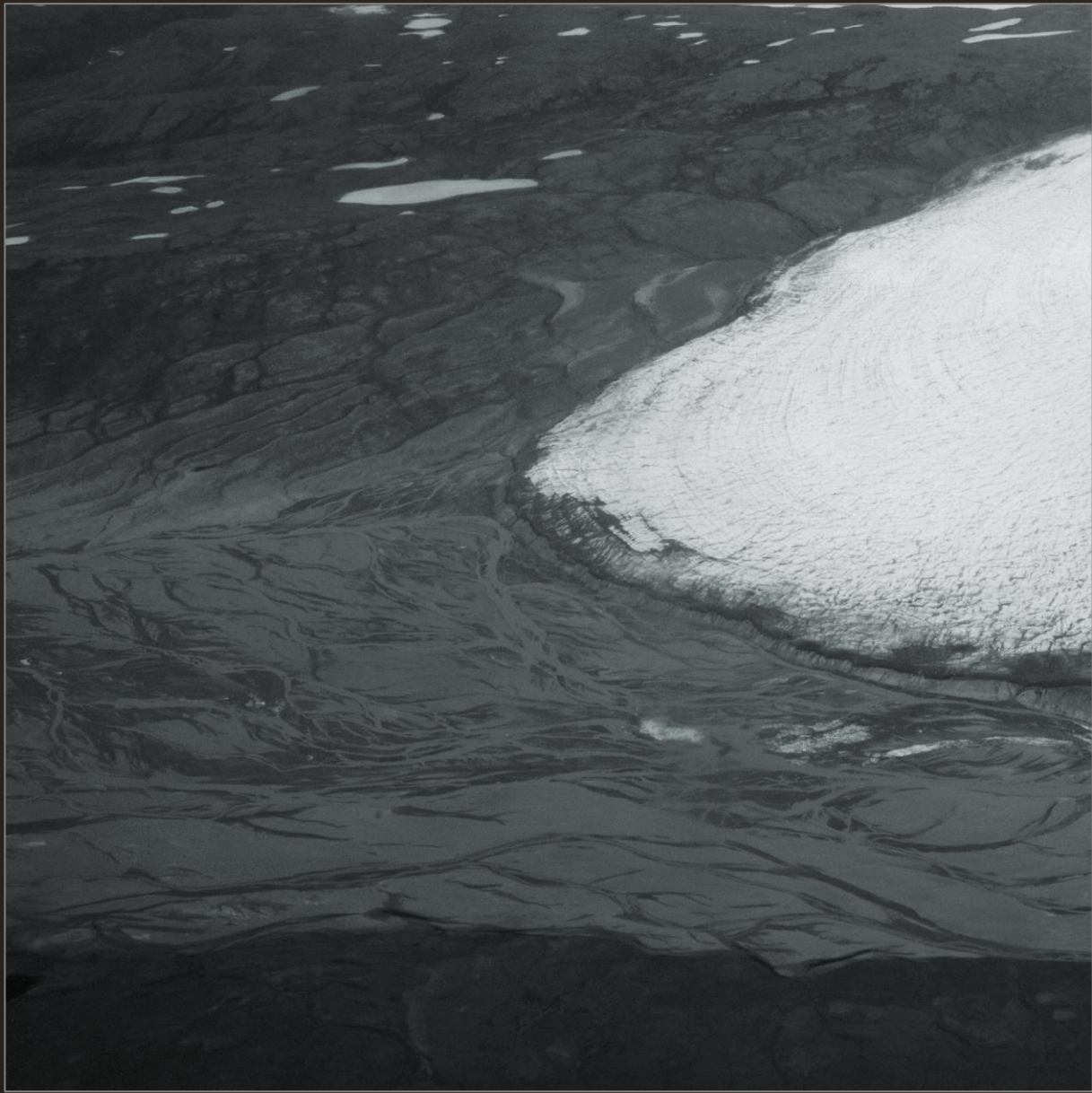
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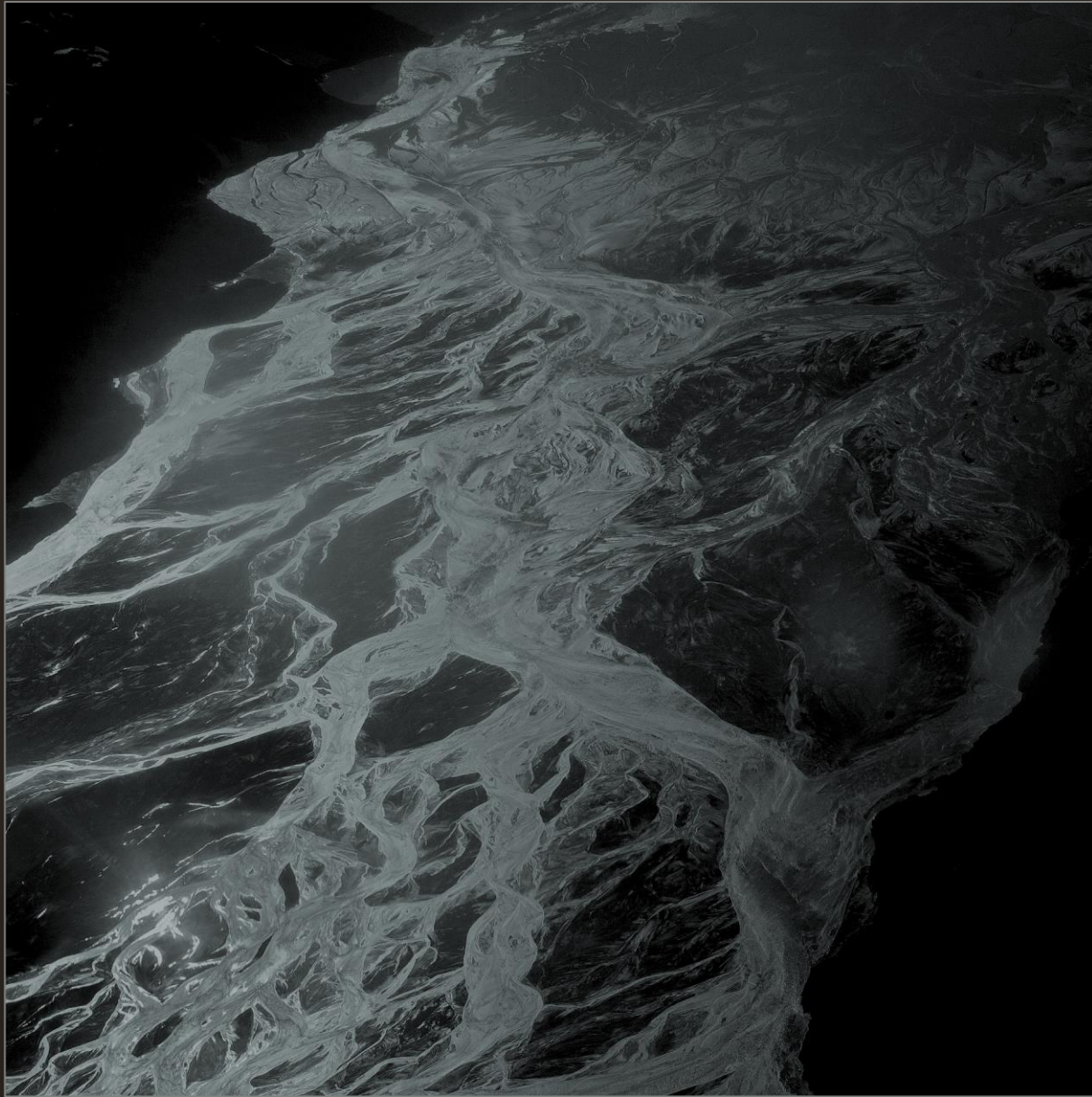




*To try to comprehend the world often requires that you bring yourself in a situation where you comfortably are able to consider and reflect on the life around you.*

*A flight is for me both a physical journey and a condition to watch the landscapes down there or the forms of the surrounding clouds, deep absorbed in my own thoughts.*



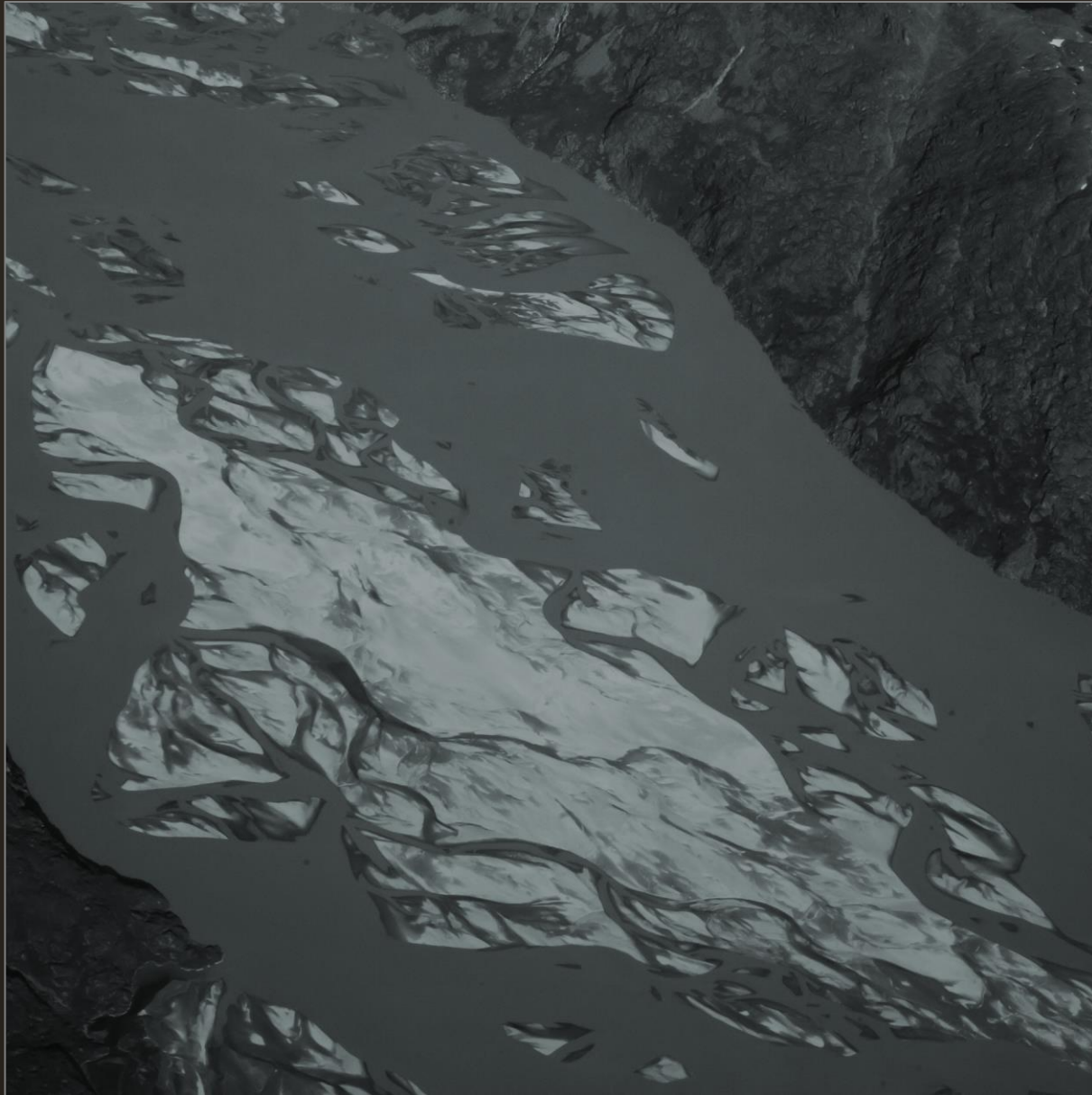


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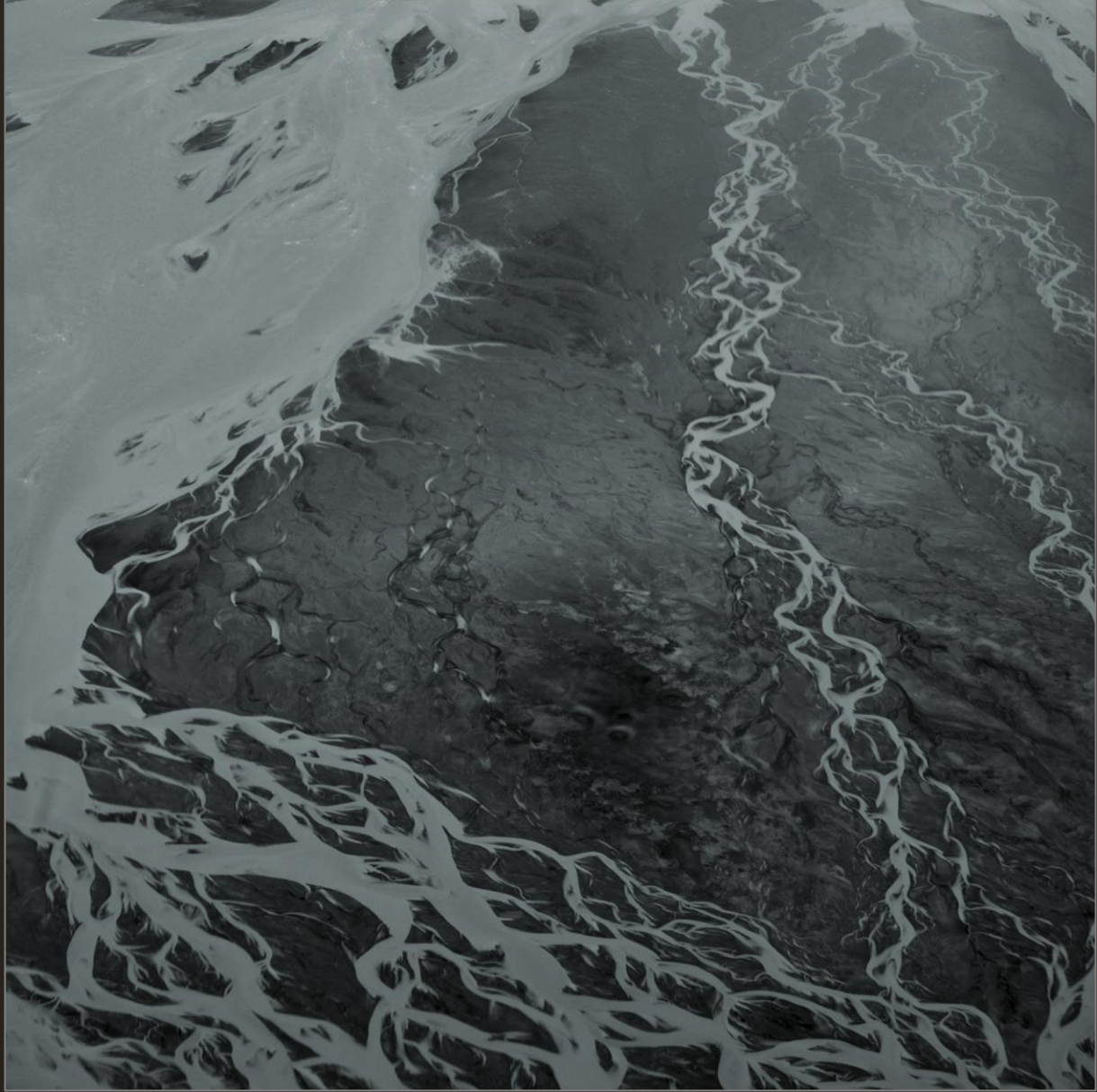


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*This photo series also tells about perishableness. The photographs can remind us that everything around us is impermanent and we ourselves are perishable.*

*The photographs show a moment in a continuous development. Shortly after, the landscape is changed and will never be the same again. I was present with my camera and "immortalized the moment", as we say.*

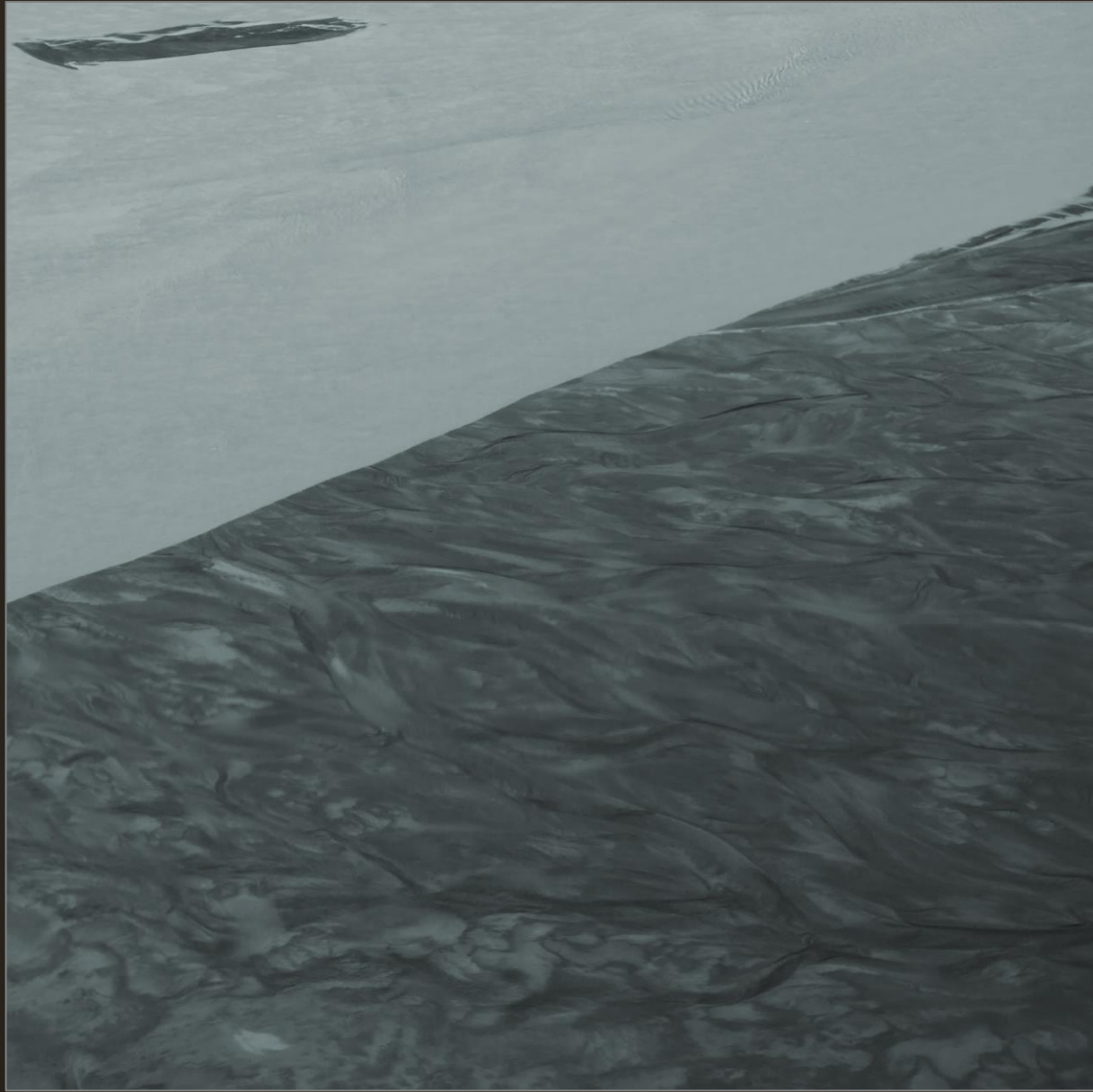


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*Up here from the airplane it all looks as stable, calm conditions in the isortoq.*

*In reality the isortoq is an inaccessible place, where the melt water comes rushing and all living things are carried away, and where the banks of clay and sand are bottomless and impossible to pass.*

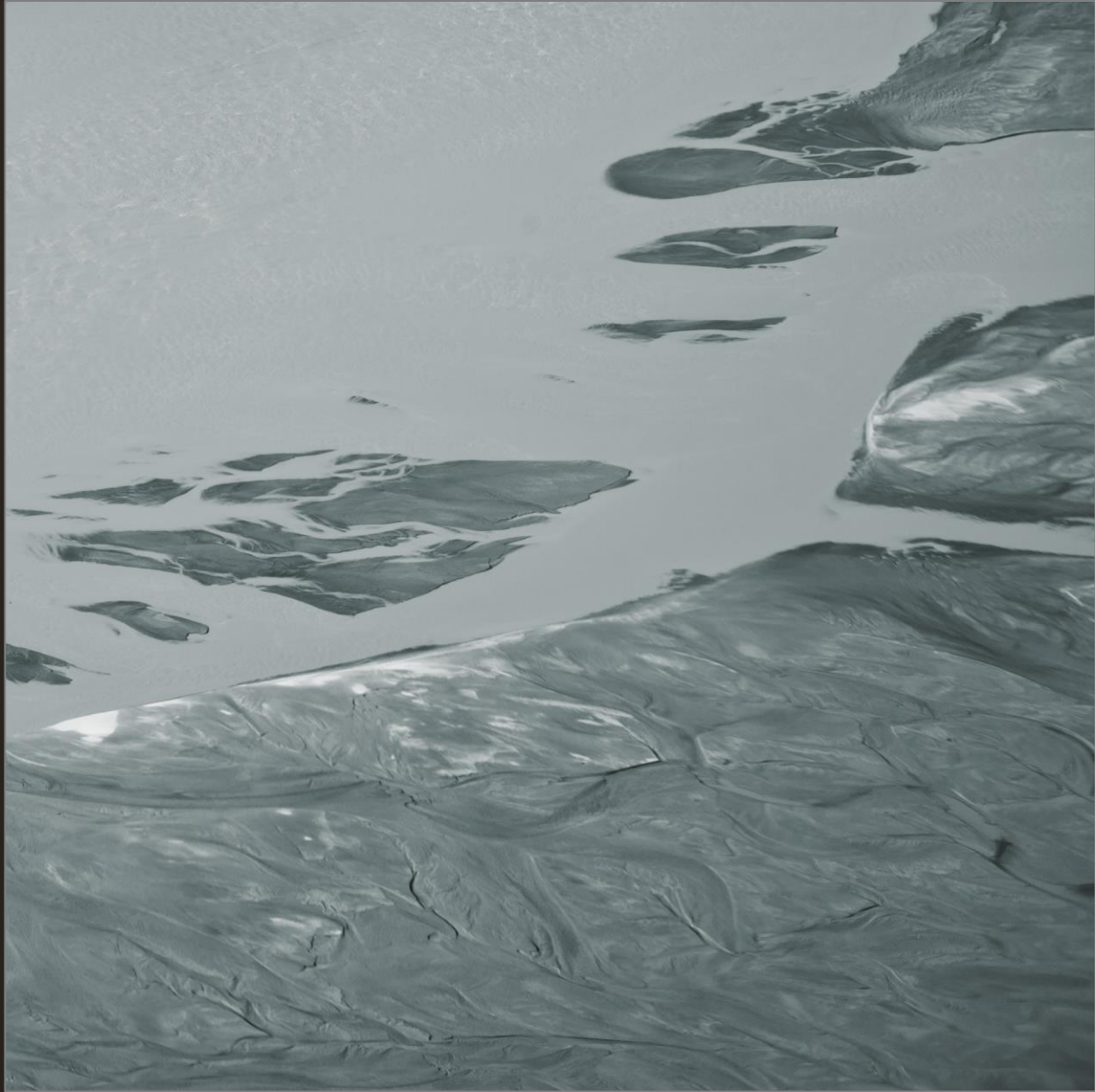


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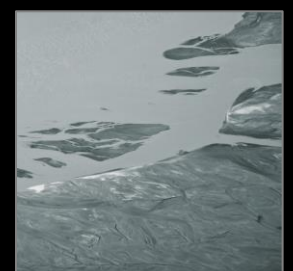
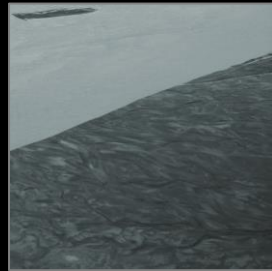
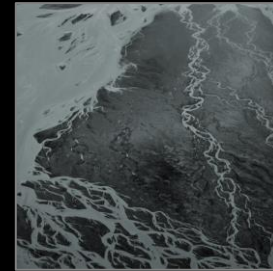
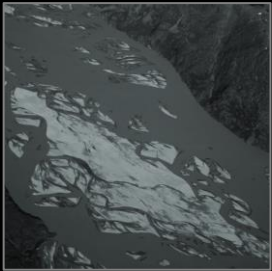
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# COLOPHON

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