

# Biography ~ Steve Zmak ~ Photographer



Steve Zmak captures the essence of California through black & white photography that speaks to the soul. A native Californian, Zmak's love of the outdoors inspired him to begin capturing the awesome beauty of the Golden State on film. Today, he continues to find inspiration in California's wild places. Traversing beaches, deserts, mountains and valleys, Zmak takes viewers on a journey through some of California's most breathtaking scenes. Images of rugged coastal bluffs, sun-drenched valleys and rushing mountain streams engage the senses and the spirit. One can almost taste the Pacific Ocean's salty spray, feel the sunlight's warmth or smell the crisp scent of Monterey pines emanating from his images.

Zmak's photographs capture an ideal of California, pristine and untouched by encroaching development. From a lone surfer on a desolate beach to a sunrise breaking through oak trees, his pictures invite viewers to revel in the moment and make it their own.

In addition to preserving California's natural beauty on film, Zmak works to protect the environment through his contributions to environmental causes. He donates 10 percent of the proceeds from every photography sale to nonprofits working for the environment.

In August 2005 Zmak released his third portfolio of fine art photography, "Black & White Whispers." This portfolio explores the questions, "What does quiet look like, sound like and feel like?" It includes 31 photographs from California and Montana. The photographs illustrate the stillness of the natural world — from an isolated moonlit beach to a star-streaked desert sky to a little boy mesmerized by the tide's ebb and flow.

In March 2003 Zmak released the "California Black & White" portfolio, featuring 23 black & white photographs from the Russian River Valley to Malibu, including 17 from Monterey County. The portfolio showcases California's dramatic landscapes and surreal beauty, including a lightning storm striking the Monterey Peninsula, a silken stream rushing beneath fallen trees in the Ventana wilderness, and sweeping vistas of the Big Sur coast.

Zmak published his first portfolio, "The Lonely Coast," in 2000. He shot "The Lonely Coast" along the wintry landscape of the Central California Coast. The portfolio features 23 black & white photographs spanning from Zmudowski State Beach and the rugged Big Sur coastline in Monterey County to the rocky shores of Point Conception in Santa Barbara County.

Zmak uses 35mm black & white film, which he scans and makes digital. He performs his darkroom work digitally, using the traditional techniques of dodging, burning, masking, tonal adjustments and spotting. Nothing in the compositions is removed or distorted, nor have any elements been added. Zmak believes that photography is as much about accurate documentation as artistic expression. The final prints are output from the highest quality Epson printers using only the finest Epson archival media.

Photographs from Zmak's third portfolio are available as numbered, open edition prints. Photographs from his first two portfolios and the "The Pajaro River Watershed Experience" series are available as numbered, limited edition prints. Selected photographs are available as open edition lithograph reproductions and notecards. Zmak's entire photography collection may be viewed at [SteveZmak.com](http://SteveZmak.com).

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS: \$400 MATTED & FRAMED ~ \$300 MATTED ~ \$200 PRINT ONLY

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