

سیا یزدانفر  
*Sia Yazdanfar*

## **OF QUICKSILVER AND DUST**

Photography is frozen music. There is a lyrical aspect present in certain images, & nowhere is this more visible than in scenes of desert landscapes. From repetitive patterns of interminable ridges, to the honeycomb & fractal designs in windswept salt flats, a mellifluous symphony is on full display.

Elements like lines, shapes, & textures interact, leading the viewer's eyes through nature's quiet concert, creating a sense of harmony or dissonance, much like musical notes & chords.

The deserts in Iran, or 'kavir' as they're called in Persian, aren't one thing. They are landscapes of constant motion, of shape-shifting sands & mirages. They are the territories of camel caravans & ancient villages, crisscrossed by trade routes & dotted by caravanserai. They are home to people for whom traditional ways of life continue as they have for centuries, despite the changing borders & migratory dunes of these unique ecosystems.

Despite being places of great stillness, deserts are alive & in perpetual flux. When broken down to their smallest components, they are all comprised of similar grains of sand. However each kavir is a diverse space, some a no-man's-land of endless horizons, & others punctuated by colorful bursts of life from desert dwellers, both human & animal. From August 2024 through February 2025, I explored various such regions & some surrounding settlements. With this collection of snapshots, I invite you to come along & see the songs of the sands through my eyes.