

Monochrome Processing and Printing

- *iMac - OS Ventura 13.6.7*
- *Process & Print through Lightroom*
- *Epson P800 Printer*

Jim Walsh

Prelude...

Two thoughts from a well known and accomplished Black & White photographer, Michael Kenna.

- "I don't teach... because I don't have answers. I have questions."
- "There is no right or wrong in photography."

Monochrome is not reality

It is not what we see when we look at the world. This opens the door for allowing, even encouraging, an artistic interpretation.

The image may call for one of many options in processing, such as...

- Setting a mood
- Simplifying the image to focus on a subject
- Creating drama
- Highlighting shapes and patterns

All of which monochrome handles well.

What types of images should be considered for monochrome treatment?

- Images taken mid-day with harsh or flat light that don't look good in color
- Images with good texture, contrast, strong lines or fog
- Images where color somehow becomes a distraction
- Images that lend themselves to artistic interpretation (mood, drama)
- High key and low-key interpretations
- Images where you emphasize what you felt over what you saw

Mid-day lighting...

Lighting is flat.
No color treatment
could bring out the
scene that I saw or
the impact I imagined
when taking the
image.



Saved by
processing in B&W!

The clouds showed
up. The textures
and contrasts
become clearer.
The road, a key
element in the
image, stands out
more prominently.



Setting a mood...

A well composed image with some interest, but still a little flat.

The fog adds an incentive to explore a monochrome treatment.



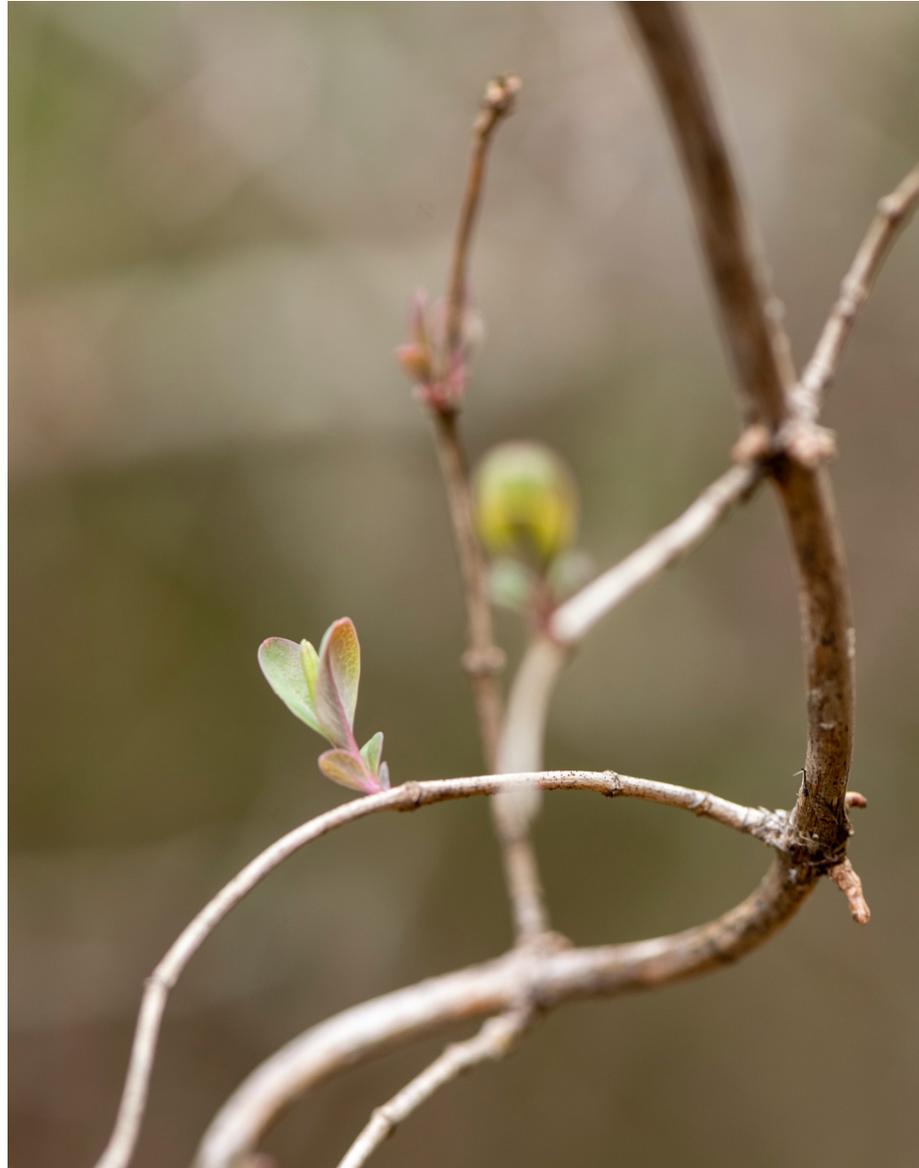
Setting a mood...

The soft focus works well with the fog. It creates a contemplative feel to the image.



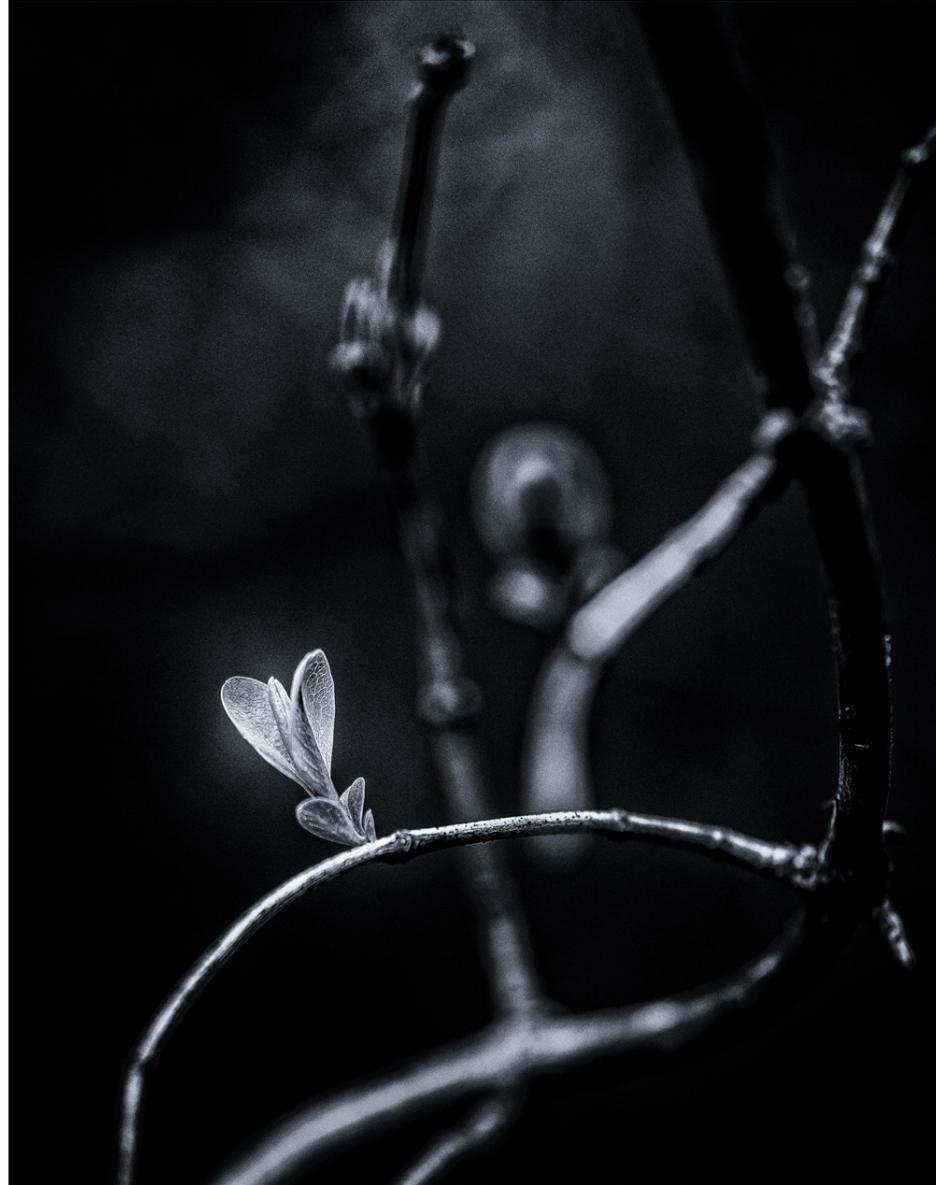
Simplify an image

The focal point is the set of leaves at the lower left. The remainder of the image is out of focus. There is not a lot of interest to this shot as is.



Simplify an image (with a surreal treatment!)

The tighter crop and the darkening of the background puts the focus on the leaves in the foreground. The B&W treatment provides strong contrasts.



Simplify an image

A decent shot of tulips at the Dallas Arboretum. The obvious subject is the tulip on the left. The other tulips and much of the background are distractions.



Simplify an image

Cropping emphasizes the main subject, bringing a new focus to the image. Distracting colors are eliminated. The lines and texture in the tulip are brought out. The background becomes complementary.



High Key Treatment

Colorado aspens in the fall. A lot of opportunity to capture good color.

But this image is common and of no particular interest.



High Key Treatment

A tight crop and a B&W treatment in high key separates it from the norm and makes it worth spending some time with.



Creating Impact

A shot taken looking into the setting sun, which is blown out. The colors are flat and the trees and land are almost in silhouette. The background has some interest with the clouds.



Creating Impact

Cropped to eliminate the blown out sun and to bring greater focus to the main subjects. Darkening the sky creates a more dramatic and interesting scene.



Light, Shadows,
Textures, Lines

An interesting
subject with lines,
shadows, textures
and good light and
colors. But not much
of a story. How can
this be improved on?



Light, Shadows,
Textures, Lines and
Drama

The cropping
closes in on the
window frame
highlighting the
shapes, patterns
and textures and
creating something
of a mystery (or
story) in the image.



Determine Your Objective for the Finished Image

Will your approach to processing the image be to...

- Present it in a way that's true to what you saw?
- Present it in a way that reflects a mood or feeling?
- Do whatever else with it that sounds like fun?

Depending on the image, it could be any one of these, or all of them. Monochrome images lend themselves toward expressing creativity. So, as a starting point, try to think creatively.

Tools important in processing monochrome images...

- Saturating colors initially
- Exposure
- Highlights
- Black and white sliders
- Shadows
- Texture and/or Clarity
- Dehaze
- Basically ... most of the tools you have at hand, but possibly used to extremes you wouldn't use for color images



The RAW File...

The Great Sand Dunes
in Colorado

Getting Started

- Select an image with good potential as a monochrome print.
- Do some work initially with the color image before converting to B&W. Play with contrasts. Working the colors, saturation, hue, luminance can help to differentiate the shades of gray once it's converted to monochrome.
- Composition can make or break an image. Experiment with cropping early in the process, tweaking it in both big and small ways. Confirm that the crop will leave enough pixels to make an acceptable print.

Why Select This Image?

- The RAW file has interesting light, contrasts, textures and lines... making it a good candidate for monochrome treatment.
- The person walking down from the upper right adds an element of interest and provides scale to the image.
- The person fits in nicely according to the Rule of Thirds.
- The lines lead in from the lower left...the way the eye naturally flows through the image.



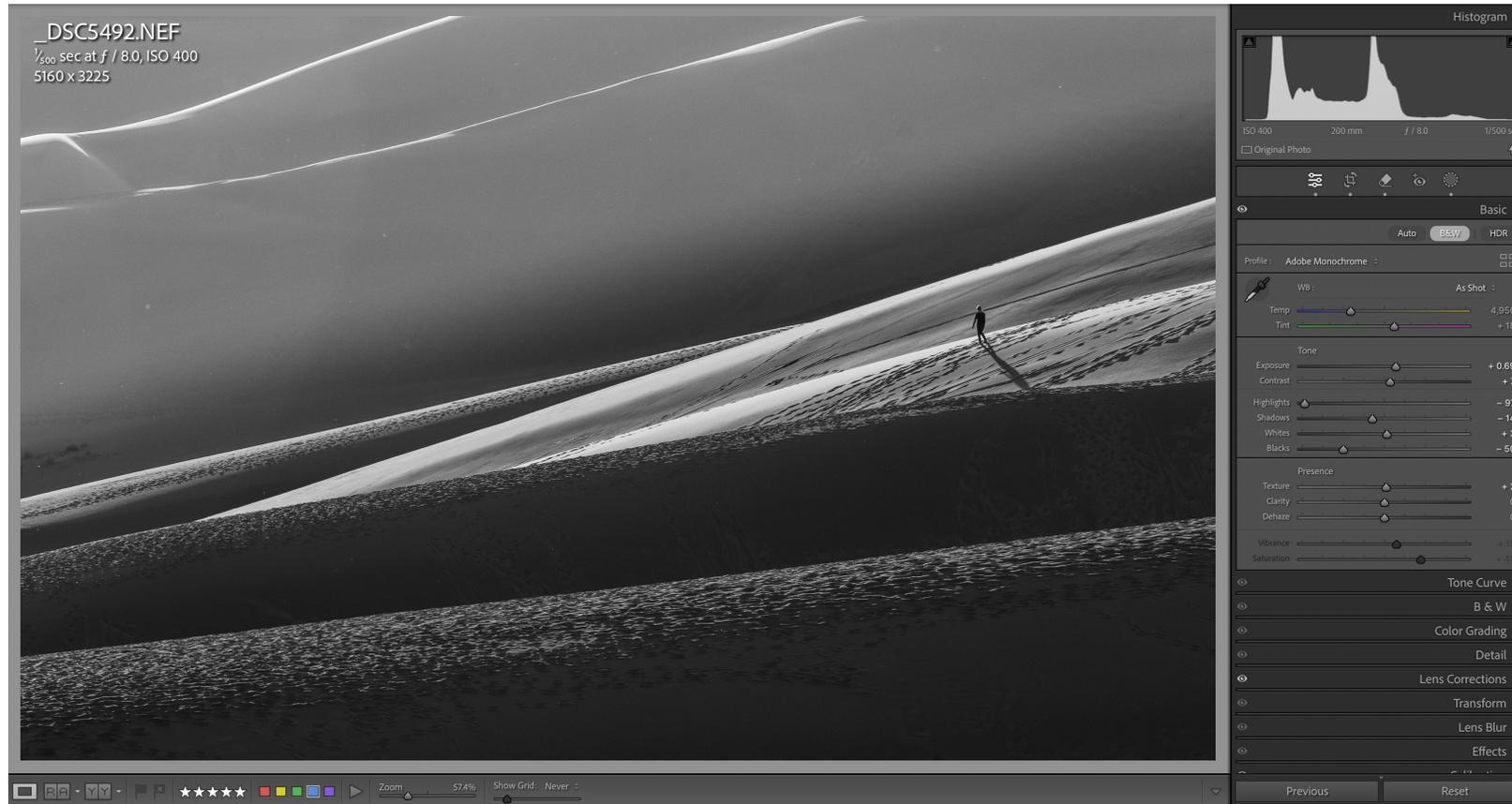


- Cropped to 16X9 to omit the lower area that did not add to the image.
- Needs additional cropping at the top and on the left side.
- The tighter crops reduce the size of the image and bring the hiker into more prominence.
- Crop may change several times again before getting to the final image the final image.



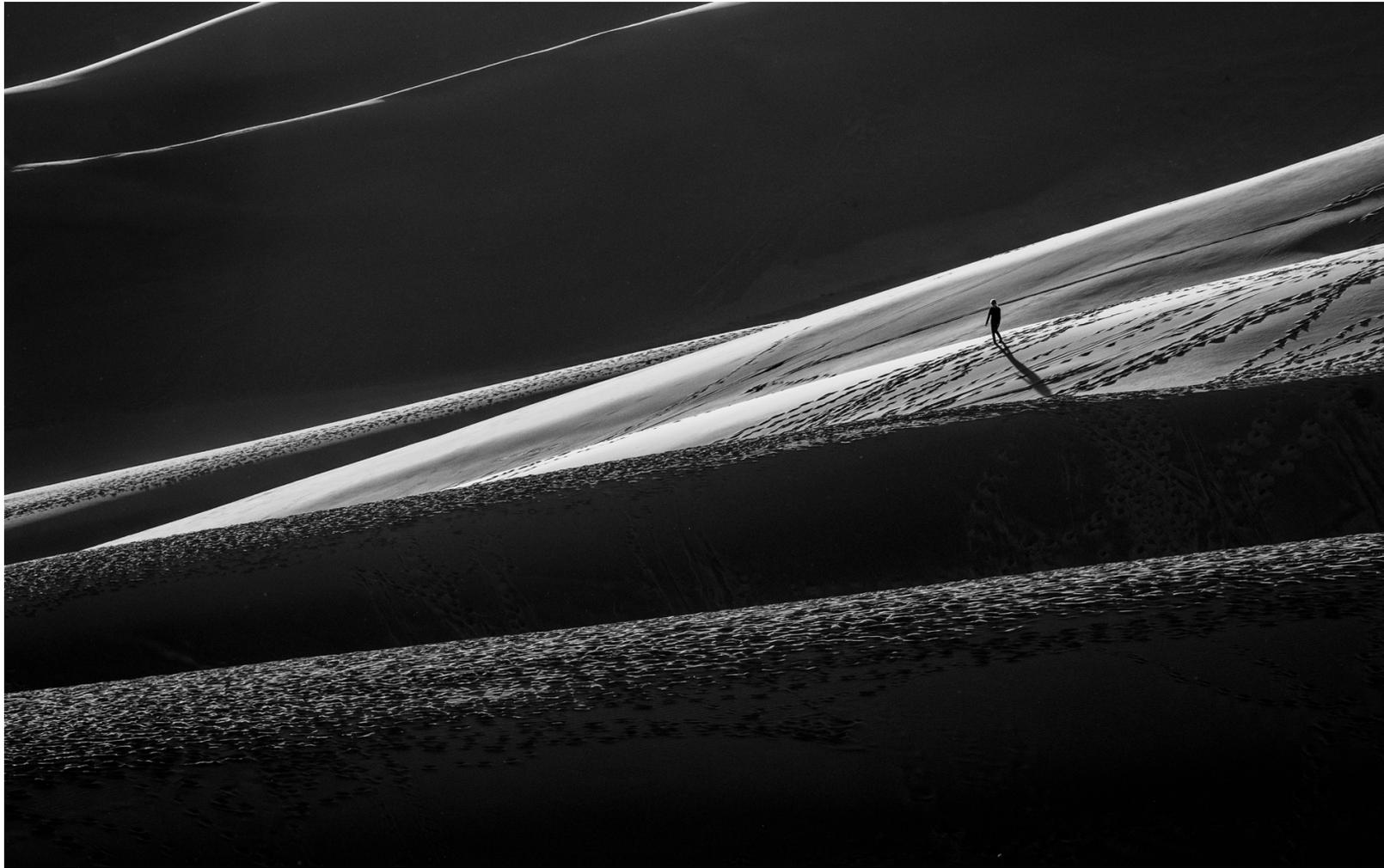
Convert to B&W

- Primary edits prior to converting to B&W included playing with adjustments to blacks, whites, highlights, shadows and saturation.
- The sky will be cropped out of the upper left.



Masks were used to achieve desired lighting on the layers of the dunes from front to back.

Healing tool used extensively to clean up spots and unwanted details.



The seven layers provide depth from foreground to middle ground to background.



Finishing touches included playing again with Blacks, Whites, Shadows and Contrast to create a more dramatic image.



The Finished File...

“Returning at End of Day”

And now...on to the print

Printing with Advanced Black and White

Why use ABW?

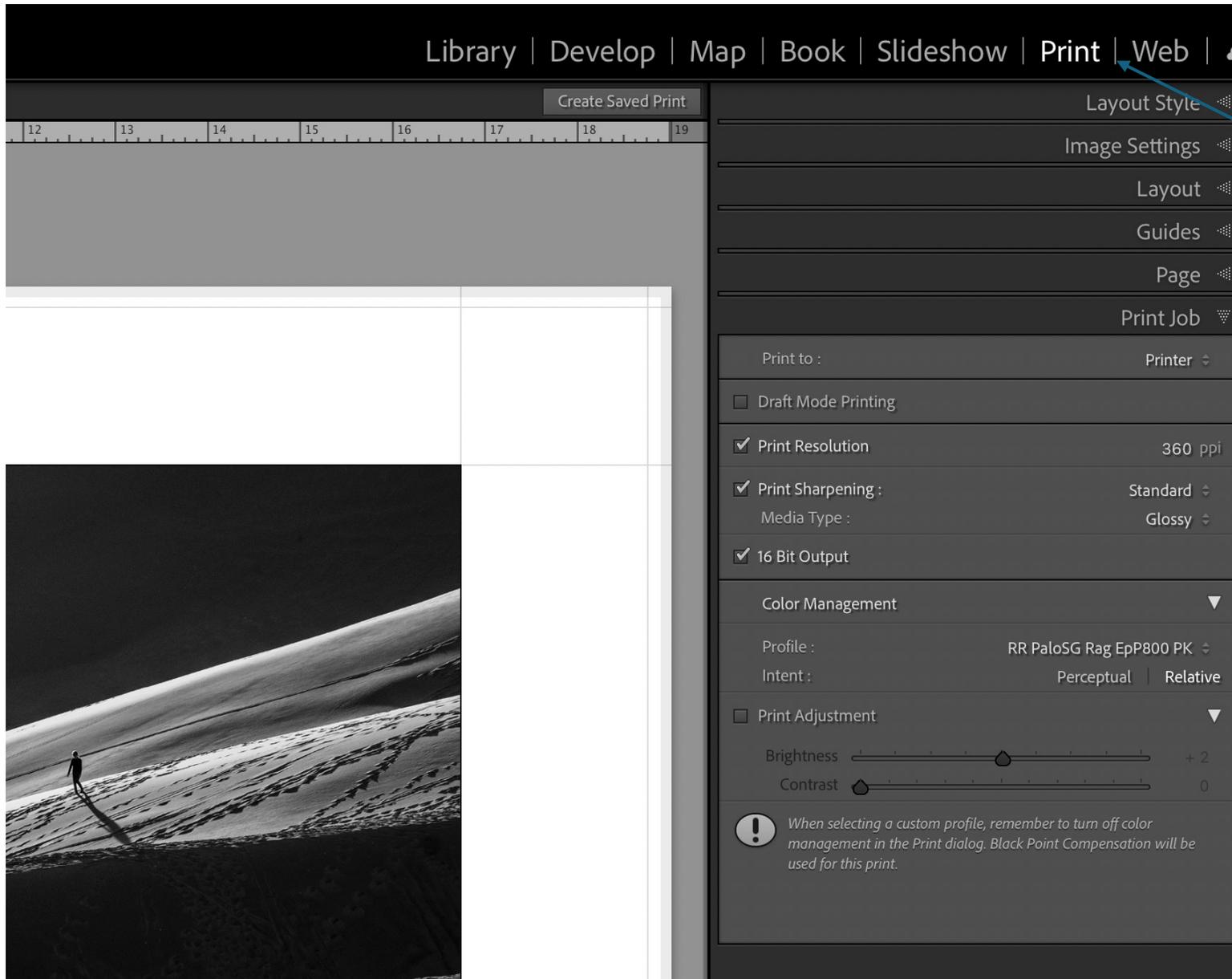
- When printing Black and White images you will, in most cases, get better results using the special Epson ABW software rather than conventional ICC Printer Profiles.
- Conventional inkjet ICC Printer Profiles have no control over Black or Grey ink. They work in RGB (Red Green & Blue) only.
- ABW software is used to control the printer. The original image, must be perfectly neutral (equal RGB values) if in RGB format.

Getting Ready to Print

You will probably want to print more than once. You may want to...

- Make adjustments to bring the print more in line with the digital image.
- Create different versions for comparisons.
- Experiment with different papers.

Printer settings must be changed to prepare for ABW printing.



Print Module

Currently set up for an icc profile

Create Saved Print

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

Layout Style

Image Settings

Layout

Guides

Page

Print Job

Print to : Printer

Draft Mode Printing

Print Resolution 360 ppi

Print Sharpening : Standard

Media Type : Glossy

16 Bit Output

Color Management

Profile : Intent :

Print Adjustme

Brightness

Contrast

 When select managemen

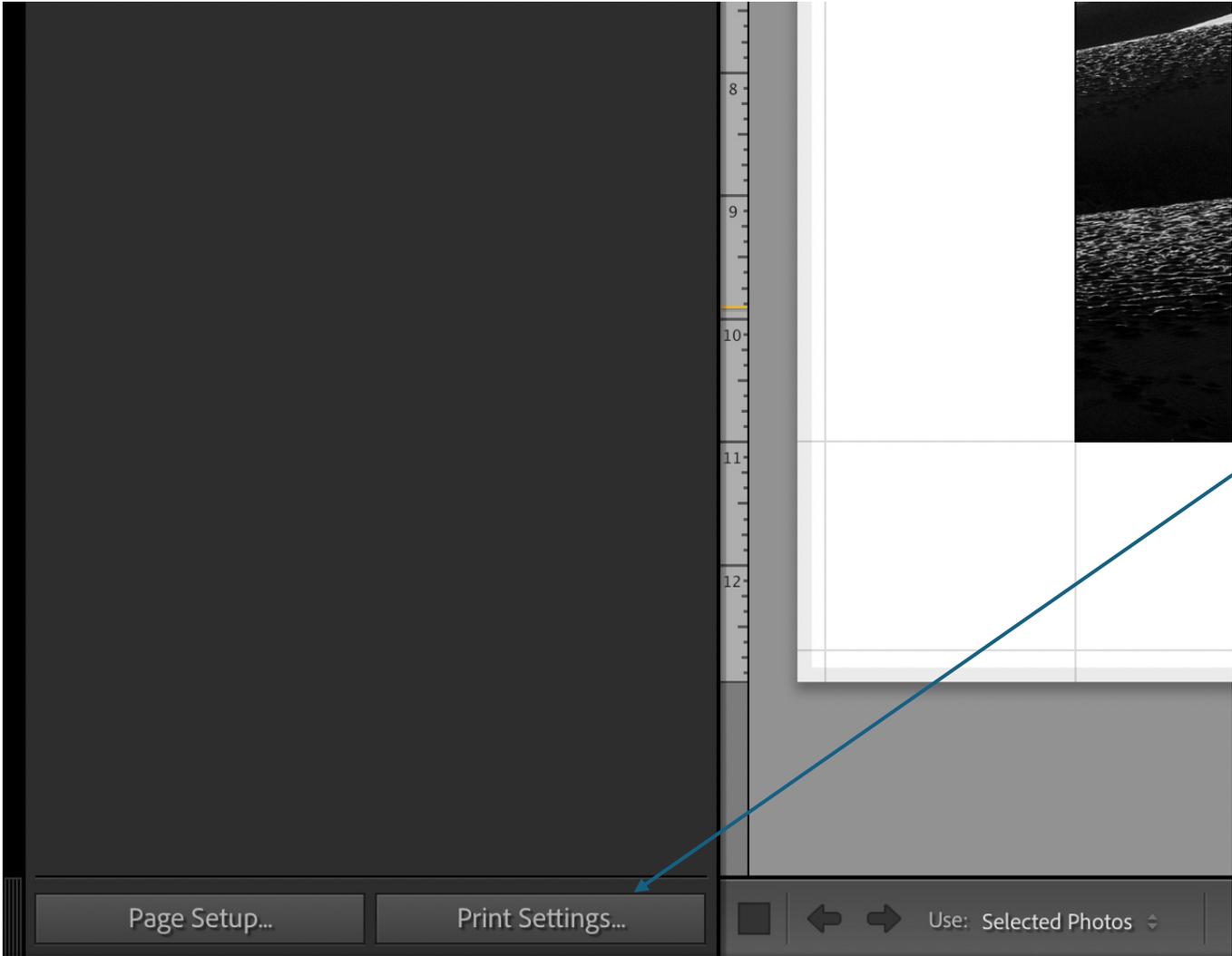
Managed by Printer

- Adobe RGB (1998)
- ProPhoto RGB
- RR Palo Duro Etching Ep SC-P800 MK
- RR PaloSG Rag EpP800 PK
- RR UltProGloss2.0 EpP800
- RR UPSatin4.0 EpP800
- SC-P800 Series Cold Press Natural MK v2
- SC-P800 Series Hot Press Bright MK v2
- SC-P800 Series Hot Press Natural MK v2
- SC-P800 Series Premium Photo Paper Glossy
- SC-P800 Series Ultra Premium Photo Paper Luster
- SC-P800 Series Ultra Premium Photo Paper Luster (2)
- SC-P800_Series LegacyBaryta_PK_v1 (2)
- SC-P800_Series LegacyEtching_MK_v1 (3)
- SC-P800_Series LegacyFibre_MK_v1
- SC-P800_Series LegacyPlatine_PK_v1

Other...

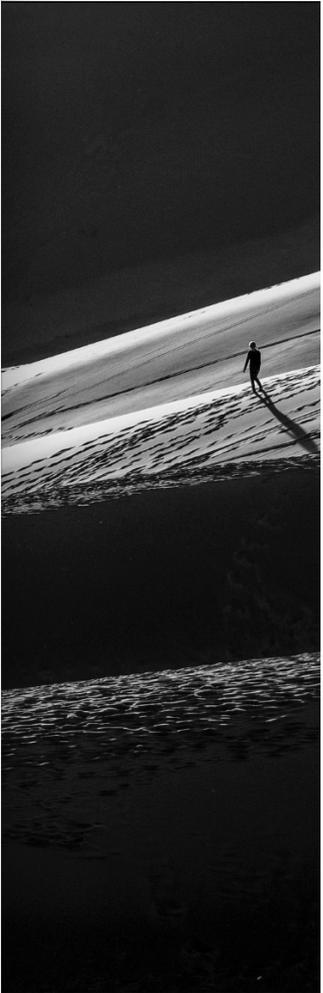
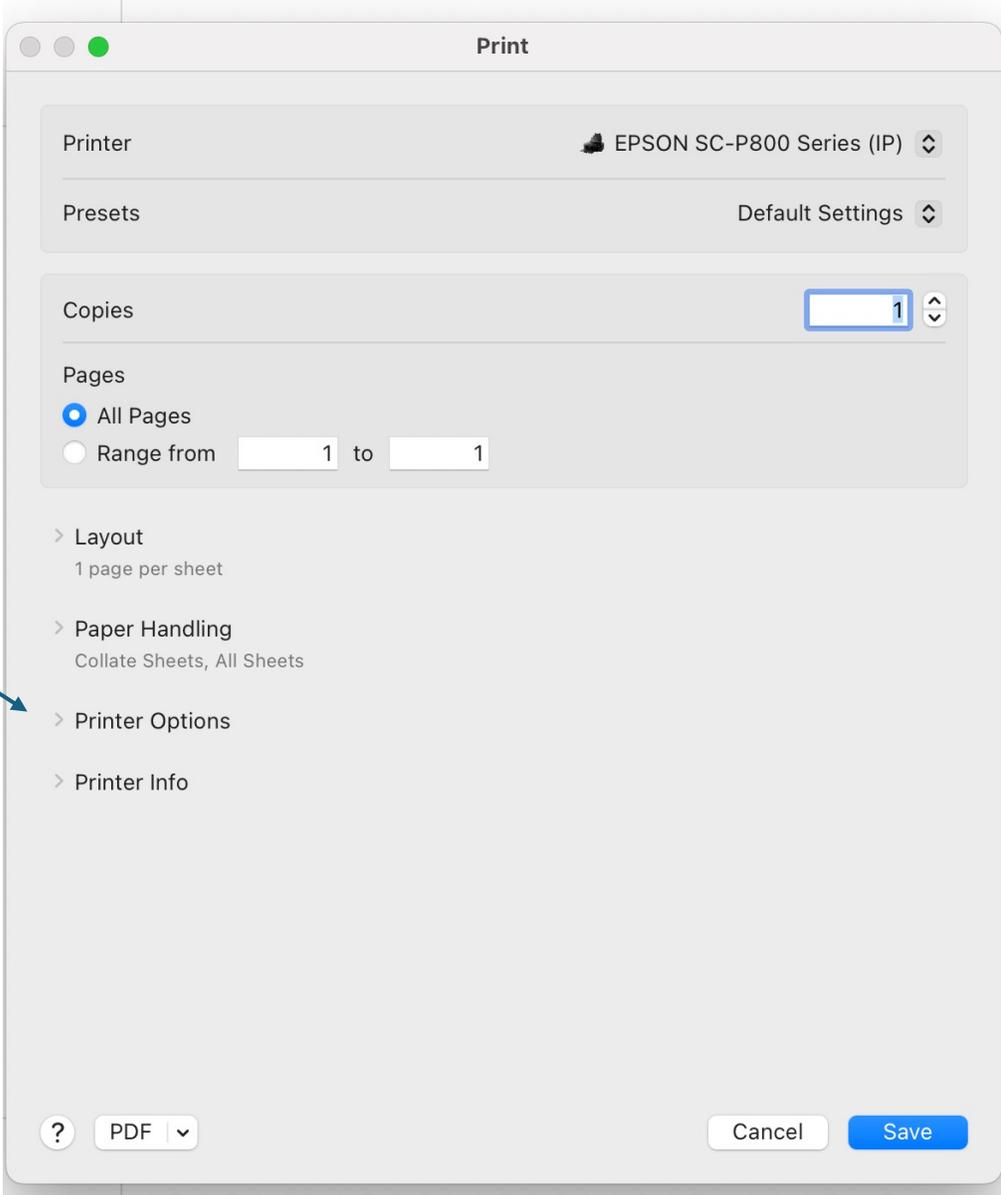
Click on "Profile" arrow to bring up options

Select "Manage by Printer"

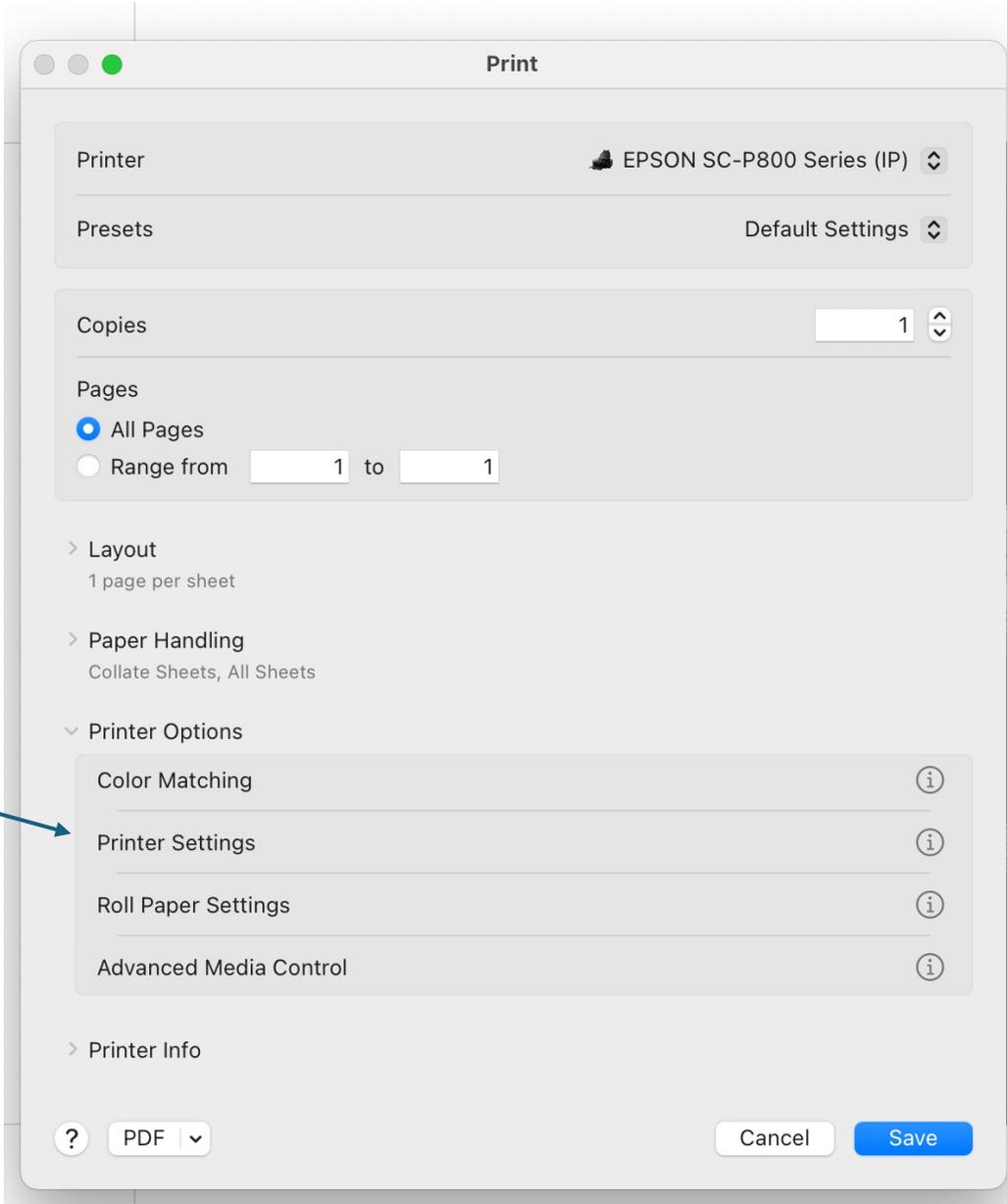


Click on "Print Settings"

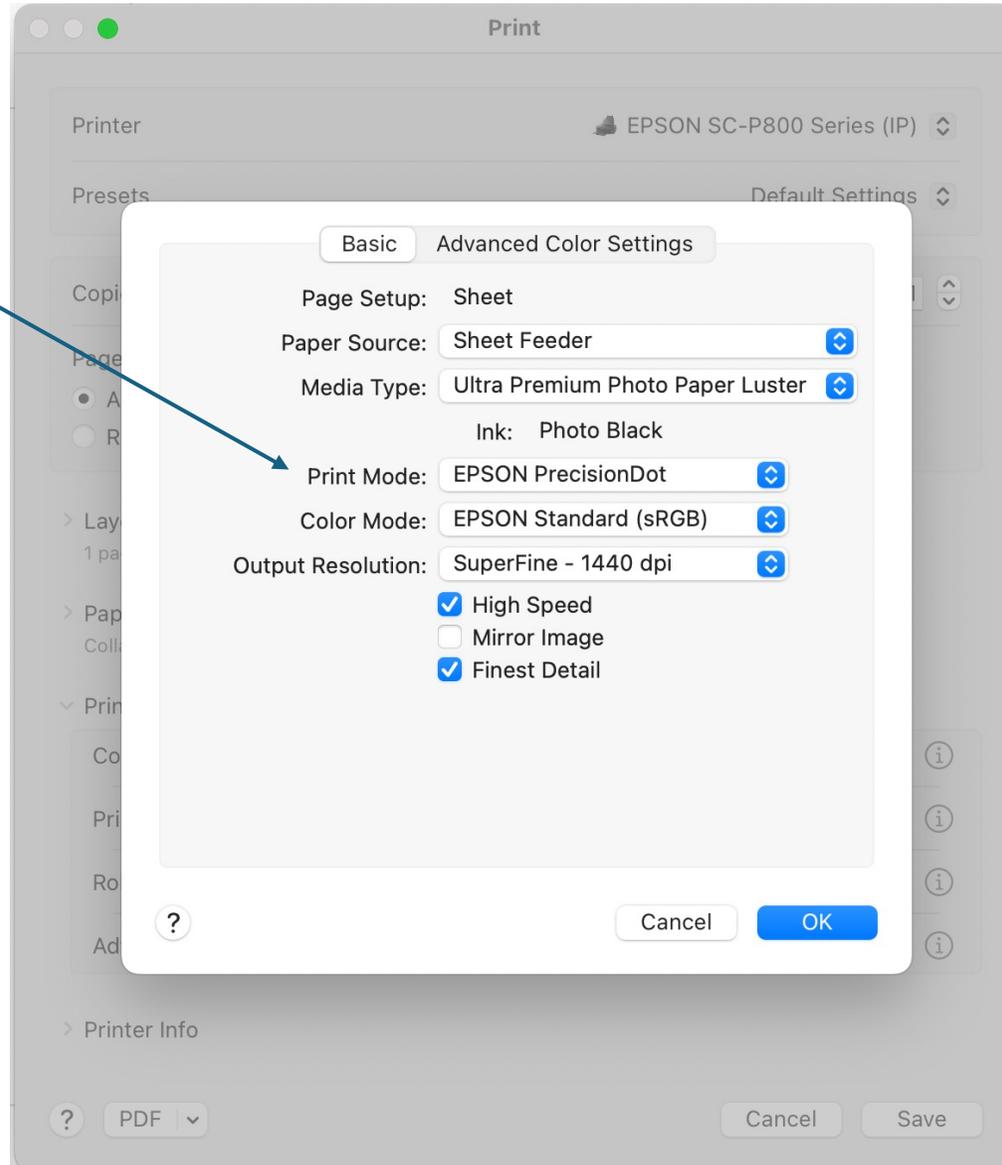
Select
"Printer Options"



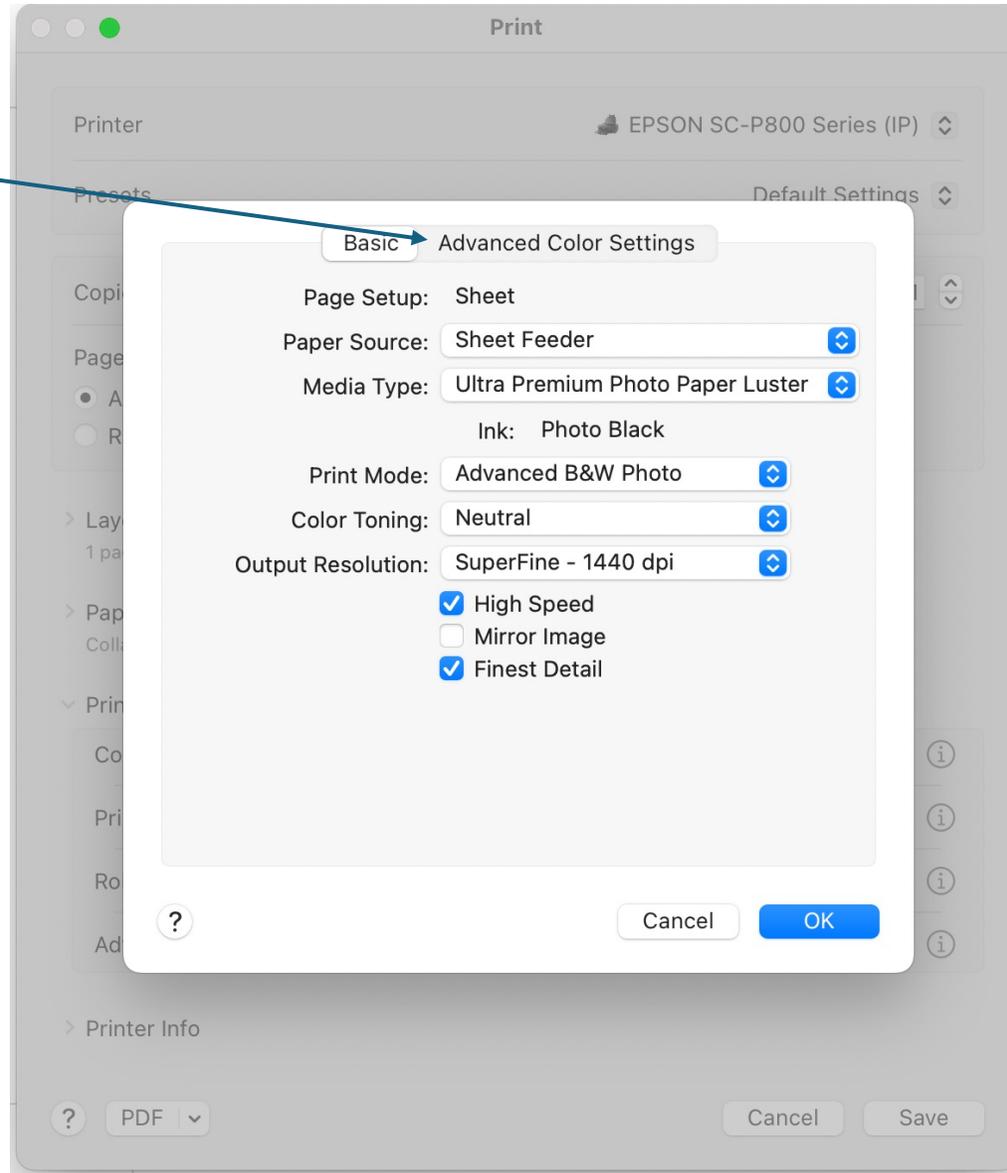
Select
"Printer Settings"



Under "Print Mode"
Select "Advanced B&W Photo"



Select
"Advanced Color
Settings"



Adjust to
Taste

Print

Printer: EPSON SC-P800 Series (IP)

Presets: Default Settings

Color Toning: Neutral

Brightness: 0

Contrast: 0

Shadow Tonality: 0

Highlight Tonality: 0

Max Optical Density: 0

Tone: Dark

Highlight Point Shift: Off

Horizontal: 0

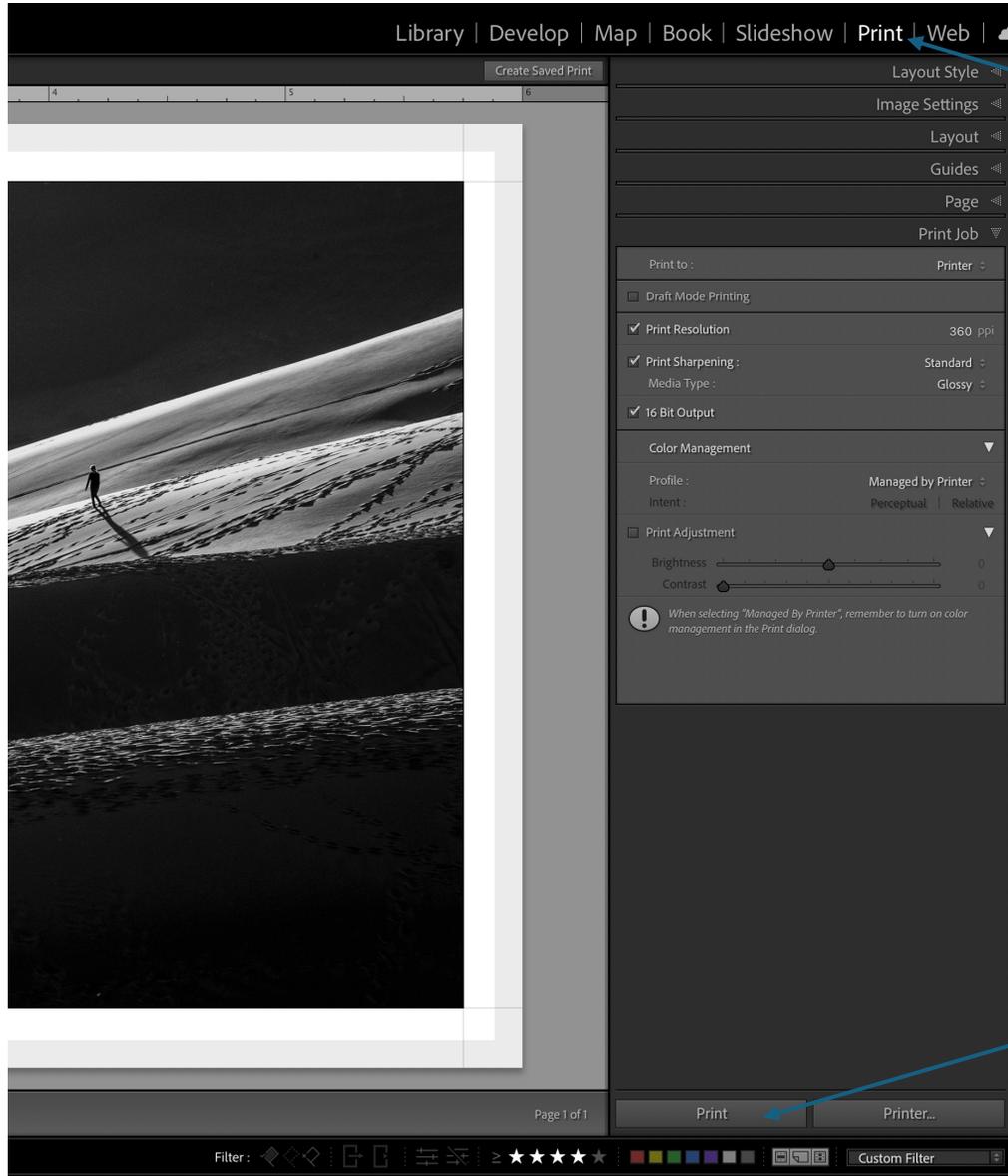
Vertical: 0

Cancel OK

Printer Info

PDF

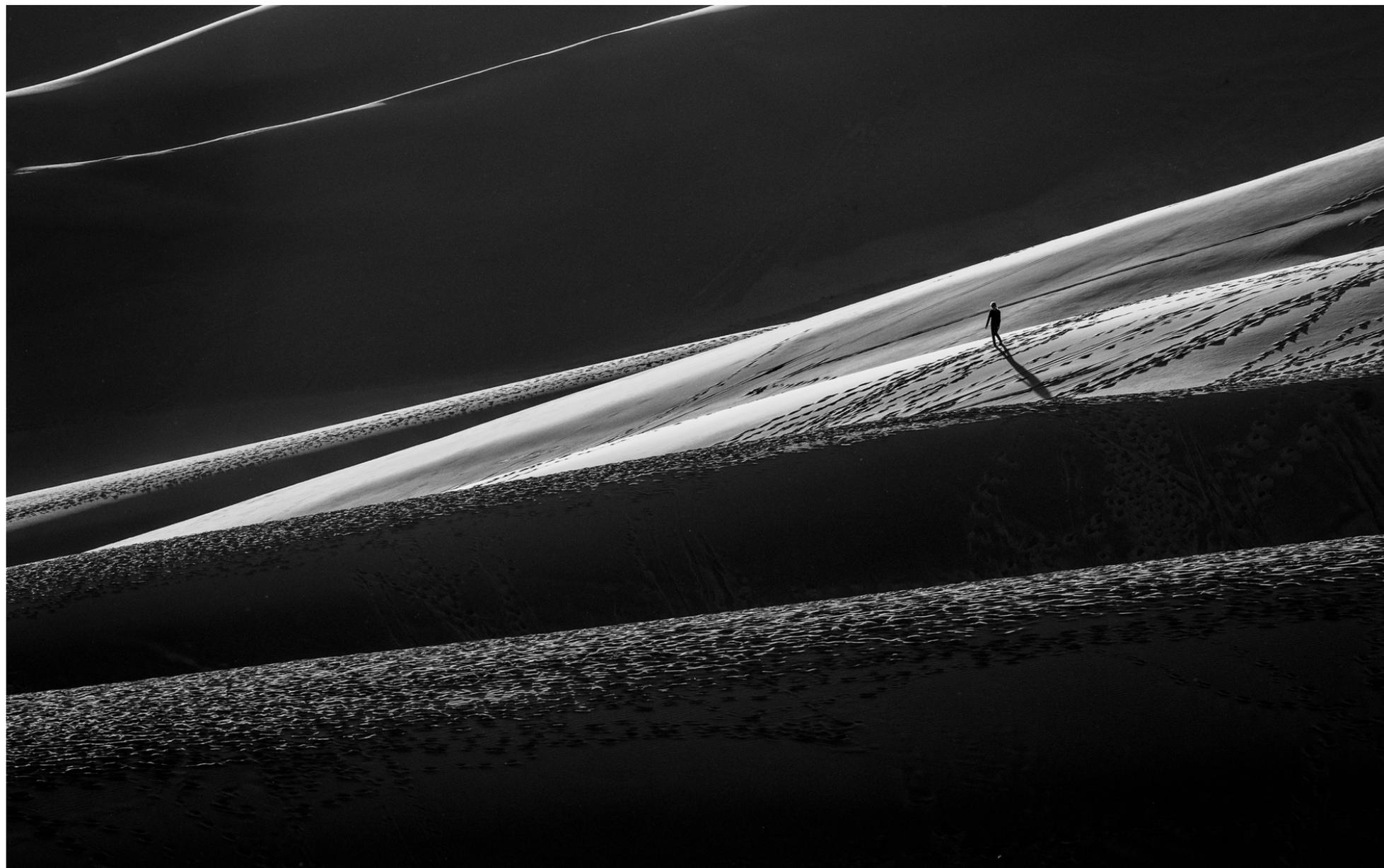
Cancel Save



Print Module

Turn "Color Management"
ON
When using "Managed by
Printer"

Select "Print"



And that's it!