



Image credit: NASA

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A Study in Brush Strokes

“Not many artists in this world are as creative as Mother Nature”, remarked ISS Expedition 56 Commander Alexander Gerst after capturing this exquisite image of southern Africa’s vibrant west coast.

The richness of palette, juxtaposition of textures, and playful use of light and shadow suggest the patient hand of a skilled painter. But this particular artist produces work like this a hundred, a thousand, maybe a million times a day. Every day.

Mind you art like this comes through no small effort. Atmospheres must be carefully blended and set into motion; desert sands must be groomed with comb-like precision; shorelines must be sculpted over unimaginable stretches of time.

If you’d like to learn more about the artist’s methods, visit science.nasa.gov/earth-science.

