

DANIEL RANALLI

ASIAN WORK



Curator's Statement

A quiet spirituality infuses the work of artist, Daniel Ranalli. His creative process is intrinsically meditative ("walking, looking, reflecting, repeating...") and the resulting images suggest offerings. There is evident throughout the work a reverence and devotion to the natural world, to the creative process itself, and most especially to this particular stretch of beach on Cape Cod. This curling spit of sand extending into the Atlantic Ocean has been well chronicled as a place of constant and profound flux. The tides and winds reshape the dunes continuously, the shoreline rearranges itself after every storm, and major geological shifts may occur within a human lifetime. Ranalli's work speaks of these elemental forces and of the ephemeral nature of existence. His images become markers of time, visual notations of experience and change. These pictures are also records of the human impulse to make its own mark. Minimally rearranging materials he encounters on his walks through this volatile landscape, Ranalli creates a push-pull with nature as he then watches his manipulations succumb to the relentless forces of change. We are reminded of larger evolutions, of human hubris, and elemental energies that appear chaotic, but which may, in fact, be the ultimate order.

Whether inviting the accident inherent in the making of a photogram or waiting for the weather to erase a meticulously raked pattern in the sand, all of these forms are the result of collaboration with chance. The artist can only control so much. Humans have only so much power. Deliberate acts are juxtaposed with random events. Questions are posed but there are not necessarily answers. There is just evidence of interaction and the beauty of mystery.

Clark University's Department of Visual & Performing Arts is pleased to present the work of this accomplished alumnus. Daniel Ranalli received his B.A. from Clark in 1968 and feels his education here is the critical underpinning of his professional life as an artist, educator, and writer.

Elli Crocker, Gallery Director
Associate Professor of Art, Clark University

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