

ANN LOFQUIST

Sand Dollar Beach, 2011
Oil on Canvas 6¾ in x10 1in



courtesy: Winfield Gallery

SAMUEL SALERNO

The Fisherman

When the line taps lightly on the surface
sending the rings
pulsating outward
the fisherman has a prize in mind.

He reels it in with the most
beautifully tragic hands
thick and brown,
streaks of white scars
to mark his moments on the ocean.

The gulls are vigilant, too,
waiting for the battered, bleeding
contents of the day's catch.
There, scales cross his hands and his mind.
He's heard the feeling before:
this darkness has a face.

The silver acrobat below
knows no such music;
it can only feel
the weight of the line on its
astonished mouth
pulling it earthward toward
a grave of sky.

Samuel Salerno has lived his entire life on the Monterey Peninsula. He has taught English at the Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, California, for the last fifteen years. His poetry has appeared in the *California Quarterly*, *Red River Review*, *Illya's Honey*, *Free Verse*, and *Freshwater*. His books include *The New World* and *Spirit House* (Lighthouse Press); and a new collection of plays, *Sweet Forgiveness* (Black Lodge Press).