

## 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).