

2025

Things become by vanishing chapter I
For Water Chronicles, Gallerie d'Italia & G&B

Fabio Barile

Things become by vanishing is a project that intertwines two stories belonging to a single narrative: that of water and its metamorphoses. Both unfold in Abruzzo, where the Gran Sasso and the Tirino Valley share the same hydric breath, an underground and invisible continuum that links the mountain to the plain.

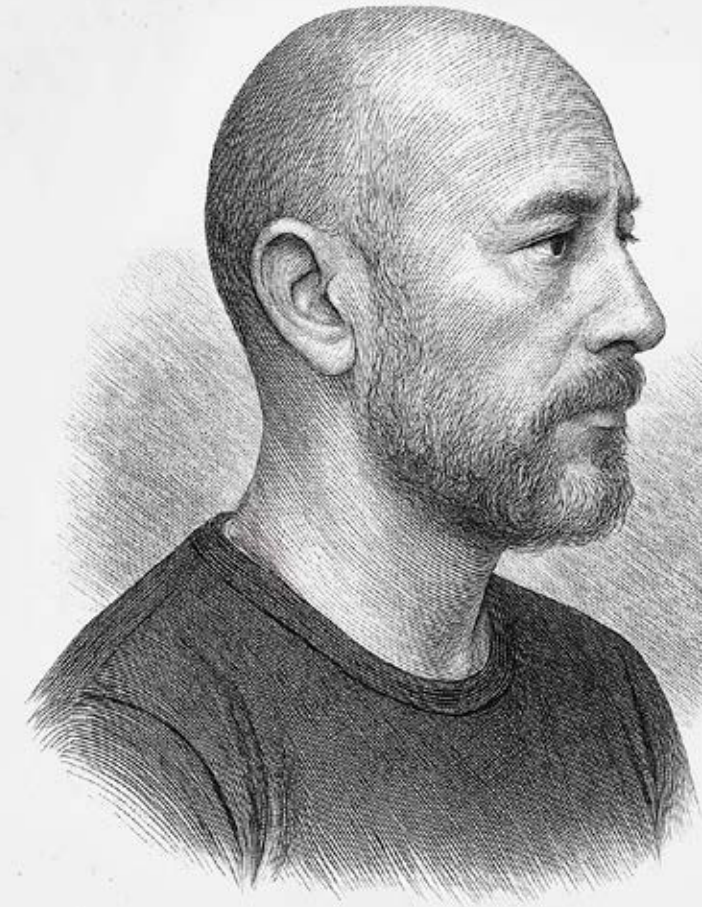
The work develops across two complementary chapters. The first focuses on the former Calderone Glacier, at about 2,700 meters of altitude, a fragile place where solid matter retreats and dissolves, turning into absence. The second takes shape along the Tirino River, a clear and constant spring whose waters rise on the Campo Imperatore plateau and, once they reach the valley, slowly shape the landscape and the communities that inhabit it. These two sites stand as the extremes of a single organism.

Water, in its various forms, acts as a generative and destructive force simultaneously: it erases and shapes, builds and dissolves, giving form to the landscape in the very moment it consumes it. Things become by vanishing investigates the metamorphic dimension of water as a principle of transformation, conveying the perception of a landscape that forms and dissolves over time, crossed by stories and geological processes that continuously redraw its boundaries.





SELF PORTRAIT
AS
FRANCESCO DE MARCHI



ANTONIO DI CECCO
AS
FRANCESCO DI DOMENICO

In the presence of the summit
of the Gran Sasso d'Italia 2,912 m a.s.l.
the L'Aquila section
of the Italian Alpine Club
wished to commemorate
the fourth centenary of the first ascent
carried out by Francesco De Marchi
military engineer from Bologna
and Francesco Di Domenico
chamois hunter from Assergi near L'Aquila
1573 — 1973

AL COSPETTO DELLA VETTA
DEL GRAN SASSO D'ITALIA
M. 2912 S.L.M.
LA SEZIONE DELL'AQUILA
DEL CLUB ALPINO ITALIANO
VOLLE RICORDARE
IL QUARTO CENTENARIO DELLA PRIMA
ASCENSIONE
AD OPERA DI
FRANCESCO DE MARCHI
INGEGNERE MILITARE DA BOLOGNA
E
FRANCESCO DI DOMENICO
CACCIATORE DI CAMOSCI DA ASSERGI
DI AQUILA
1573 1973

















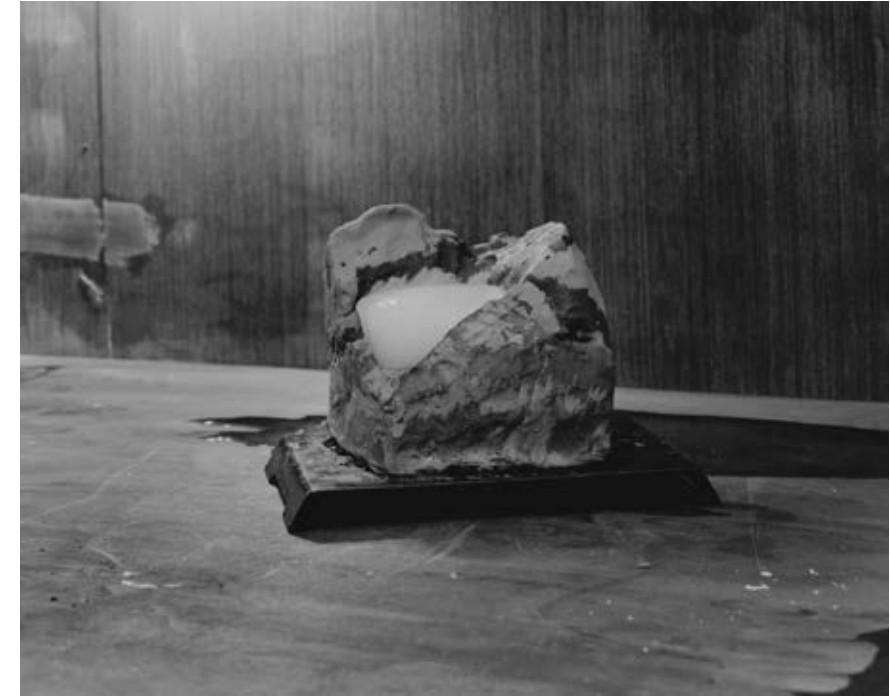














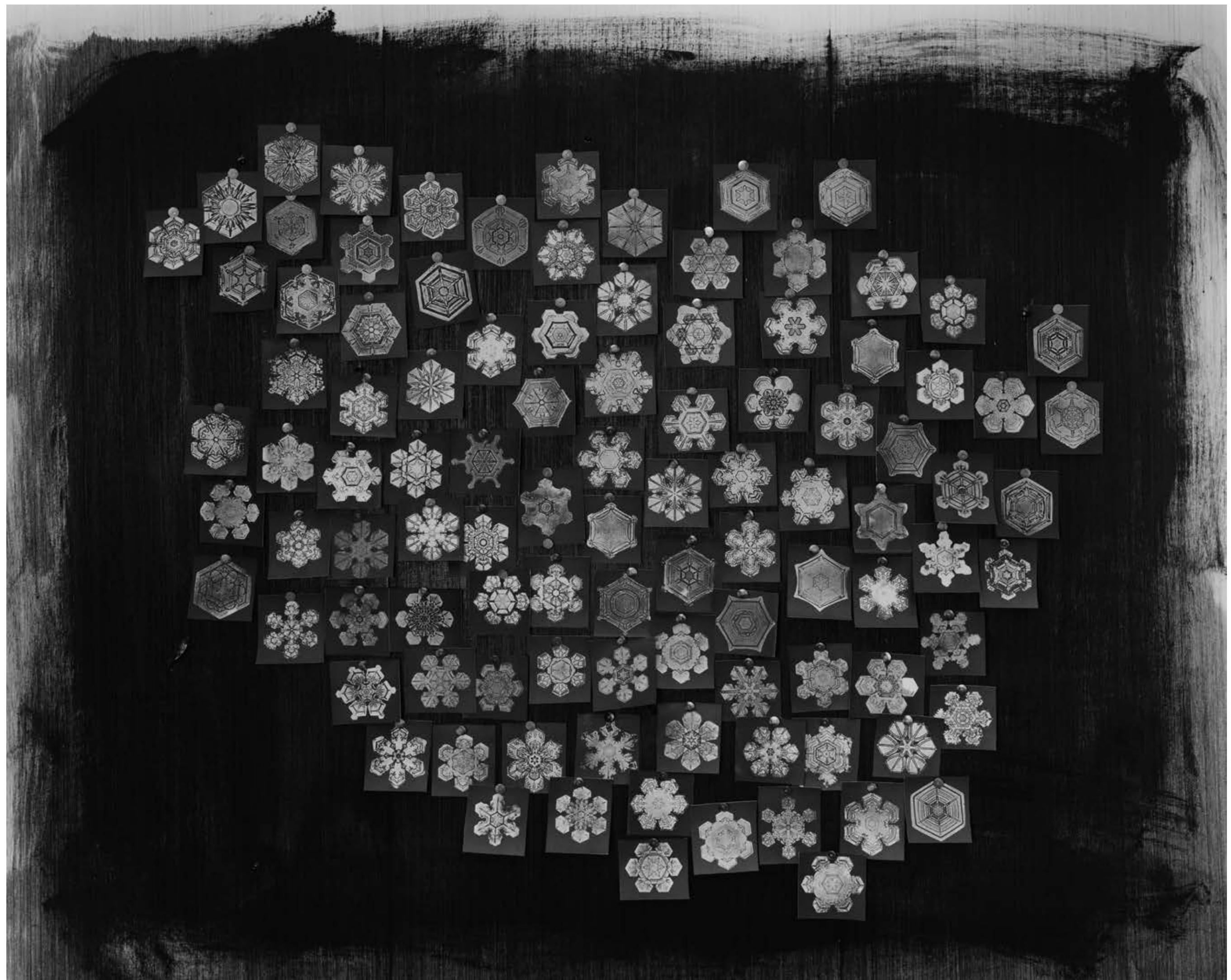




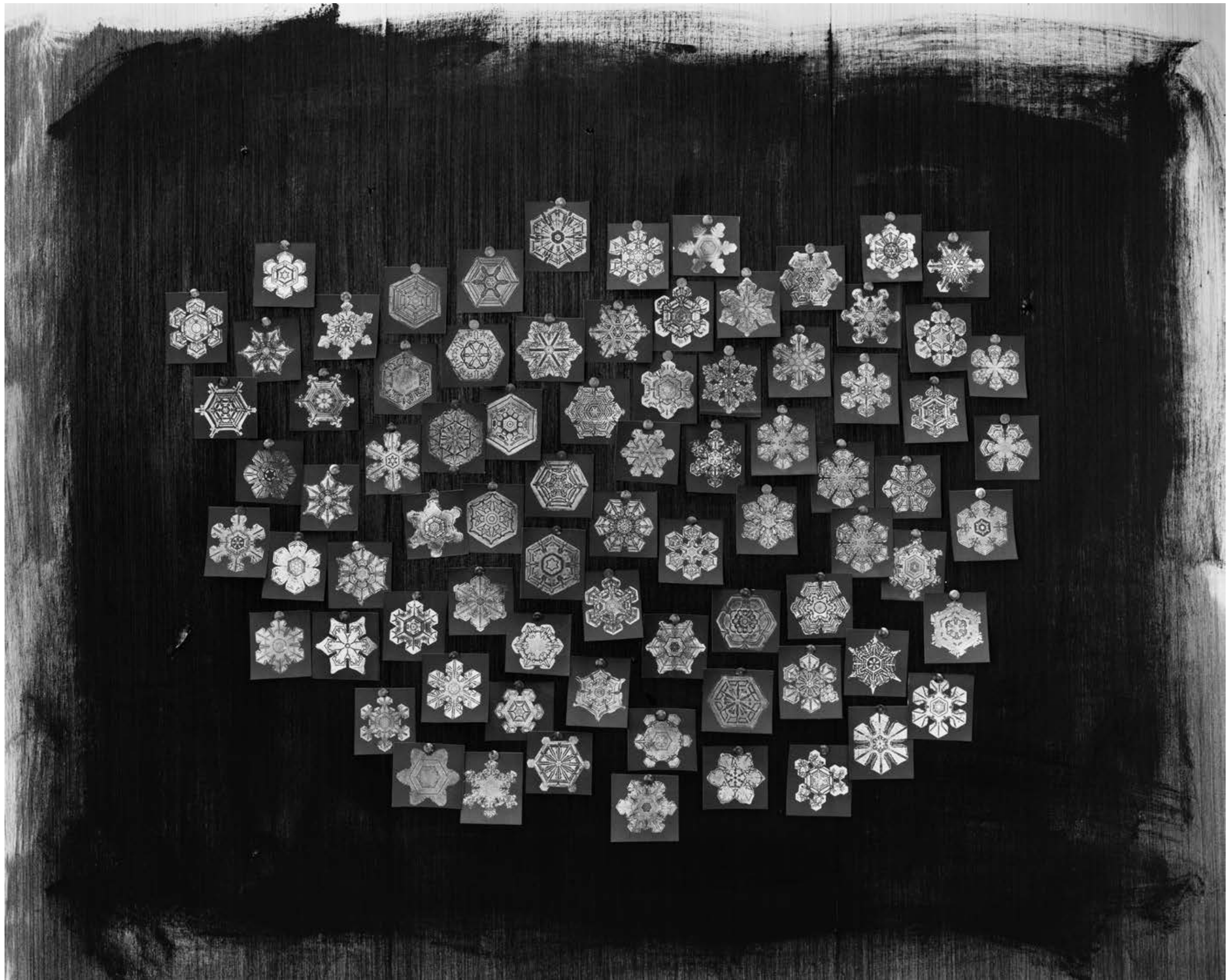




From snow crystals to glacial ice: snow compacts into firn and finally solid ice with trapped air bubbles.



Homage to Wilson Bentley#3

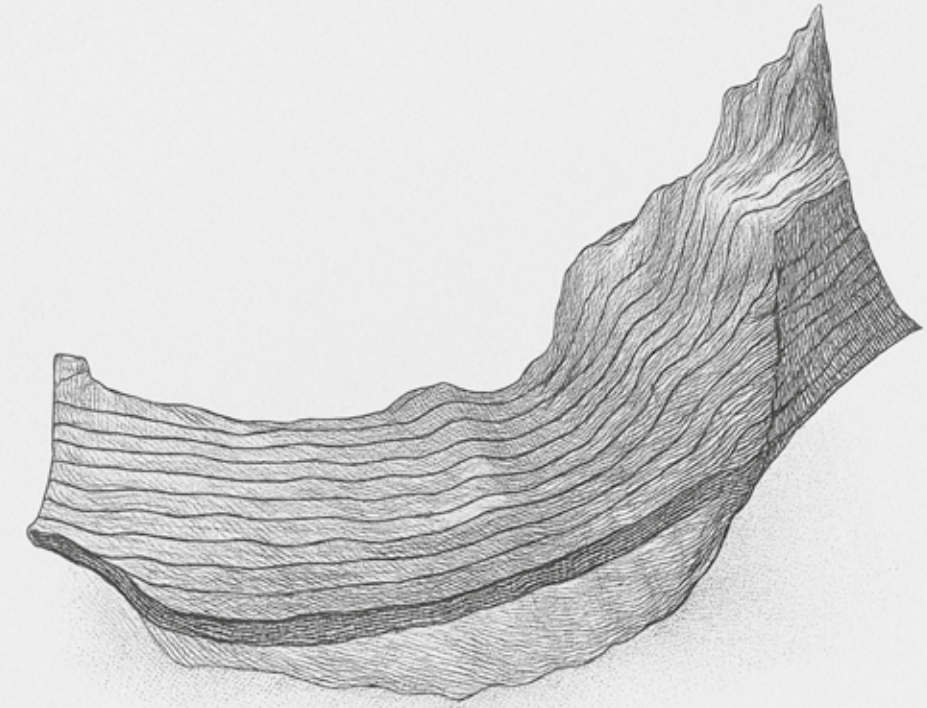


Homage to Wilson Bentley#1

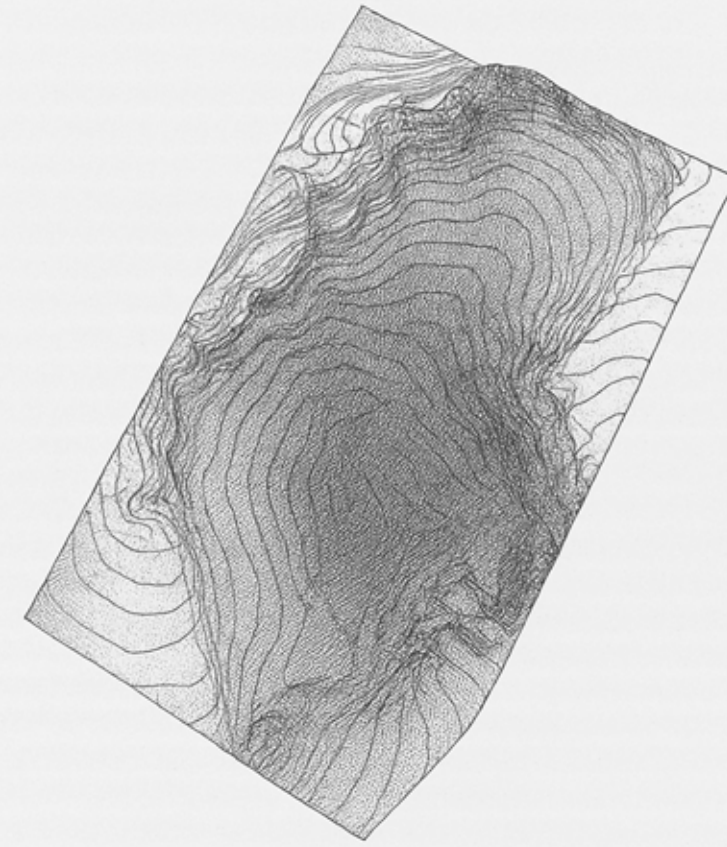








SECTION OF THE CALDERONE

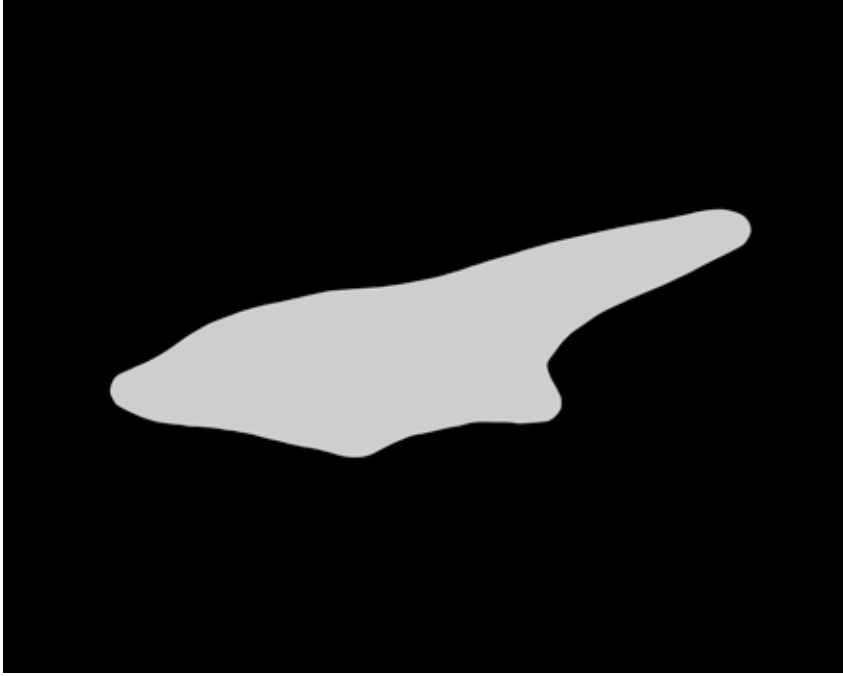
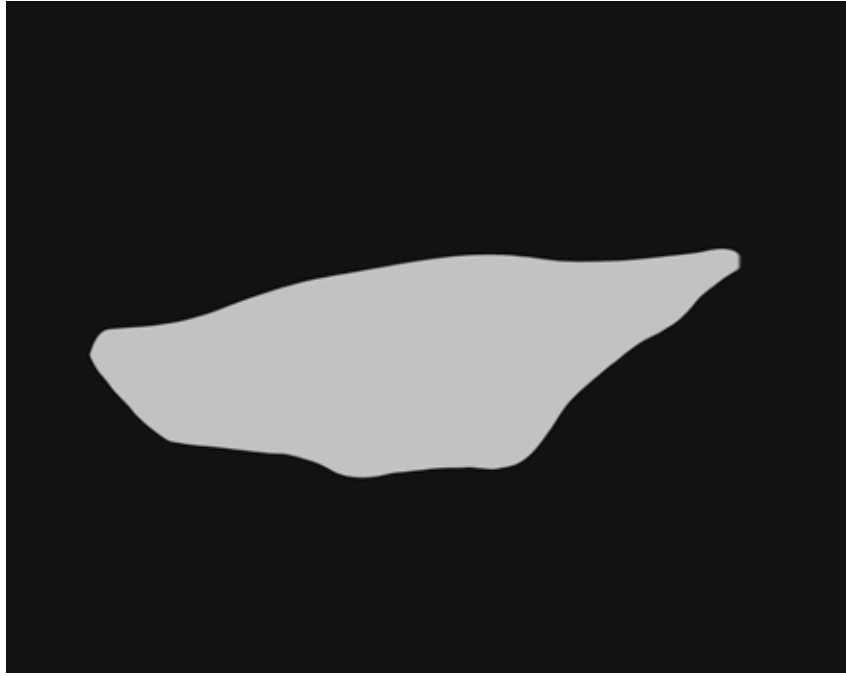
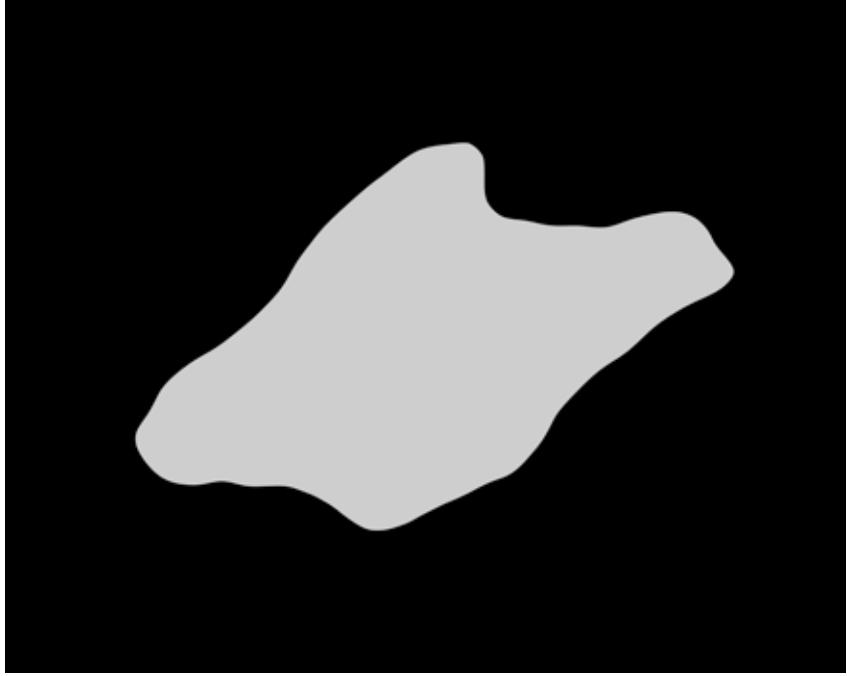
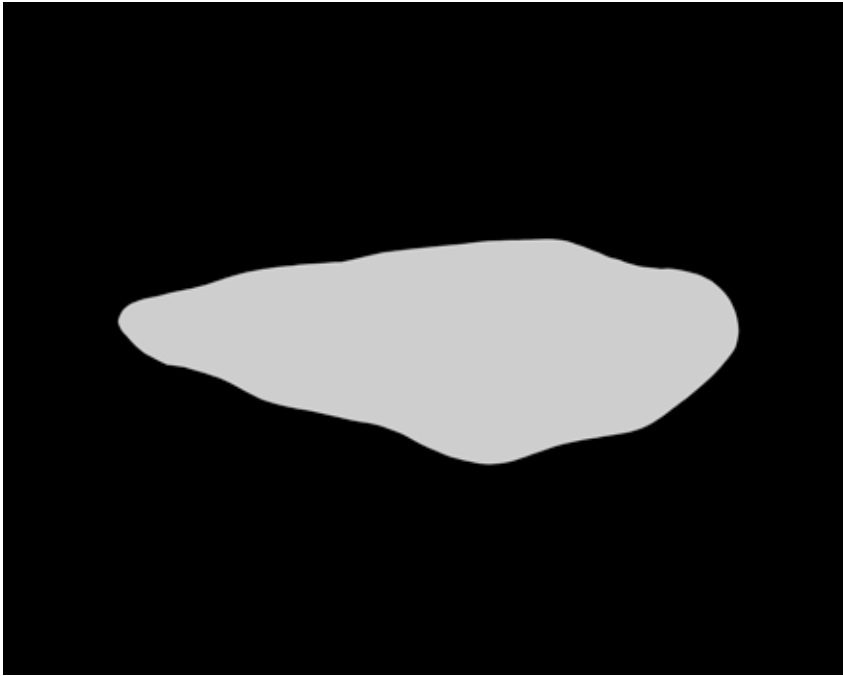
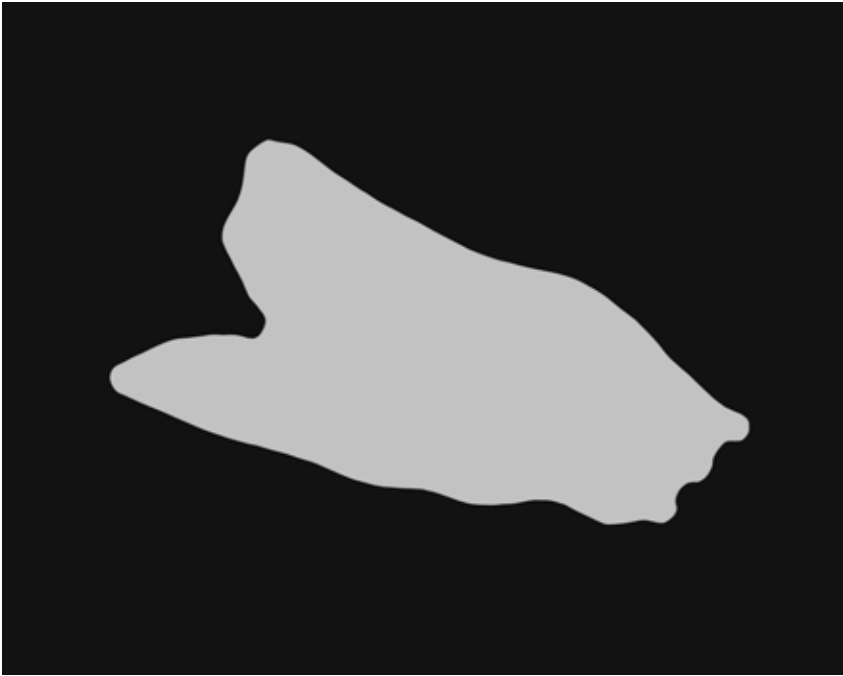
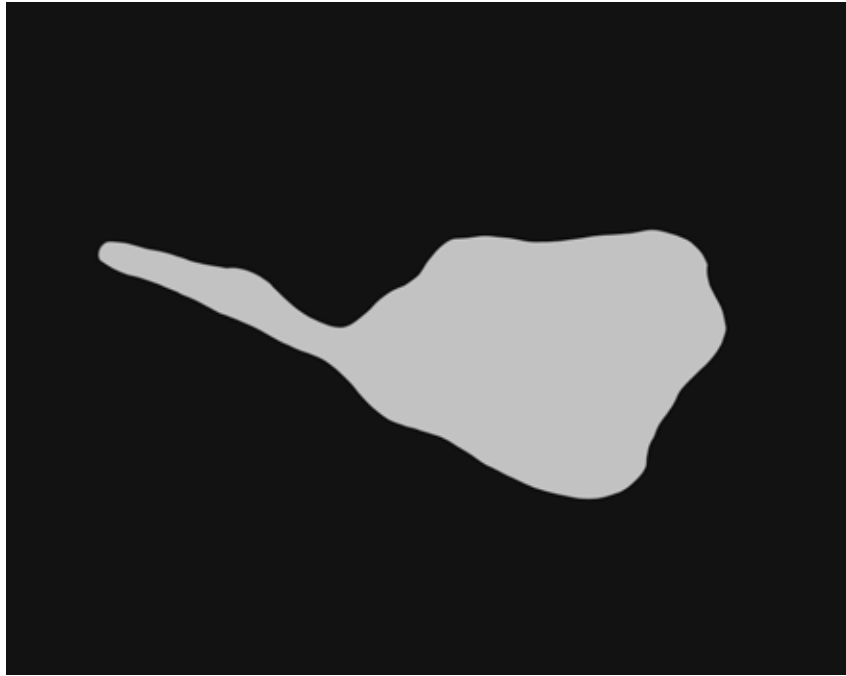
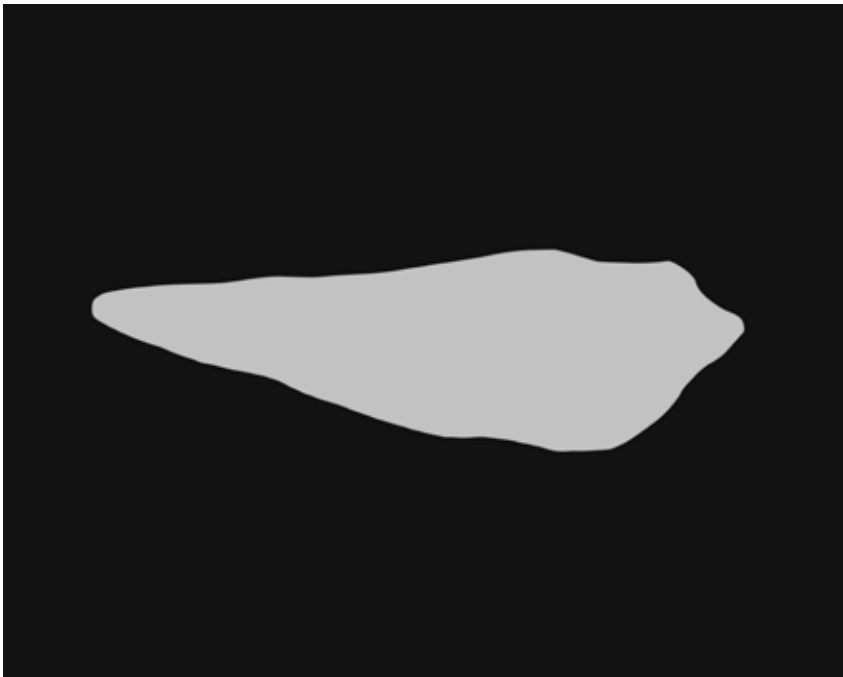
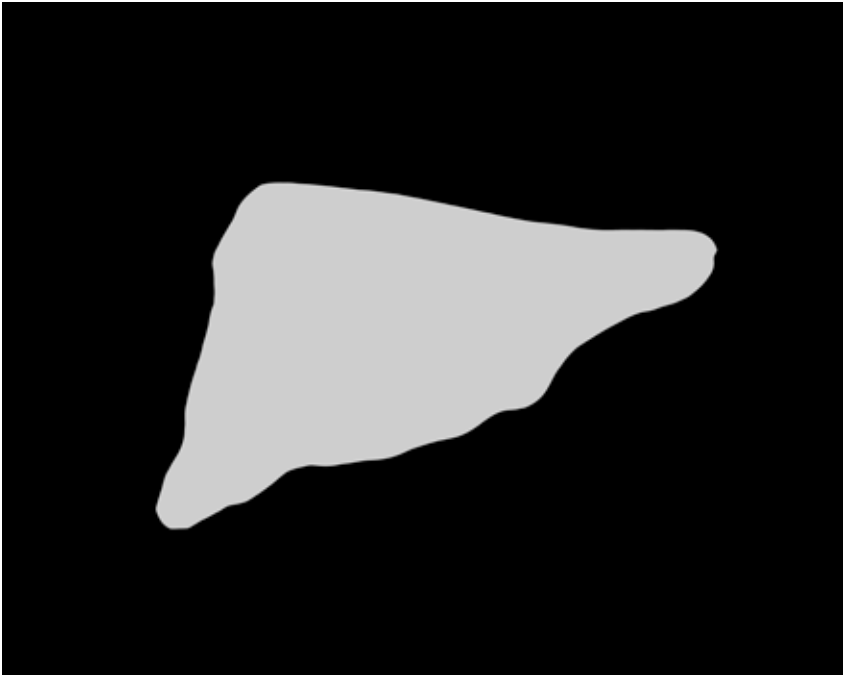
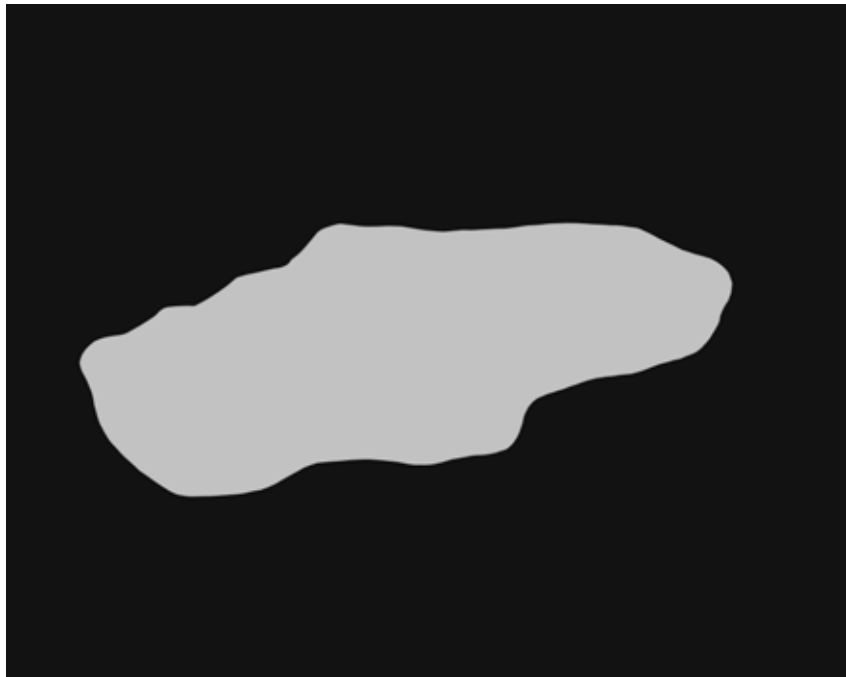


TOP VIEW OF THE CALDERONE



















Fabio Barile
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Graduating from FSM in Florence with a degree in photography in 2007. He started his photographic research in 2005 with a project about coastal erosion, which affects 1500 km of Italian costline. The resulting project, “Among” aimed to investigate natural processes of the landscape. Over the last few years Barile’s work has been driven by an interest in science in relation to art - both conceived as tools for a better understanding of reality. His long-term project, “An Investigation of the Laws Observable in the Composition, Dissolution and Restoration of Land,” examines the manner in which geomorphology acts upon the land, serving as testimony to the vastness of geological time. The work employs photography to stimulate a deeper understanding of the landscape and our connection with the natural environment.

“At first glance, Fabio Barile’s practice could be said to follow in the long tradition of Italian landscape photography which includes practitioners such as Luigi Ghirri, Guido Guidi. On closer inspection, however, the images in An Investigation hew to a tight conceptual framework that belie their simplicity, asking deeper questions about the nature of Time, and geologic time questions whose philosophical implications underpin scientific endeavor, human perception, and the unknowable forces of creative destruction at work in Nature”I. I.Naomi Itami

Selected exhibitions

2025
Water Chronicles,
Gallerie d’Italia, Turin
No Place like Home — Italian photography since the 1980s,
Kunsthalle Darmstadt, Germany
On the Edge of the Eyelid,
Nivola Museum, Orani (Nu)

2024
The Secret of the Deep Time,
Verwey Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands
Works for a Cosmic Feeling,
Witty Books, Turin

2023
Tre-di-ci ,Sguardi sui musei di Lombardia (Group exhibition)
Palazzo Reale, Milano, Italy

2022
Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella — Le Forme del Tempo
Terme di Diocleziano, Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome, Italy
Regeneration (Group exhibition)
American Academy in Rome, Italy
Di Roccia, fuochi e avventure sotterranee (Group exhibition)
MAXXI, L’Aquila, Italy

2021
Di Roccia, fuochi e avventure sotterranee (Group exhibition)
MAXXI, Rome, Italy
Works for a Cosmic Feeling
Matèria, Rome, Italy 2020
Group exhibition, On Earth - Imaging, technology and the natural world
FOAM Museum, Amsterdam.

2019
Group exhibition, On Earth - Imaging, technology and the natural world
50th edition of the Rencontres d’Arles, in collaboration with FOAM Museum.
Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella - The shape of time
Centro Arti visive Pescheria, Pesaro, Italy

2018
Osservare la terra — a dialogue between contemporary photography and the historical archive of ICCD about photography as a tool for observation
ICCD — Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione, Rome, curated by Benedetta Cestelli Guidi

2017
An Investigation of the laws observable in the composition, dissolution and restoration of land,
Matèria, Rome

2015
Homage to James Hutton
Matèria, Rome, Italy

Publications

Works for a Cosmic Feeling — Witty Books 2024
Di roccia fuochi e avventure sotterranee — Quodlibet/Ghella, 2020
Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella, The shape of time — Fondazione malaspina edition, 2019
Fabio Barile & Francesco Neri, Middle-Earth a journey inside Elica — Fondazione malaspina edition, 2014
Vision And Documents Box, — Documentary Platform, 2010
Diary N° o - Things that do not happen — 3/3, 2009