

Franco Salmoiraghi

b.1942 Herrin, Illinois, lives in Honolulu, Hawai'i
exhibited in *Biennial III*

left to right

*Traces in the Flow of Time 7. D 2005 8 July -
4:58:12 to 5:00:02 pm, 2005*

*Traces in the Flow of Time 10. D 2006 5 September
- 6:30:44 to 6:52:34 pm, 2010*

digital inkjet pigment prints

The series of photographs, *Traces In The Flow of Time*, began when I was caring for my elderly mother, Annie, from 2001 to 2005. During those years, I produced a series of photographs about her condition titled *Dementia & Transience*. It contained visual references to the sky which became metaphors for the state of grace with dementia that she was living in.

Being in her presence, I became more aware of the sensations of nothingness she experienced with her lapsed memory in each present moment. The sky was the perfect visual equivalent for her condition - with its vast emptiness and movement of light, wind, air, color, moisture, vapor, atmosphere and clouds - all very transient elements.

At first, I felt that the images from *Traces In The Flow of Time* documented this fleeting sense of transcendence similar to what I observed happening in my mother's life during that time.

It was only later, after periods of direct observation, that I saw the resulting images actually revealed something else; dimensions of form and time within the formless and timeless nature of sky, and the relationship to our presence in the phenomenal world here on earth. For me, this is the understanding that sometimes comes from working with focus on a project over long periods of time.