

**JOSHUA JALBERT**, originally from Rhode Island, has earned undergraduate degrees from Rockport College at The Maine Photographic Workshops, and The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University. As a graduate student in the MFA photography program at The University of Oregon, Joshua received a number of awards for his work including the Dean's Graduate Fellowship and the Allied Arts Northwest MFA Scholarship. Joshua has exhibited his work in a number of national juried exhibitions, taught two Creative Photography courses while a graduate student and currently holds an appointment as Instructor of Photography at Southern Oregon University.

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

### Notations from Nature

In the creation of this series of images, I have worked alongside natural phenomenon using the photographic medium as a device of transcription that allows nature to draw with its own hand. The sky, river, trees, and other elements of nature act as creative agents in collaboration with the photographic recording devices that I introduce. Through the techniques that I have employed, such as tying lights to the branches of a tree at night to trace the movements of wind, the camera serves as an intermediary, articulating a dimension of the world that lies beyond the surface of what is commonly visible.

The results of these processes are artifacts, traces, notations. In these indexical works, I engage with the element of chance in order to emphasize that the unpredictable possibilities of nature are inherently creative. The pieces describe nature as interactive, relational, and reveal that natural processes can be participatory in art-making.

The natural world possesses its own mysterious language, yet a study of nature ultimately leads back to a study of the self, and one's own perception of nature. Our interpretations yield only human meanings. Our language, like the photographic medium itself, both extends and limits what we can know of the world. Nature's symbols constitute a language of which the boundaries and total possibilities for significance we can never locate precisely or exhaust.