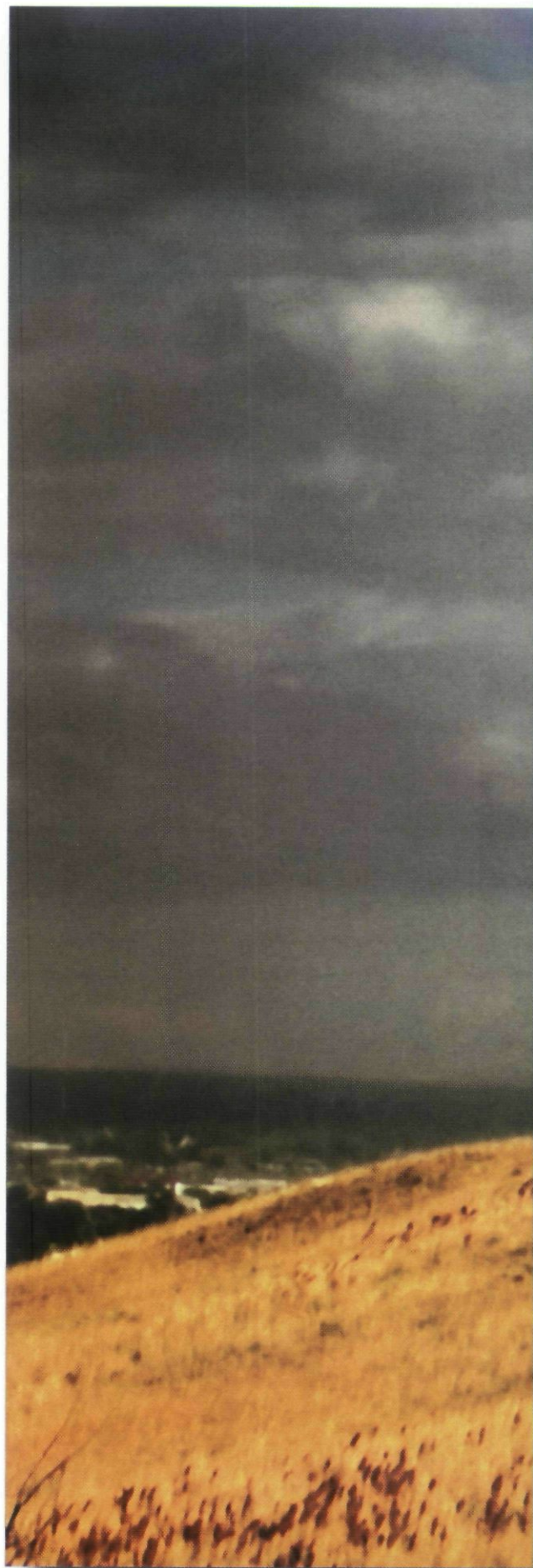


# 2005 PHOTO CONTEST

**H**ow do they do it? Year after year, the winners of our annual photo contest capture the ephemeral essence of the weather with breathtaking beauty. Each year, as the editors gather to view the entries, we are awed and astonished by the breadth of the subject matter, the ability to frame memorable weather events in such a dramatic manner, and the contestants' infallible knack for being in the right place at the right time—with camera poised.

From the enigmatic swirls of snow captured after a Massachusetts blizzard to a poetic vision of cracked mud, the 2005 contest winners continue the tradition of providing a new vision of the weather.







**GRAND PRIZE**

**Eric C. Kurth  
Rapid City, South Dakota**

This photo was taken following a fast moving thunderstorm at the National Weather Service office in Rapid City, South Dakota, on September 13, 2003.





**FIRST PRIZE**

**Brandi Roth**  
**Beverly Hills, California**

Desert mudcracks and palm tree reflections  
taken in La Quinta, California.



**SECOND PRIZE**

**Marcus Prazniak  
El Cerrito, California**

Lightning strike over Montezuma Valley, Nevada. This storm blew in around sunset, adding an eerie glow to the horizon and the soft, cool lightning.





**SECOND PRIZE**

**Alan Robock**  
**Manasquan, New Jersey**

Polar stratospheric clouds taken August 29, 2004,  
over McMurdo Station in Antarctica.



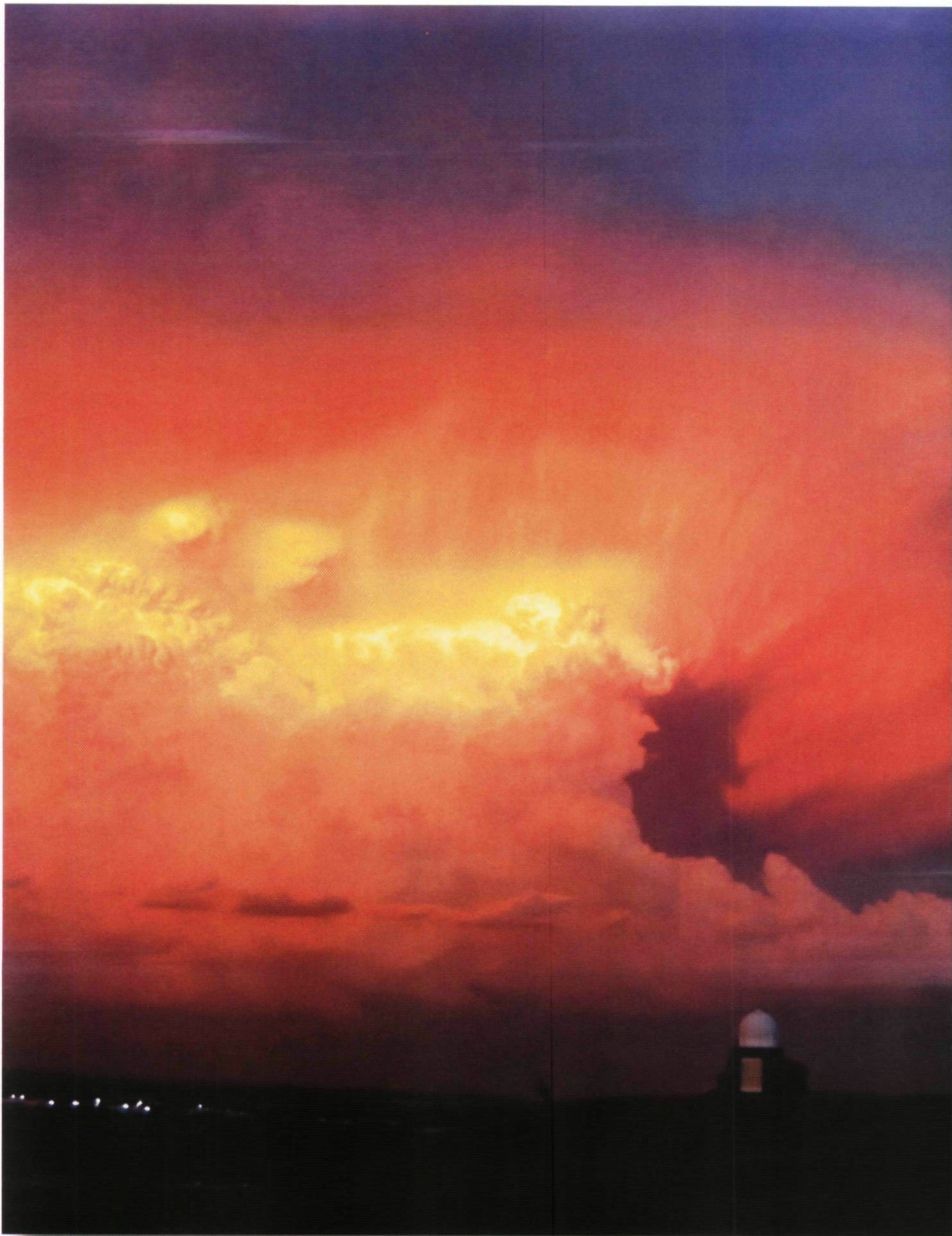
**THIRD PRIZE**

**Mishtu Mukherjee  
Cambridge, Massachusetts**

Snowdrift after the record-breaking blizzard of 2005 in Chatham, Massachusetts, January 2005. The storm's hurricane force winds left behind this symmetrically carved snowdrift next to the Atlantic.









**THIRD PRIZE**

**Eric C. Kurth  
Rapid City, South Dakota**

This supercell was captured on July 8, 2003, as it moved east from Rapid City, South Dakota.



**THIRD PRIZE**

**Richard Hamel  
Lincoln, Massachusetts**

This large tornado, with a greenish hail core, was on the ground for nearly 30 minutes, near Chappell, Nebraska, on June 6, 2004.





**HONORABLE  
MENTION**

**Gerald W. Shonkwiler**  
**San Diego, California**

Sunset sundog in Minot,  
North Dakota.

**HONORABLE  
MENTION**

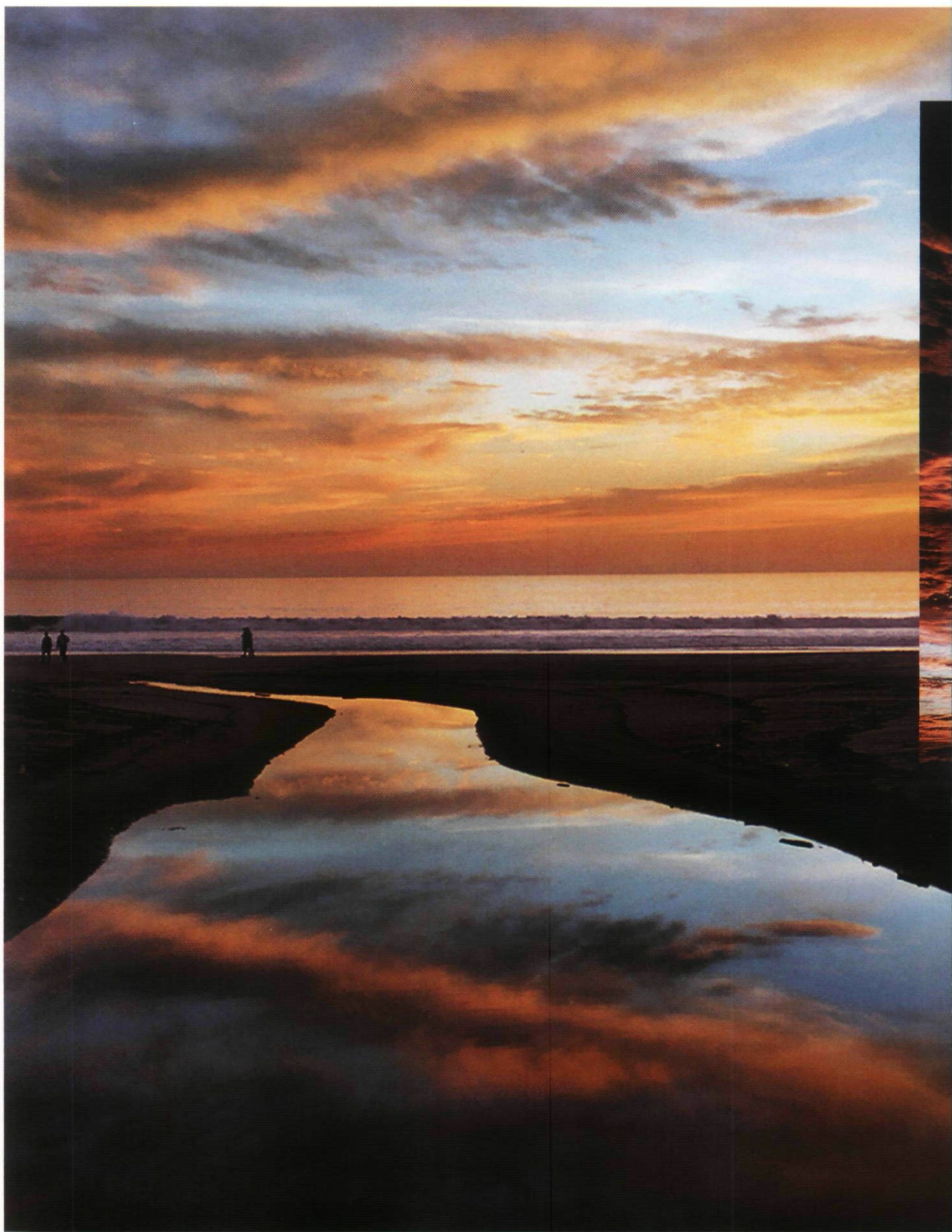
**Timothy J. Ryan**  
**Athens, Ohio**

Ring clouds, captured about 15  
miles northwest of Athens, Ohio.













**HONORABLE  
MENTION**

**Jeff E. Stanley  
Parma, Ohio**

Sunrise in Parma, Ohio.

**HONORABLE  
MENTION**

**Brandi Roth  
Beverly Hills,  
California**

Sunset after winter  
storm at Venice  
Beach, California.





**HONORABLE  
MENTION**

**Don Halpin  
Hopedale,  
Massachusetts**

Sunbeam on  
snow in Hopedale,  
Massachusetts

**HONORABLE  
MENTION**

**Rick Schmidt  
Topeka, Kansas**

Sunrise in Nebraska.







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