

## ENCOUNTER – *Nicrophorus Marginatus* (pt. 2)

In the movement from excursion toward encounter, my experience with the burying beetles gradually extended into the engagement and assembly seasons that later informed the *Tired* music video [see RC Exhibit → Conclusion/Appendices → Concluding Materials]. Encounter can be said to have begun with my noticing of the mouse and the beetles animating it, but it continued to unfold through the engagement season, as sustained attentiveness opened onto further, related encounters and far-reaching metonymical connections.

As unlikely as it may sound, this accumulation of overlapping coincidences came to suggest threads of continuity between the delicate local ecosystem and the creative acts of grief through which I had sought to maintain an ongoing relationship with my mother years earlier. The stones, encountered again through practice, appeared to hold these years densely layered within them—changing only in ways too subtle for me to notice, yet registering time through their quiet persistence.