

Artist Name: Ra

This piece, HET-SMAI (HET-sma-EE), was developed over a ten-year period. It is a depiction of an initiate of the science of SMAI ("union") observing his evening practice in an ancient temple courtyard. I have completed or partially completed the drawing four times before achieving this final result. Previous efforts have incorporated significantly more detail but in the end I found that less seemed better. The greatest obstacle to its completion was the sand — I spent years developing a technique that approximated what actual sand might look like in such a location (I don't learn effectively from art books, so developing more skill is a matter of trial and error). My objective in creating this piece is to suggest the existence of yoga practice during the time of the Ancient Egyptians.