

### Editor's Note

Welcome.

With this number of the New River we manage for the first time to bring a visual artist onto our digital pages. Leslye Bloom's work is not hypertext, of course. It's visual art created through experimentation with digital technology. It is included here because it provides another piece of the answer to the question posed in the first number of the New River: what kind of art will be made with hypertext and hypermedia? The distinction, in any case, between visual art and hypertext has always been a complex issue. Hypertext is not another manifestation of the linear narrative, with its roots in the oral traditions of storytelling. Hypertext is something different, more closely connected to the first scratchings on cave walls than to the first tales told around the fire. Art like Leslye Bloom's, arising out of the digital image, seems exactly appropriate, then, to the content of the New River.

Working with, among other soft- and hardware, Photoshop, GraphicConverter, Color IT!, Pagemaker, Kodak Picture Transfer Application, Photoenhancer for Kodak, Posterworks, a Kodak digital camera, a Power PC with a monster motherboard and graphics accelerator card, Zip and MO drives, a Nikon slide scanner, LA Cie color scanner, and a flat iron, Bloom creates unique final images of intriguing depth and complexity. In the stained-glass-window-like panel of Tranquility, for example, Bloom uses her various technologies to add sensuality and texture to what would otherwise be an interesting photo montage, making it something different, a digitized merging of painting and photography. I find much to admire in these pieces: the way, for example, under an umbrella of petals the crane looms above a solitary figure on the shoreline in Tranquility. Or the way Ms. Bloom's hand subtly disappears, in Me with Jamaica Apple, to be replaced by the silk screen of her hand rendered on the T-shirt she's wearing. Or the way the very air seems scratched and marred around the ominous black cenotaph in Salutamus. These are pieces that reward your attention.

Ed Falco

1999 (approximate)

<http://www.cddc.vt.edu/journals/newriver/4/coverpage.html> (inactive)

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Ed Falco is the author of a hypertext novel, *A Dream with Demons*, as well as a collection hypertext poetry, *Sea Island*, both from Eastgate Systems. His books of fiction include two collections of short stories: *Acid* (Notre Dame, 1996) and *Plato at Scratch Daniel's & Other Stories* (University of Arkansas Press, 1990). *Acid* won the Richard Sullivan Prize from the University of Notre Dame, and was a finalist for The Patterson Prize. He lives in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he teaches writing and literature at Virginia Tech, and edits *The New River*.

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