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## Subconscious

Sabrina Mendoza

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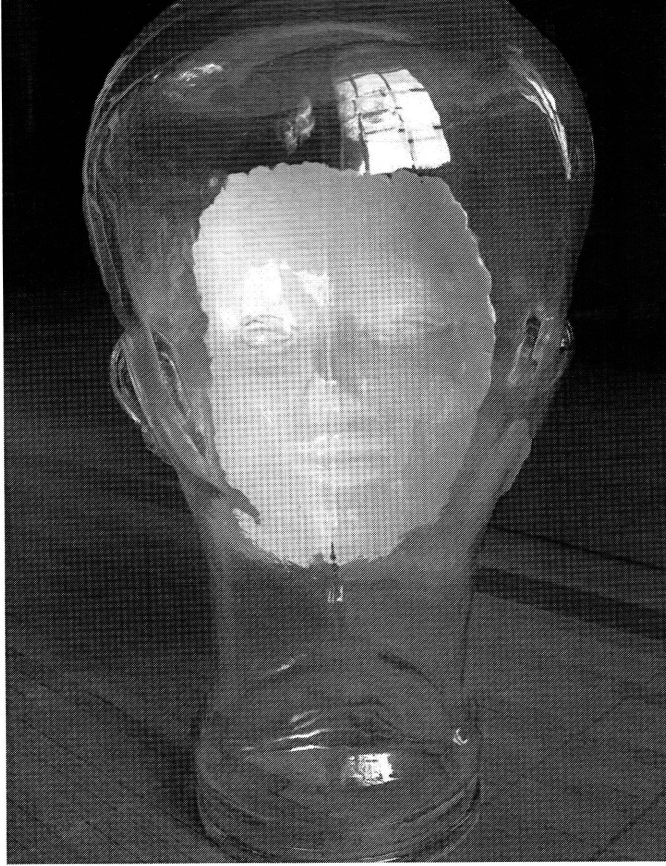
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**SUBCONSCIOUS** SABRINA MENDOZA

## Google Fiber Comes to Big Bend

EVAN HINTON

The steam drill gives a distant whisper  
in the ear of John Henry  
from several paces behind.  
Now, feeling  
the livelihood of his fellow men,  
heavy in his hands,  
John Henry lays his hammer down,  
lets his head fall.  
A gunny sack holds the weight of his world.  
Now, awoken  
Death's rattle gives way  
to a purring in his ear,  
56 kilobaud per second.

He lays his tracks  
firm in the ground,  
only to find  
the will of curiosity  
supplanted.  
The new machine,  
this silicon drill,  
cannot taste  
dirt, sweat, blood,  
effort.

Kasparov blinks,  
perspires,  
his hands slip,  
only because

he had hoped  
to grasp with them,  
Deep Blue will never know  
a hammer's weight  
in a clenched fist,  
the heft of ambition,  
the might of wonder,  
the impact of failure.  
We are outmoded,  
devices  
of blood and synapses,  
only if,  
having known these things,  
we forget.