Robert Edgar **March 11, 1993**
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Living Cinema Presentation
Portrait of the Artist on the Net (Libretto)

My Father lives on an island I know.
Sometimes missiles escape form his back yard.

He taught me how to catch mullet with a cast net.
My friends and I thought that mullet were stupid
Because we could net them.

"You mullet!"

We thought we were smart,
But the net did the work.

Net work.
Nylon net work.
Nylon fiber net work.
Nylon fiber knot work.
Fiber knot work.
Fiber net work.

Now a portrait of the artist on the net
Is not a portrait of the artist.
It is a portrait of the net.

Where the artist appears
You can see the net.
The artist is an illuminating fountain.
And what he illuminates
Is the medium.
The granularity of meaning
Is the syntax of the medium.

This is why Michelangelo's chips
Spoke of emergence and freedom
This is why Eisenstein's splices
Spoke of war.

When the artist
Is caught in the net the artist
Becomes an angel
A net "knot"
Cast of the net (sound of castanets)
The artist illuminates,
The artist illuminates,
And is consumed.