

## Shift

Ringling College of Art & Design  
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### *Made in April*

#### **Peter E. Murphy**

Where do your thoughts go, your feelings go,  
your ego go, the things that make you, you, go,

when the world becomes the absence of you,  
the flip-flop of you, the very, very no of you,

as the box of you clunks into a slot dug in the earth?  
Or worse! When the molecules of you disperse

in flames that rise into the air no longer inside you?  
What happens when the words of you blur backwards

as if pressed into a parchment of you? How soon will be  
forgotten the glory of you? The story of you?

Does your consciousness flow into some great sea?  
Into a sewer of memory? Or does it just...go?

**Peter E. Murphy** was born in Wales and grew up in New York City, where he managed a nightclub, operated heavy equipment, and drove a taxi. He's the author of 11 books and chapbooks of poetry and prose, and his work has appeared in *The Common*, *Guernica*, *Hippocampus*, *The New Welsh Reader*, *Rattle*, *The Sun*, and elsewhere. He is the founder of Murphy Writing of Stockton University in Atlantic City. [www.peteremurphy.com](http://www.peteremurphy.com)