

**Nicole Biringer** (b. 1985)  
Coronado High School

*Lasting Scars*, 2003  
silver prints  
16 x 20 inches each

Psychological abuse will never leave  
apparent scars, but its cruelty does  
It leaves blemishes not visible  
I can't say I was beaten and bruised  
The words he used were just as brutal  
I charred and perished in the fire  
From his scalding words  
I was reduced to ashes in his hate  
His grimy nails embedded there  
Evil marks into my soul  
He can try to clip my wings  
But I will still soar once more

