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## David McCooley: Newton

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### David McCooley

David McCooley is a poet, critic and academic. His first book of poems, *Blister Pack*, was published by Salt in 2005 and won the Mary Gilmore Award (for a first book of poetry) in 2006. It was also short-listed for four other major Australian literary awards. David is also the author of a prize-winning critical work, *Artful Histories: Modern Australian Autobiography* (CUP), and is a senior lecturer at Deakin University (in Victoria). A number of his 'audio poems' (poetry with original music) can be found on the Salt web site.

### Newton

*'He who sees the Ratio only sees himself only'*

Skeins of light ribbon through the sea,  
threading downwards by tidal fathoms  
until their remnants reach the floor  
and offer pale illumination

to the isolate Sir Isaac  
Newton, bent double in his world  
of materiality, tracing  
with compasses, oblivious

to the delicate ornamature  
of the life forms upon the rock  
on which he sits, naked, having been  
imprisoned here by William Blake.