

I burned to paint it, just like that, in its
puzzle of glory; it came upon me that I
must go to Nature disarmed of
perspective and stretch myself like a
large transparent canvas upon her in the
hope that, my submission being perfect,
the imprint of a beautiful and useful
truth would be taken.

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Cover: Before the flood: On a quiet reach of the Colorado River, downstream from Glen Canyon Dam, researchers set up a system to monitor the depth of the river during a prescribed flood carried out in March and April, 1996 to determine the effects of flooding on the river and its biota. This unprecedented experiment, the river restorationist's equivalent of the prairie restorationist's prescribed fire, was designed to determine the value of periodic artificial flooding as a means of restoring processes and biota on the downstream reach of the river, which has been protected from natural hydrological cycles since the dam was completed in 1963. A report on the project begins on page 119. *Photo by Sherry L. Jacobs*