

up, one gets the impression of a final piece, the cup. Probably the full range of wineglass shapes, from champagne flute to red-wine goblet, is to be found in the western canyons. The Black Mountains on the east side of Death Valley, California, include a number of such valleys, among them Gower Gulch, Tank Canyon, and the canyons between Badwater and Mormon Point. TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

### **hueco**

A hueco is a depression eroded into a rock that will often stand water long after everything else has gone dry. It's a naturally occurring stone tank, essentially, usually elevated simply because that's where the exposed stone is. In the Old West of westerns, huecos saved countless parched cowboys and allowed whole bands of Indians to keep to trails that, due to an apparent lack of water, seemed otherwise impossible. Temporary (reliant on rain) and often purposely poisoned with a dead animal, however, huecos marked the end for perhaps just as many. The term itself translates from the Spanish to "hollow" or "cavity," and seems to carry with it the idea that a hueco is recessed, hidden, nearly inaccessible—behind something else. Which, for it to stand water for any length of time, is necessary: with no shade, the water would quickly evaporate. Another spelling of hueco is waco, as in the Waco (Wichita) Indians of the Brazos and Guadalupe Rivers of Texas, rivers that, in many places, have wide stone beds pocked with little hollow bowls, seemingly made to hold handfuls of water. Waco, Texas, is of course named after these Waco Indians; Hueco Springs, Texas, and Hueco Tanks State Historic Site, also in Texas, come by their names more directly. STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES

### **huérfano**

*Huérfano* is Spanish for orphan. In this case a perfect description of the landform—a solitary spire or hill left standing by erosion apart from kindred landscape features. Also called a "circumscribed eminence," a lost mountain, or an island hill, it is a kind of existentialist monument, an island in the sky: no man is an island, but a huérfano is. You could make the argument that Devils Tower in Wyoming is the mother of all huérfanos. Alternately, a huérfano can be a hill or mountain of old rock completely surrounded, but not covered, by younger rock. A disk-shaped huérfano is known as a tejón. A huérfano is also known as a lost mountain and an island hill. In 1842, John C. Frémont, a second lieutenant of the newly formed Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, was greatly

*We landed in the hueco—that's what I called it—of the old double bed. It was the side anybody would have naturally slept on. I slept there because it was unavoidable. I'd tried to avoid it when I first moved in. You know, because of Mrs. Hargraves's mother, and her grandmother. At first I imagined that this mattress indentation was where their dead bodies were found. At the deepest basin of the hollow it was inches lower than the rest of the old mattress.*

DAGOBERTO GILB,  
*Woodcuts of Women*