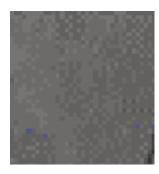# Prefatory Note

As the director of the Electronic Visualization Lab at the University of Illinois at Chicago (EVL), I wish to express my support for the Virtual Harlem project. From the inception of EVL, Dan Sandin and I have encouraged collaboration among various departments. In fact, EVL began as a collaborative effort bringing together Fine Arts through Dan's involvement and Computer Science through my involvement in research issues concerning visualization. The contributors to this issue of Works and Days work in a variety of disciplines, not only in Computer Science and Fine arts, but also in Communication, African American Studies, English literature, Creative Writing, and Education. The Virtual Harlem Project is an excellent example of a cross-disciplinary research network. Moreover, it is devoted to visualizing, as a virtual reality model, an important segment of American history in an effort to deepen our understanding of our cultural heritage.

I hope that the efforts of the contributors to the Virtual Harlem project will provide a model for future collaborations bringing the arts and sciences together in a mutual effort of understanding.

Tom Defanti
Director

Electronic Visualization Laboratory, Computer Science Department, University of Illinois at Chicago.