MICHAEL JOEL ROSEN

Figurescape, Vermont

The fog descends as we descend; the mountain tips breathing like your dark head above the blanket cuff. Driving further down, we sink beneath the fog. Light as sheets, the sky settles lower than the streetlamps and hovers, as dreams must to our bedposts. Mountains veil behind coats of white the way definition blears into light sleep. In the frame of the mirror I watch the fog lift and the day lift, taut and primed as a canvas from the horizon. A red wash floods the shadows. The sun, a blob of cadmium waits in the left corner. In the backseat, asleep beneath khaki blankets, your shoulders, head and knees mime the landscape. Even your breathing condenses on the pane like fog. Through rain in New York and sunbleached fields in Pennsylvania, your body preserves the light of Vermont mountains; the single painting in a long hall; the dream, as we cross the grape fields into Ohio, where you wake and it grows dark.