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Reflection on a Starry Night

Lawrence Schug

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, lschug@csbsju.edu

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Reflection on a Starry Night

Driving south on U.S. 285
between Antonito and Tres Piedras,
Van Gogh's eyes reflect the night
in my rear-view mirror.
Vincent's in the back seat
leaning his one ear against the window;
he appears to be ill, dizzy
from watching the universe spin.
I ask if I should drive him to a clinic—
Taos isn't far out of our way.
No. No, he says,
afraid I might become hypnotized
by what I see in his eyes,
Just watch for elk
crossing the goddamn highway.

-Larry Schug
Avon, Minnesota