

**JONA COLSON**

**Las Meninas V (Nicolás Pertusato)**

The princess wants him, not Maribarbola,  
in the room when she sleeps. She wants  
to hear him laugh when the tame dog  
licks his face like a soup spoon. She wants  
to drift to sleep, pressing a knee or an elbow  
into his back and sculpt her world, forgetting  
her father's silence, the strict lessons, the pinch  
on her left arm—bruising violet before she wakes.