

JESSICA JACOBS

The Shelton with Sunspots

—*Georgia O'Keeffe, with Alfred Stieglitz (New York, NY, 1926)*

You, with your camera, are a boy with a Ball jar,
out trapping fireflies. My secret, though,

is there is no corner I cannot paint
my way out of. You want me as pupil?

Fine, I'm all aperture. All film stock—silver
salted and emulsified. But I won't stop

with just you—I take it all in.
Morning, with its halved-appled light,

exposes in me invisible images,
gray web of water towers,

wind-riffled river—painting calls them out.
Shows how even by day

this is a lunar city. An island of indirect
illumination. I stand to the east and fit

my eye to the grid—New York,
the country's kaleidoscope:

lit/unlit windows,
lumen-tiled towers. Here is where

we live—this gun barrel,
this crested butte, this jack-in-its-pulpit

of smog-hooded sky. And there, in that glare,
our window.