POETRY

JOHN ALLISON

About to Take the Plunge

Afterwards she seemed to linger, asking questions you had answered earlier. So you put on

Tristan und Isolde, an old disc, the *Liebestod* with scratches. You wanted that heroic pose

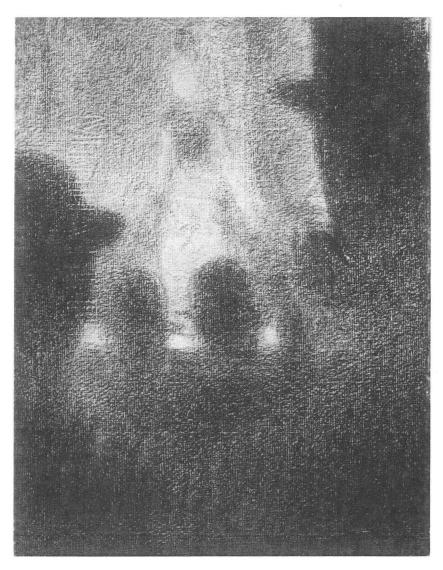
but you've tried out all the myths

before the mirror and they do not fit

It was the painting: Woman by a Forest Pool. For this she came. Afterwards you stood

before the easel, thinking it was you. But as she turned at last to leave your studio,

she simply had to reach out. To touch the paint, feel her fingers slip into deep waters



Georges Seurat, *Café Concert*, c. 1887. Courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art.