

Sonnet Scroll

The City, Derelict

By M. Brooke Wiese

*The largest store of gold in the world is in the underground vaults
of the New York Federal Reserve Bank.*

At Louise Nevelson Plaza where Maiden Lane
meets William Street, in the long black shadow
of the towering flat black monochromatic
silhouettes, stark against the wan

December sky, here, where the few afflict
the many and the monied mingle with the haven't any,
here, where there's sun but it's never sunny
on the cobbled streets of the city derelict,

a pile of carefully folded blankets rests against
the sculpture's broad base, tucked there for cover
with the tenderness of a mother or a new lover –
the trappings of a life condensed.

Across the street the Federal Reserve Bank
looks down – stone-faced, stolid, blank.