

Sachiko Yoshihara · *Japan*

THE STREET

The sunshine is good
At the scramble crosswalk
Casting a heavy shadow on everyone's feet
The sun shines too on sorrow
The pigeons on the rooftops have no fear of people
The merry-go-round is good
The ice cream is good
Children elderly couples are beautiful
And so the sun shines too on sorrow

WOMAN

White darkness
Closes the woman
Tracing an unseen corpse in the air
The woman became pure white
There transparent black exists
White is an opaque color
The color of darkness
From the other side of fog
Wind is blowing
A woman is standing motionless in the wind

Footsteps the shape of tabi soles
Are spreading on the ground one by one
While stepping on them
A woman escaped to the future
Though the footsteps continued into space
The past caught up with them
A woman wrapping the tabi soles
In a purple cloth
Comes back to the present
With closed eyes

Oh, you too
When the time comes
You vomit a thin silk thread
Entering a dimlit bedroom?
Shrivelling like a crysalis?
Unhatched moth!

November 29th
Night of a lunar eclipse
There's a nipping wind in Ginza
I had a drink with Mary Magdalene
Who was held by countless men
And then kneeled by Christ
Now like a little girl
She strokes a thin glass of gin fizz with both hands
Is it a man's foot being caressed
Or Christ's?

translated by John Solt