

野口あや子 Noguchi Ayako
Translations by Jordan A. Y. Smith

くせのある毛髪にワックス伸ばし あなたはみんなあかのたにんだ
Smoothing wax through kinky hair
You are all perfect strangers

うなじから裂けばゆっくりあふれ出る都ありけり、戦場である
Split from the nape, slowly overflowing,
Spilling a glorious capital city into the battlefield

なんてきれい ^{はちす}蓮 半身を横たえるときは髪からたわみはじめて
With such a lovely
Lotus flower in mind
I halfway recline,
Long hair draping toward my bed
Until it gently bows round

東洋のようなほのかな灯をかかげわたしをそこへ呼べば行こうが
Holding aloft
A dim lantern glimmering
Like the East itself,
You need only beckon and
Perhaps I'd come to you

すいれんが水に腐って匂うのを 蒸し暑い午後のそこへ だけれど
The water lilies
In the water
Have rotted, their smell
Draws to itself
A muggy afternoon—yet...

奔馬のよるの・水道のさびしきうねり・水の奥には過去があること
Night of runaway horse・
His lonely undulations
Flow from the faucet・
In those watery depths,
Lies the past