

## **Oriental**

You are beautiful, the model says,  
Her silk sleeves falling into your hair  
As she lifts your chin up delicately.

See, you have that traditional look  
To you—  
Thin eyes, angular nose,  
Elongated face

She steps back to admire you,  
The air thickening with sage  
Yes, this is what the Americans like:

Oriental, another word for  
Eastern, another word for  
Exotic, another word for  
Outsider, yet beautiful.

They are the center, we are the strangers.  
They are the buyers, we are the products.

You say nothing as the model walks away.  
You smile nervously.  
It's a compliment, after all.

*You are beautiful.*