

1995

## Sub-stance (Photograph)

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**Shiho**

She paints the night in a scripture of stars,  
cloaked in the folds of a black velvet dress.  
I stir the idiot winds from afar  
as I steal, wine-sure, one furtive caress.  
Mount Fuji scars the eastern horizon  
and scatters the sunset red in the sky,  
changeless through time and delightfully vain-  
the girl and the mountain, deaf to the cries  
that carry the lovers in dharma's cup.  
With springtime beckoning, I reminisce:  
have I transcended or only climbed up?  
Words can't relate to a starry canvas.  
    And then I saw the Shiho's paper-thin fan;  
    She holds Fuji in the palm of her hand.

-Jeff Boon '95

