

Fashions in China

At the silk factory in Suzhou

young women in grey smocks

muse over French fashion books

dreaming up patterns

Across a passage way

pigskin and fish dry in rows

weaving wave shadows on the factory roof

A young man in blue over and over

pushes and pulls back red dye

with the silk-screen print roller

Down an alley

row on row of red canna lillies

decorate the factory steps

The drying machine spills out silk

looping and billowing

in white canvas bins

In the loom of a broken window

a spider spins out filaments

threading afternoon sun

Dreaming up patterns