

Wu Xia (b. 1981, Neijiang, Sichuan) began working in Shenzhen at the age of fourteen. She now works in a clothing factory. Her book of essays is called *Shenzhen Chronicles*.

## Sundress

The packing area is flooded with light  
the iron I'm holding  
collects all the warmth of my hands

I want to press the straps flat  
so they won't dig into your shoulders when you wear it  
and then press up from the waist  
a lovely waist  
where someone can lay a fine hand  
and on the tree-shaded lane  
caress a quiet kind of love  
last I'll smooth the dress out  
to iron the pleats to equal widths  
so you can sit by a lake or on a grassy lawn  
and wait for a breeze  
like a flower

Soon when I get off work  
I'll wash my sweaty uniform  
and the sundress will be packed and shipped  
to a fashionable store  
it will wait just for you  
unknown girl  
I love you