

### 13. THE PROPERTIES OF SILK - *Susan Utting*

Silk will slip like a dream through an o, through  
the mouth of a wedding ring taken for gold,  
or over and over will fold up its acre of self  
to a packet of flight to be tested for strength  
by the weight of a man, well-built and ready;

one who believes in its billow, its crinoline belly,  
in drift and drag, safe-landing dreamtime.  
A man who knows nothing of bushes and trees  
still growing in cities, of spinners and weavers,  
looms and cocoons, of traders or dressmakers.

Who won't wear it raw or shot to a shimmer,  
slub-weave or watered; but will rescue  
its silent-night fall, gather its acre of cloud  
to a packet of love for a slip of girl, for a bride.