Admonitions of the Boudoir

Anne Waldman

keep away from sharp words
don’t go near a beautiful woman
barbed semantics such as “missile” “debts” “ownership”
“depression” “cleansed” “torrential flood”
  wound your logopoeia

woman’s beauty up close—gold tooth
  wrinkled brow
  quixotic smile
  a wit to vie with?
upsets desire

cancel assignations of a perigee moon!

dangers of the highway are not about distance either
  or speed limits whatever vehicle you drive

danger of passion is not in loving too often
one hour with you, scarred for life

—after Meng Chiao (751-814 B.C.E.)