

THE  
**CONTINENTAL**  
LITERARY MAGAZINE

**YOUNG &  
BEAUTIFUL**

POETRY

# The Beauty of a Woman

AUTHOR /jɔnɔ bodnɑːrovaː/

Jana

**BODNÁROVÁ**

(1950, SLOVAKIA)

Jana Bodnárová is a Slovak writer, poet, dramatist. Her debut *Aféra rozumu* (An Affair of Reason) received the Ivan Krasko Award. Her children's book, *Dita*, won the Library Award for best book by a woman author and the novel *Náhrdelník/Obojok* (Necklace/Collar) won the Literary Academy Award. The theater play *Kurz orientálneho tanca* (Course of Oriental Dance) took first prize in the competition DRAMA. Excerpts from her writing have been translated into many European languages, as well as, Arabic, Hindi, and Persian.

TRANSLATOR /dʒɔnɔptn greːtʃi/

Jonathan

**GRESTY**

(1965, UNITED KINGDOM)

Jonathan Gresty is originally from Cheshire in the UK and graduated from Durham University in 1987. He has lived in Slovakia for nearly thirty years and currently teaches at Prešov University as well as translates from Slovak into English. In 2021 his translation of Jana Bodnárová's novel *Náhrdelník/Obojok* (Necklace/Choker) was published by Seagull Publishers. In the same year the Slovak version of his own novel *Cudzincov kabát* (A Stranger's Coat) was published by IKAR.

## The Beauty of a Mannequin

why are you lonely  
when you are such a beautiful  
mannequin?  
why aren't you cheerful,  
you living statue on the catwalk?

- a transparent body
- the effect of rhythmic walking
- postures

don't slip on the catwalk  
blinded by the lights!

are you a cold puppet  
when they rape you in hotel rooms...?  
a flow of cities: Kyiv Berlin London Tokyo...  
a stream of borrowed rooms with the smell of powder

you are numb  
a rainbow fish  
translucent...  
do you not tell the truth to avoid pain?

you're indifferent to everything outside  
and the essential is as hidden  
as drugs injected  
between the toes.

is your *rock bottom*  
on the seabed  
which no-one can reach?