The Prairie Light Review

Volume 32 Number 2 Article 16

1-1-2011

Oriental Poppy

Bakul Banerjee College of DuPage

Follow this and additional works at: http://dc.cod.edu/plr

Recommended Citation

Banerjee, Bakul (2011) "Oriental Poppy," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 32: No. 2, Article 16. Available at: http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol32/iss2/16

 $This \ Selection \ is \ brought \ to \ you \ for \ free \ and \ open \ access \ by \ the \ College \ Publications \ at \ Digital Commons @C.O.D.. \ It \ has \ been \ accepted \ for \ inclusion \ in \ The \ Prairie \ Light \ Review \ by \ an \ authorized \ administrator \ of \ Digital Commons @C.O.D.. \ For \ more \ information, \ please \ contact \ koteles @cod.edu.$

Banerjee: Oriental Poppy

Oriental Poppy

Bakul Banerjee

In my garden, oriental poppies pirouette in the morning breeze, dominate shy spring flowers, with blazing blood-red color, over the blur of purple hues.

New blooms with tight structures boast serrated upright petals. Ephemeral they are, waiting for their demise within a week. The death will come sooner if it rains or the wind blows hard.

Dew drops from last night pool around the pistil of the color of dried blood. I spy inside. The ink of the pistil mixes with water, as I shake the stem. It discolors the black symmetric marks on the petals, sullying the swollen ovary.

The flower readies for repose, opening petals flat, letting the sun warm its womb before the fall to earth, leaving behind the round seedpod with an elegant crown of many folds. Scored by the feet of a finch, a gummy resin oozes from the pod.