

Susan Vega, New York is a woman

New York City spread herself before you
with her bangles and her spangles and her stars
you were impressed with the city so undressed
you had to go out cruising all the bars
your business trip extended through the weekend
suburban boy here for you first time
from the 27th floor above the midtown roar
you were dazzled by her beauty and her crime
and she's every girl you've seen in every movie
every dame you've ever known on late-night TV
in her stem and steel is the passion you feel
endlessly

New York is a woman she'll make you cry
and to her you're just another guy
look down and see her ruined places
smoke and ash still rising to the sky
she's happy that you're here but when you disappear
she won't know that you're gone to say goodbye
and she's every girl you've seen in every movie
every dame you've ever known on late-night TV
in her stem and steel is the passion you feel
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