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FACE PAINT
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FACE PAINT

I've always toyed around with my looks.

- English actress Janet McTeer.

I don't look in the mirror much these days
(not much to look at anyway)
without checking
if my makeup has been streaked
by fingers of sun.

Have I aged?

I can't see beyond these things
that ready a face -
furrows into brows,
dimples out of cheeks,
smiles from lipstick.

Have I changed?

I've given so many years
over to powder and cream
I've lost faith in the simplicity of skin,
Expression in eyes
Neither shadowed nor lined.

Have I been changed?

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I don't remember how deep
the foundation sinks,
or who I will be
should it crack up
when I laugh in my sleep.

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