

DAPHNE MARLATT

STILL

turmeric & coconut cooking aromas turn on this rusty
tap of the past drip odd clear drops Amah slap-slapping
from room to room no Cantonese “black and white” in
black pants & white *samfu* but batik sarong & shirt
long Thai hair pulled into black & grey bun Amah
scaring us out of her domain kitchen cleaver raised
telling us all of her children died Amah loving us like
one of her own quietly contravening Mem’s discipline
Amah teaching Kuan Im compassion through the smile
in her voice Amah laughing uproarious Amah’s time-off
smoking a beedi