



# **Kissing the Mask: Beauty, Understatement and Femininity in Japanese Noh Theater, with Some Thoughts on Muses (Especially Helga Testorf), Transgender Women, ... Geishas, Valkyries and Venus Figurines**

*William T. Vollmann*

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William T. Vollmann, the National Book Award–winning author of *Europe Central*, offers a charming, evocative, and piercing examination of the ancient Japanese tradition of Noh theatre and the keys it holds to our modern understanding of beauty. *Kissing the Mask* is the first major book on Noh by an American writer since the 1916 publication the classic study *Pisan Cantos and the Noh* by Ezra Pound. But *Kissing the Mask* is pure Vollman—illustrated with photos by the author with provocative related side-discussions on femininity, transgender, kabuki, pornography, geishas, and more.

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