THE LESSONS OF MAPPLETHORPE

BY LYZ LENZ
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It might be ill-advised to reduce an artist’s life and work to a single observation, the magic key that unlocks everything, but in the case of Robert Mapplethorpe there is a pronounced duality—in the themes and subjects depicted in his “icy”, graphically stylized black-and-white photographs; in the dark-angel personae he cultivated; and in the controversies all of these facets wittingly or unwittingly sparked during his short lifetime.

Kevin Moore on the life and lessons of Robert Mapplethorpe.

Lyz is a blogger and Assistant Books Editor at The Rumpus. Lyz's writing has been published in the New York Times Motherlode, Jezebel, Aeon, Pacific Standard and others. She has her MFA from Lesley and skulks about on Twitter @lyzl. More from this author →