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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](#) →
