

# The Cabinet Of Kuniyoshi Kaneko

Momus

Leopards prowl the studios of the Duc de Berry's great chateau  
Where Cocteau's beast rehearses Beauty's rape  
Lewis Carroll marks his diary with a small white stone  
As Kuniyoshi Kaneko prepares to paint

Listen to the shells my darling, what you hear is not the sea  
But whispering, malicious human hearts  
Adults who don't wish to know the Duc de Berry's great chateau  
And hate the world of childhood and of art

We who paint or photograph to stop your dying in its path  
And fix you in the permanence of spring  
Can't stop the prattlers prattling  
The rattlesnakes who, rattling, see ugliness in every living thing  
See ugliness in every living thing

The calculated insolence of little girls in sailor suits  
Whose faces seem to say more than they know  
Appetites and ornaments for the libertine in all of us  
From the cabinet of Kuniyoshi Kaneko

Follow to the studio where Alice Liddell plays the roles  
Of tousle-headed naked gypsy girls  
The Reverend Charles L. Dodgson from the darkness of his camera  
Preserves her for himself and for the world

Children torn by cruel desires, the handiwork of murderers  
Who hack their little bodies to the bone  
Somehow live to tell the tale, astonishingly fit and well  
They couple in the fabulous chateau

We who paint or photograph to stop your dying in its path  
And fix you in the permanence of spring  
Can't stop the prattlers prattling  
The rattlesnakes who, rattling, see ugliness in every living thing  
In every lovely living thing

A looking glass is not a world  
A painted girl is not a girl  
In games there can be no forbidden things  
In life remain considerate, in art the Devil's advocate  
Why deny that Pegasus has wings  
In life remain considerate, in art the Devil incarnate  
Why deny the siren when it sings?  
In games there must be no forbidden things

So watch the wall my darling while the gentlemen go by  
And mark your diary with a small white stone  
Little hearts of marzipan and lacquer work from old Japan  
In the cabinet of Kuniyoshi Kaneko