

Behind the Mask



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We think of “masks” as a device to hide the face, or to amuse or frighten others. But in daily life, without explicitly disguising our face, we often wear masks in the form of behavior that conforms to social expectations.

In tropical cultures, masks play an overt, spiritual role. Meticulously crafted, such masks reflect the intricate traditions, rituals, and spiritual beliefs of the tribes. Primarily utilized in ceremonial events, rites of passage, and religious ceremonies, these masks may symbolize ancestral spirits, gods, or supernatural beings. In some instances, masks are believed to hold transformative powers, allowing wearers to embody the spirits they represent. The intricate designs, and unique characteristics of such masks contribute to preserving and celebrating diverse cultural practices, rendering them indispensable to bridging the gap between historical traditions and contemporary life.

This series features the model Dafne, posing with her face hidden first by a simple mask and then by antique tribal masks from Indonesia and the South Pacific. In this case, masks which carry strong, powerful traditions can, in a different setting, become objects of rare beauty.









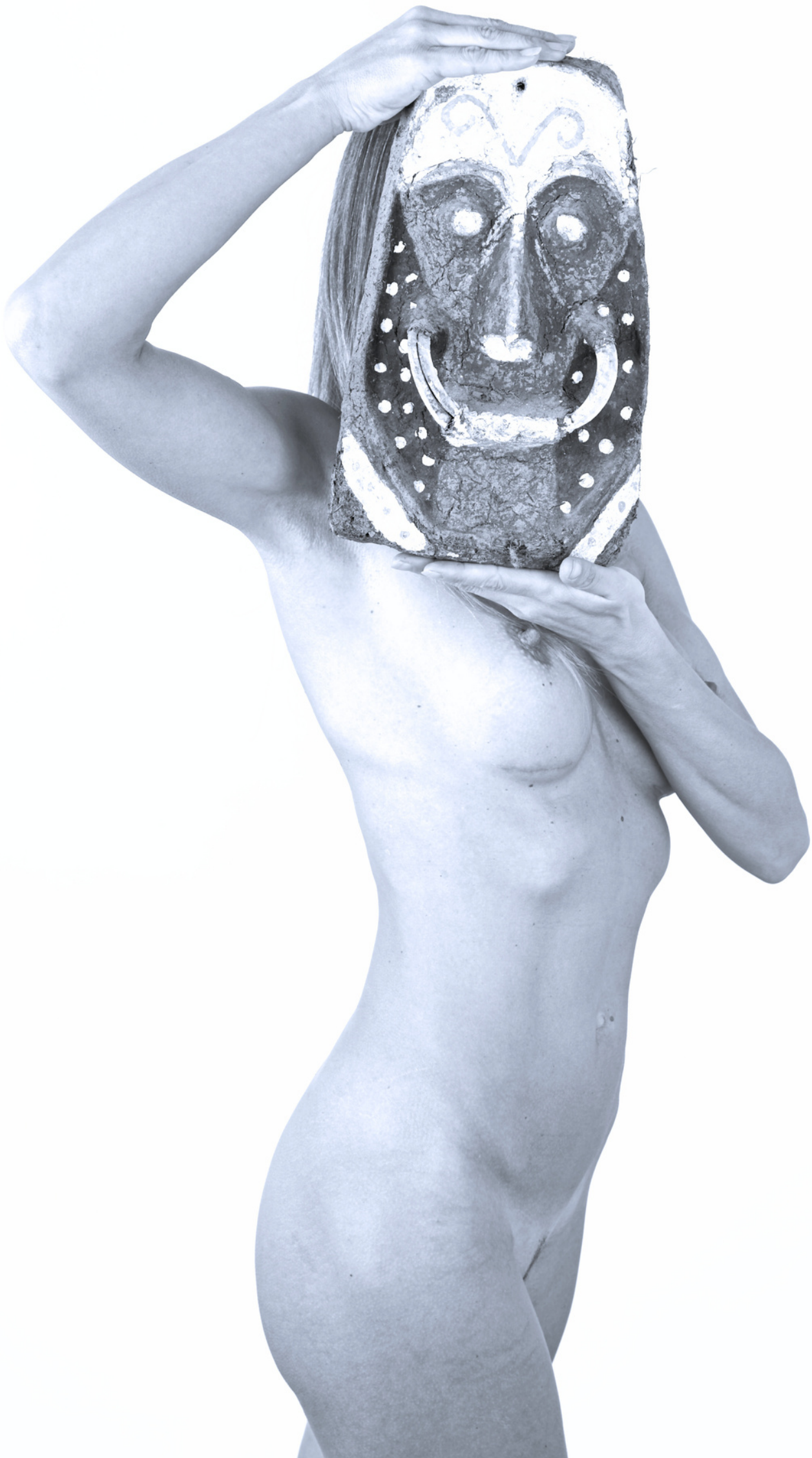
























































































































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