
KEVIN DENSLEY

MARTHA GRAHAM, 1931

(inspired by a photograph of her taken that year)

I can't be bothered
trying to weave
an elaborate metaphor through this poem
to convey the dynamism
of her choreography at the time
and the superlative artistry
with which she moved in space.
I don't have the inclination
to wax lyrically romantic
about her Helen-of-Troy profile,
long flowing dark hair,
Venus de Milo-esque breasts
and powerful, yet lithe, athletic body.
I simply wish to say
in 1931
she had to be
the most desirable woman in the world,
this lady who launched
a thousand dancers and dances.

(. . .)