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NOH MASK

This mask, representing Ryūjo (the Dragon Maiden), daughter of the Dragon King who dwells in his palace at the bottom of the sea, is worn by the *shite* or leading actor in two plays by Zeami. In the play *Ama* ("The Fisher-girl"), it is worn by a fisher-girl who reappears as a dragon maiden from the depths of the bay where she met her death to dance as she rejoices in her attainment of Buddhahood through the power of the Lotus Sutra. In *Kanawa* ("The Iron Crown"), it is worn by the avenging spirit of a woman whose husband has cast her off.

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