

6-15-1997

The Form

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Recommended Citation

Minford-Meas, Marth (1997) "The Form," *Westview*: Vol. 16 : Iss. 2 , Article 15.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol16/iss2/15>

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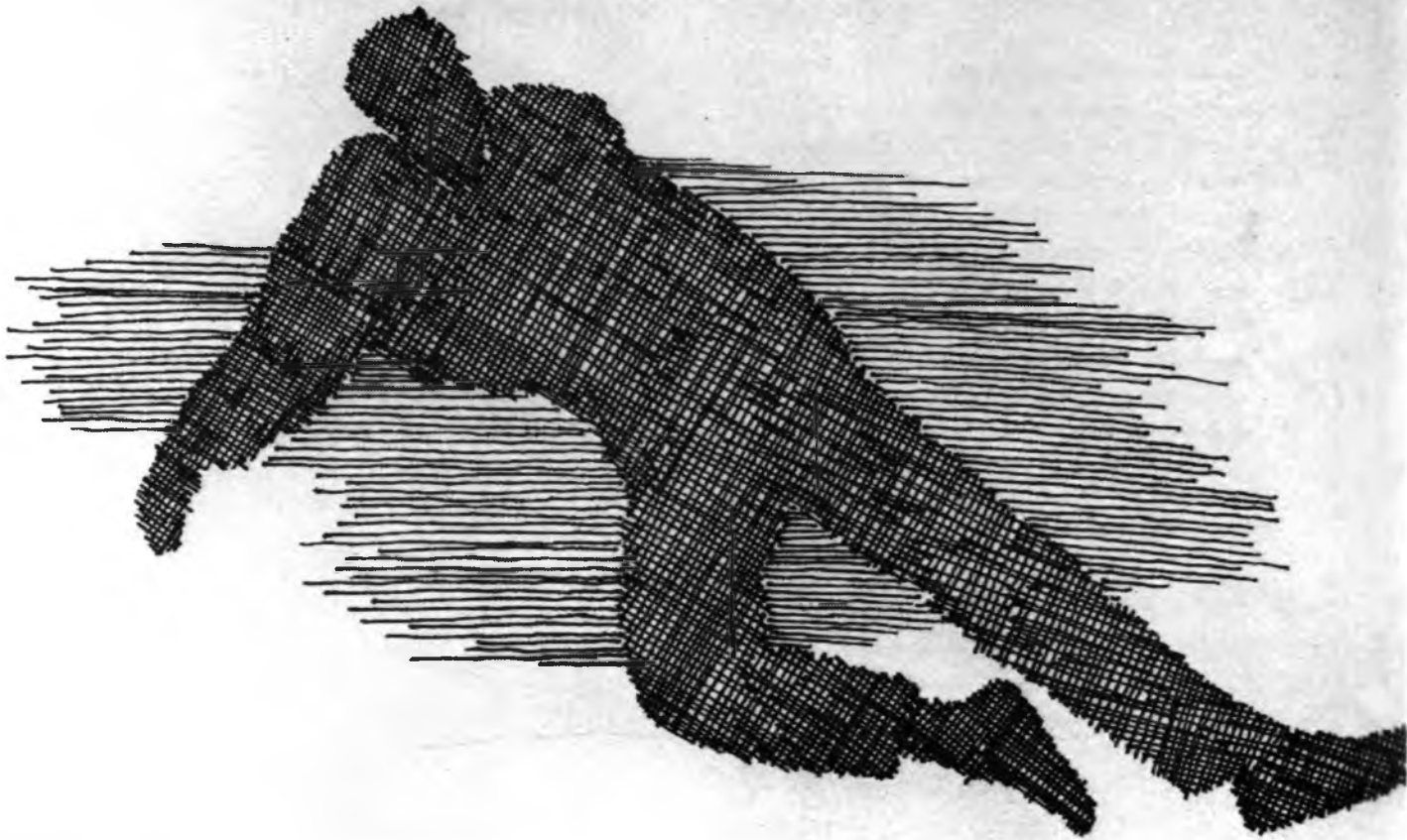


ILLUSTRATION BY COLE RACHEL

The Form

We are never prepared for the multiple I.V.:
Nine tubes sprouting from the labyrinthine
Form; a glued pallor on the face,

The frown that even will will not erase;
A once-firm fist that does not close,
Hold cloth or fabled string; the crinkled mold

Of body into bedding; assisted turning
When the figure cannot; and churning
In a stomach which refuses food,

Heaves even fresh water, could
Not use for sun or moon the path
Patterned for waste, unless in aftermath.

by Marth Minford-Meas