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Masks Confronting Death

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MASKS CONFRONTING DEATH

James Ensor, 1888

We doubt that Death will
pop in today. We change
snow tires and channels.

Death makes itself at home,
comfy in my favorite chair.
I'm tempted to kick it,

but it might get angry
and kill me. I bring Death
a glass of Moet.

My great-great grandpa
said that Death likes wine.
If I were Death,

I'd get blotto. A grim job,
dealing in decay. When Death
finally leaves – he drops

a calling card on our table,
says he will return. We toss
our locks in the river.

- Kenneth Pobo