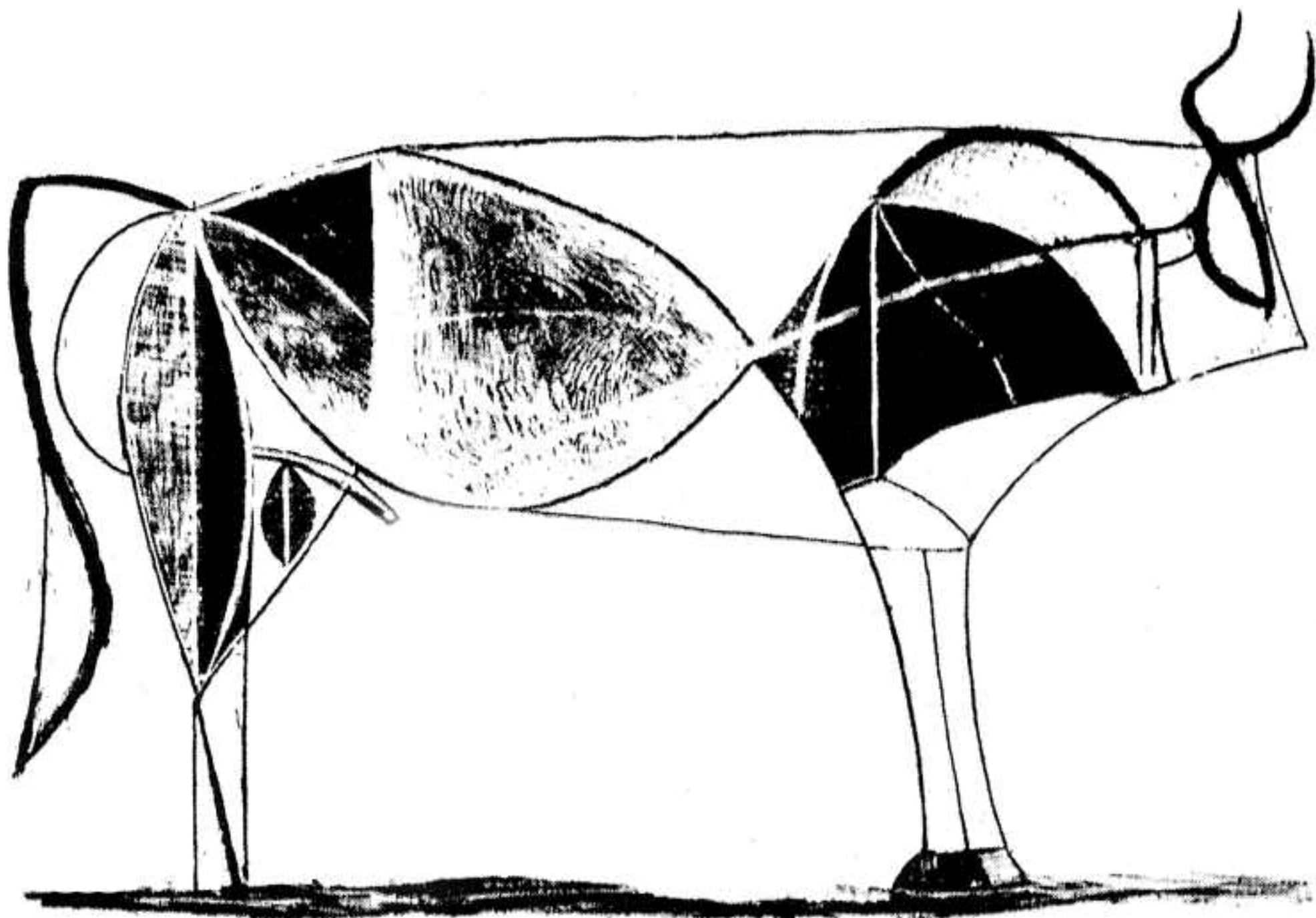


# Now That I am Quit of Bulls



(Poem from Picasso)

## Mark Beaver

J. Mark Beaver was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1962 and raised throughout the Pacific Rim, courtesy of the U.S. Navy. A graduate of San Francisco's California Institute of Integral Studies, a ceramicist and member of the ukulele-powered Jumpin' Flea Circus Players of Los Angeles. Mark has studied poetry with Steve Kowit and Sandra Alcosser at San Diego State University, Mary D'Alleva at San Francisco State University, and for the last five years has been a member of a poetry work-group lead by Los Angeles poet, Laurel Ann Bogen. Performances of his poems have been staged by Oakland's Augustino Dance Theater, and his poetry has been published in the college text, Active Voices IV, San Francisco's Tea Party magazine and in Beyond Baroque's on-line quarterly, Speechless.



The Minotaur can bellow  
into the evenly starred sky  
and the young sailors can stare, bewildered  
by the planes of muscle  
across his bare shoulders and the echo  
of that noise.

The beach fire is free  
to cast shadows across bull and bull and bull  
and bull, each losing features,  
until thick necks become nothing  
but curves, frozen, airless,  
arcing the edge of silent space.

The heavy genitals dissolve  
to parentheses and dash.  
The hooves, their cumbrous iron  
carved down to sharp points,  
compass the belly in a wide circle  
toward the perfect moon  
of the head, another half-moon setting  
across its brow.