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Erick Swenson: Best in Show

by R.C. Baker



Erick Swenson, *Untitled*, 2007, polyurethane resin, acrylic paint, MDF, polystyrene, 30 x 181 x 280 inches

What manner of fish lies here, dead and decaying? All that remains is a tooth-studded jaw attached to a gelatinous slab of thick, white skin, which sprawls like a discarded overcoat across jagged rhombuses of breaking ice. The guts are gone—a fishermen's catch? A polar bear's meal? Or a victim of unknown forces originating at the other end of the world? This huge resin sculpture covers the gallery's entire floor, and its mix of desiccated, bleached curves against rich blue geometries of cracking ice achieves a desolate beauty.