

Moby-Dick

ECL 522: American Lit 1800-1860
Professor Jessica Pressman
Fall 2025

Day 20: Chapters 97-109

ADMIN

- Revision deadline 11/9
- Essay 2 deadline 11/16
- REMINDER: blogs due on SUNDAY at midnight. There were blogs posted Monday and Tuesday this week... those DO NOT count.

Undergrad in an ECL class?
Drop in for free tutoring from
ECL's Writing Fellow!

DROP-IN WRITING TUTORING

Raine Porath
Office AL 232

Wed. 11:00pm – 2:00pm
Thurs. 2:00pm – 4:00pm

No appointment needed!



Peer review of thesis

- WHAT
 - WHERE/HOW
 - SO WHAT
-
- WHAT is the idea, concept about the text?
 - WHERE is that idea located— what formal device, theme, passage?
 - SO WHAT: *why* does that insight matter?

Discussion

- What's eating you, my fishes??

#s of whaling

From 1821-1897, the average venture that successfully returned to port yielded:[\[104\]](#)

- 32,104.8 gallons of sperm oil[\[105\]](#)
- 41,088.6 gallons of whale oil
- 8,400.8 pounds of baleen

The average number of whales hunted – 19 sperm whales and 15 baleen whales[\[106\]](#)

The average revenue – \$47,800.90

The typical profit margin for the company – 6.5-14%[\[107\]](#)

Whaling was an extremely capital-intensive industry. In the 1850s, at the tail-end of the Golden Age, the average venture cost between \$20,000-30,000 depending on the size and quality of the ship and crew, and where in the world the ship was headed. For the sake of comparison, at the time, the average farmholding in America was worth under \$2,258, and the average manufacturing company was worth a little over \$4,000. (Note – the above 6.5-14% profit margin refers to 1821-1897, while the \$20,000-\$30,000 average venture cost refers to 1850.)

Of the 728 vessels based in New Bedford during the Golden Age, 272 were eventually lost, for an attrition rate of 31%

<https://mattlakeman.org/2021/06/01/everything-you-might-want-to-know-about-whaling/#the-golden-age-of-whaling>

Ch. 96: The Lamp



Ch. 98: Stowing Down and Clearing Up

Ch. 99: The Doubloon

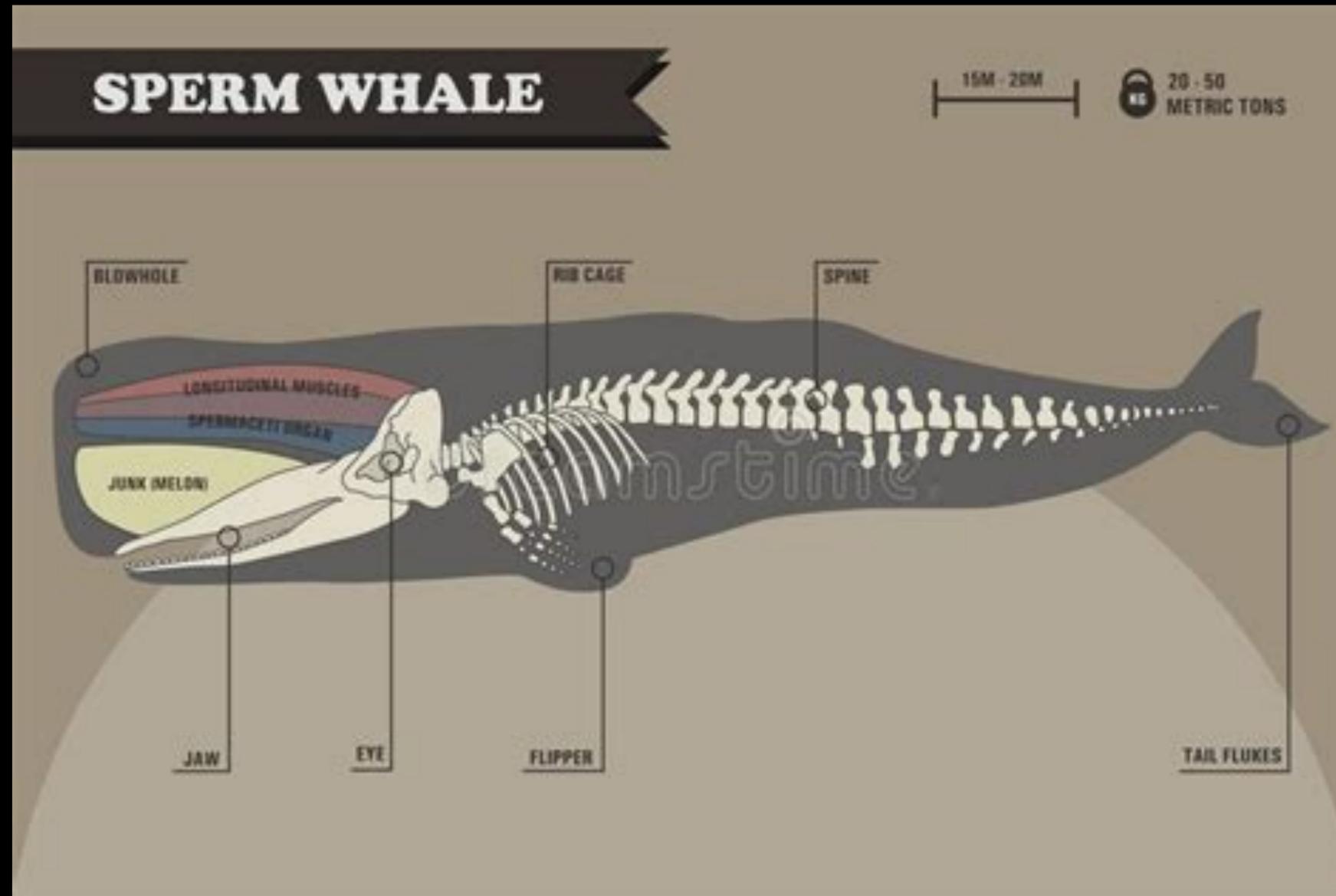


Ch. 100: Leg and arm, The Pequod, of Nantucket, meets
the Samuel Enderby, of London

Ch. 101: The Decanter

Ch. 102: A Bower in the Arscacides

Ch 103: Measurement of the Whale's Skeleton



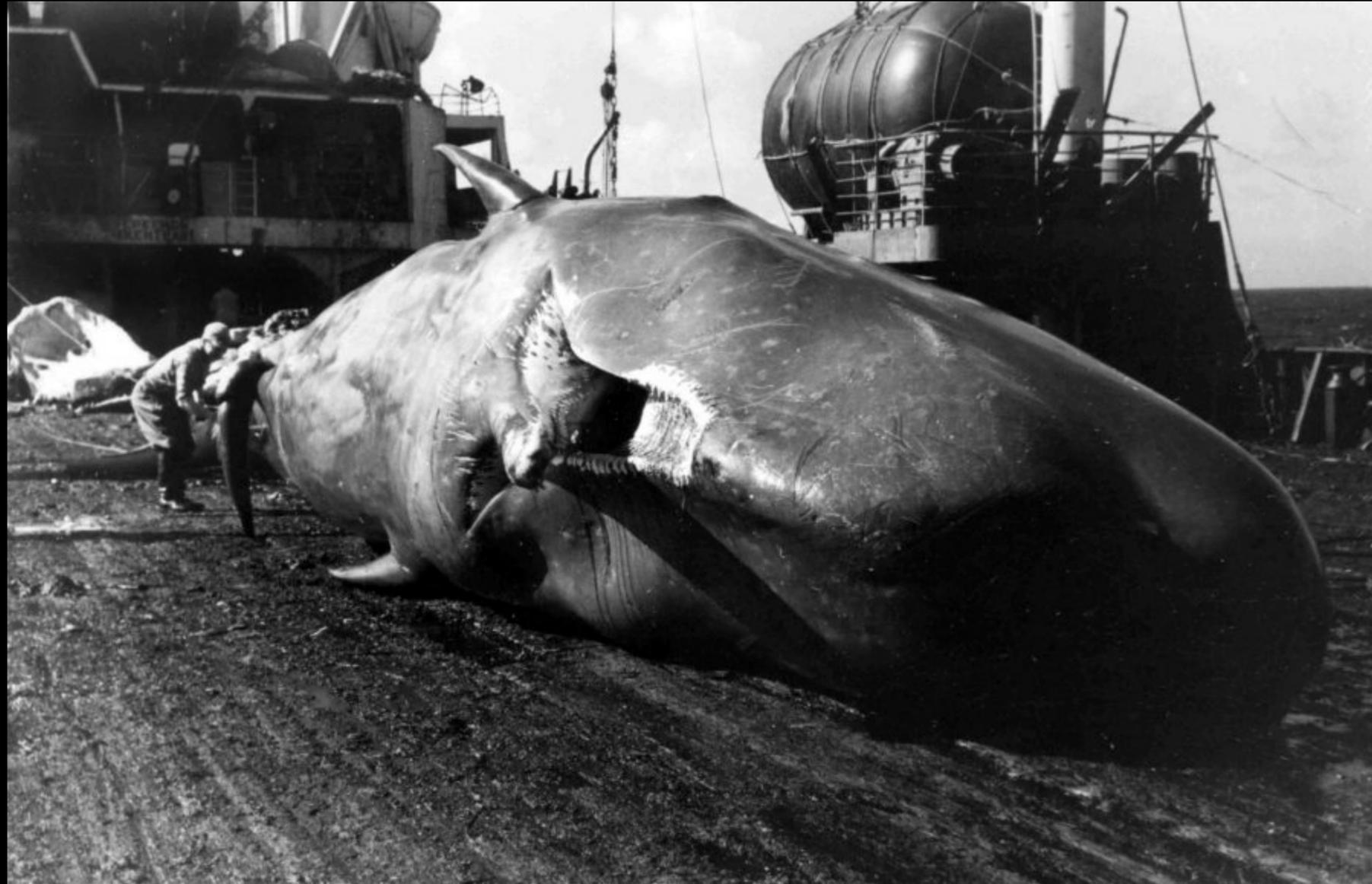
104: The Fossil Whale



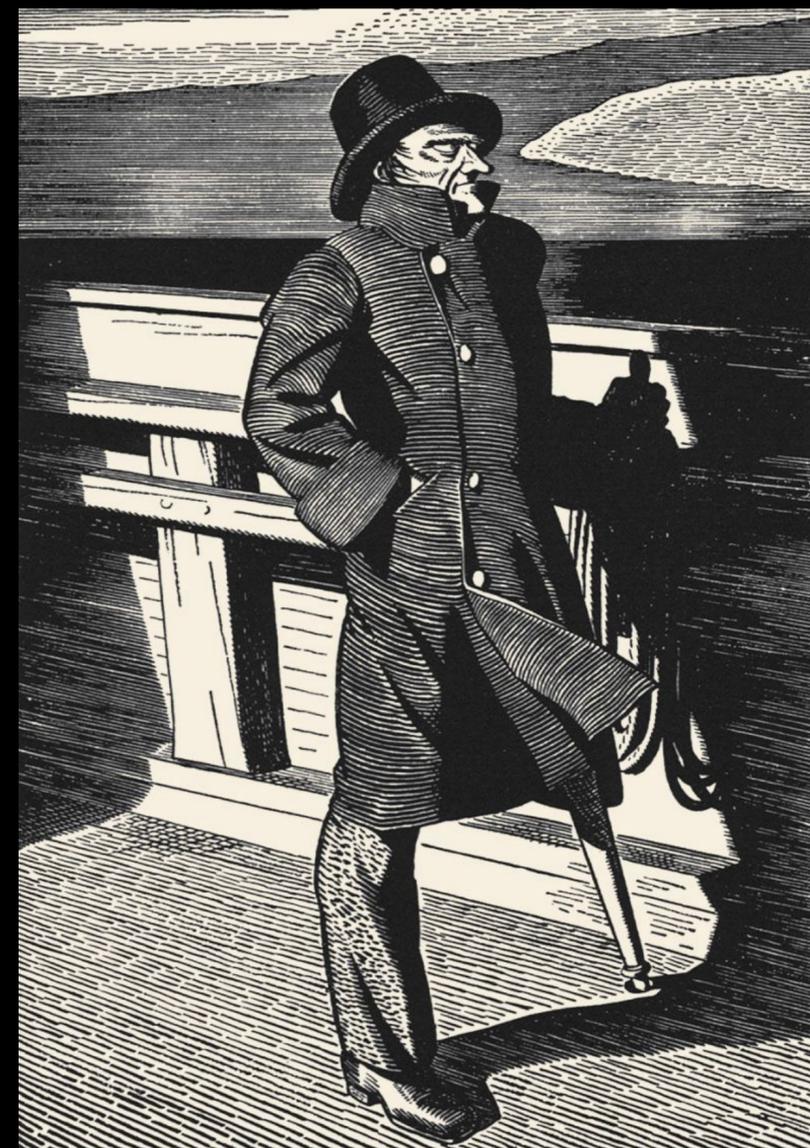
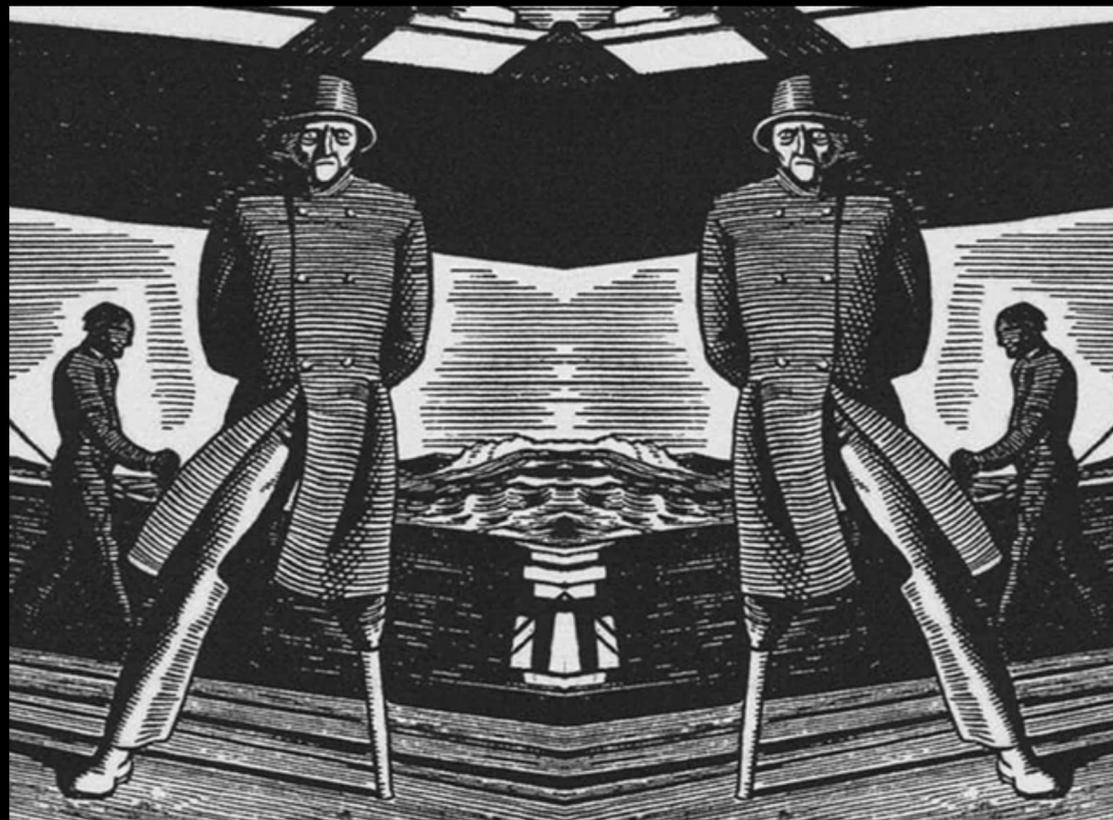
From your blogs- Ch. 104

- **ANGIE:**After numerous chapters spent on ripping apart and harvesting the whale, we are engulfed in this affirmation of the whale as having once been the dominant creature, found all over the world on land, which has only recently existed above water, and allowed humans to crawl upon the shore and reign supreme over nature. ...The leviathans reign however, is not over, as this lineage of adaptation has kept them in the water for a reason, which means that despite the effort of humans to hunt them for sport or industry, these godly-monsters will survive them when the earth is again submerged into a watery realm

Ch. 105: Does the Whale's Magnitude Diminish? — Will he Perish?



Ch. 106: Ahab's Leg





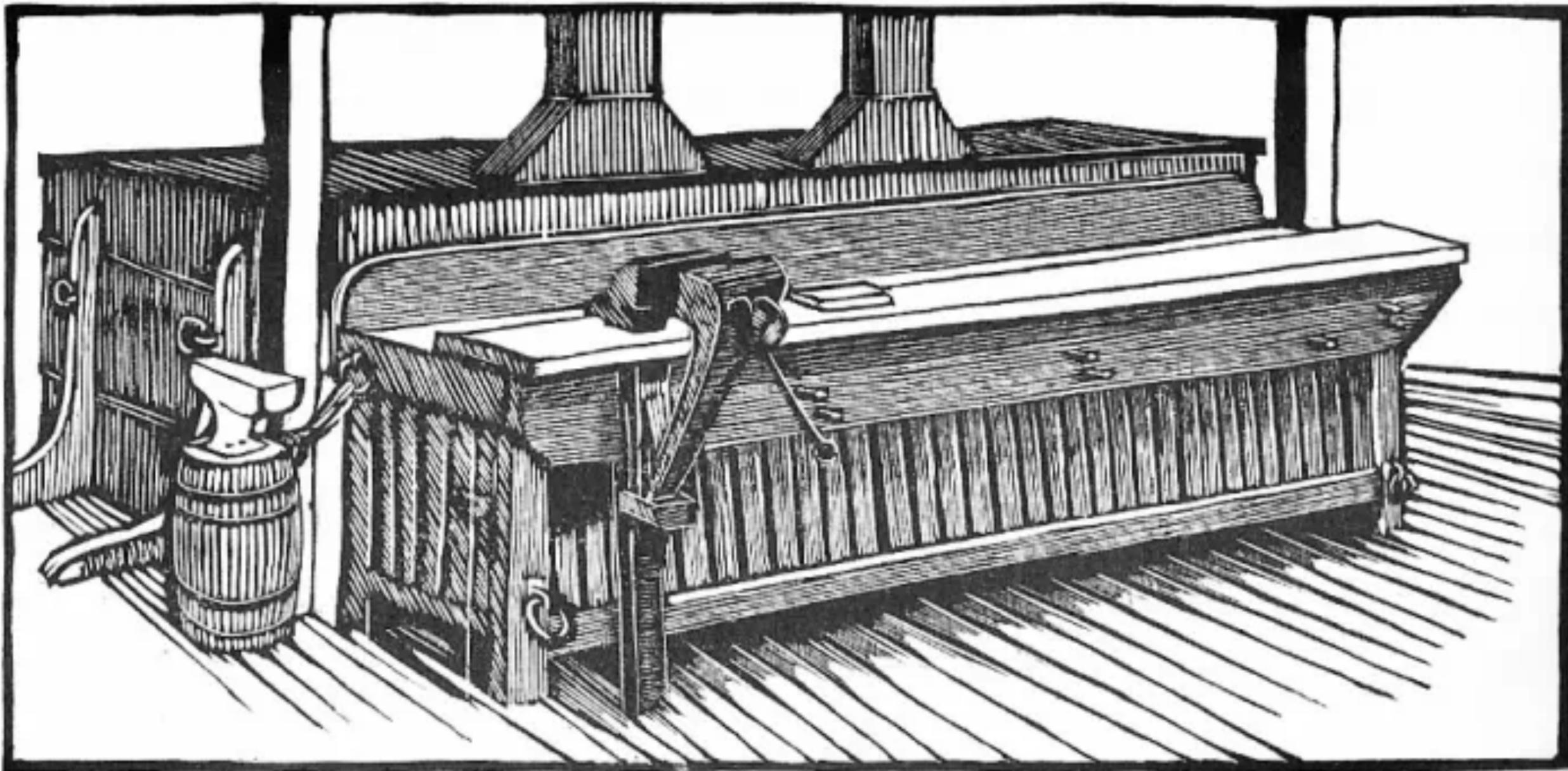
Frank Stella – Ahab's Leg

Frank Stella, Ahab's Leg is from 'The Waves from The Moby Dick Prints 1989-93 series'. This artwork is a Silkscreen with lithography, and linoleum block with hand-coloring, marbling, and collage on T.H. Saunders and Somerset papers, the full sheet. Signed, dated, and numbered from the edition of 60 in the lower right. There were also 10 artist proofs. Published by Waddington Graphics, London. Axsom 198.

Over a period of twelve years, from 1985-1997, Frank Stella produced a major series of works in various media that are linked to Herman Melville's 'Moby Dick' (1851). It is the artist's most extensive project and an epic achievement in the history of twentieth-century art. Stella made one or more works for each of the novel's 135 chapters, two non-narrative sections, and epilogue. The completed series consists of 266 works: over a hundred painted and unpainted metal reliefs, nine freestanding sculptures, an architectural mural, collages, and 38 large scale mixed media prints that technically and expressively a stunning accomplishment in the history of the modern print. The primary motifs of the series are 22 wave-and-whale shapes, 13 circular and rectangular Chinese lattices, and 9 architectural gutter shapes that weave their way through all of the works in the Moby Dick series.

Title	Ahab's Leg
Medium	Collage, Lithograph, Screenprint
Year	1989
Edition	60
Signature	Signed, dated, numbered
Catalogue Raisonné	Axsom 198
Size	75 x 55 (in) 191 x 140 (cm)

Ch. 107: The Carpenter



Carpenter's bench

Ch. 108: Ahab and the Carpenter

Ch. 109: Ahab and Starbuck in the Cabin

The Cabin: Ahab and Starbuck

1991

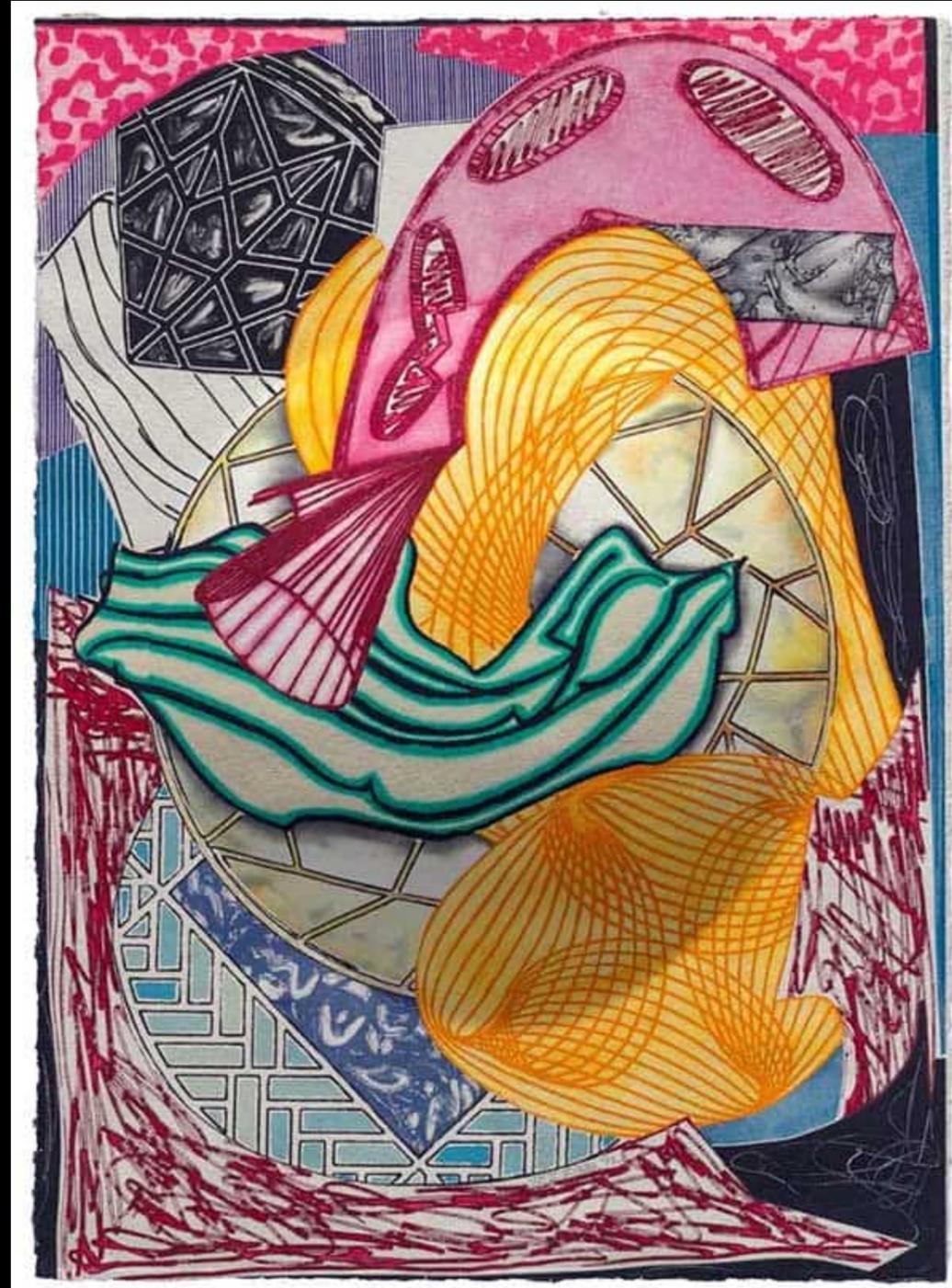
Frank Stella

Associated Names

[Frank Stella](#)

Artist, American, 1936 - 2024

- 1991



Take Aways?