



Erick Swenson
Untitled, 2000
Mixed media
91 x 40 x 40 inches
Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth,
Gift of Anne and John Marion
Acquired in 2002

The dramatic scene taking place in Erick Swenson's sculpture *Untitled* appears at once completely familiar and strange. At first glance, the large black cape and small white animal call to mind a fairy tale, a story about a vampire, or a children's book. The details of the piece, however, seem to deny any precise reference. The animal itself is difficult to identify. Its large ears, hooves, and small teeth make it seem to be somewhat of a hybrid between a dog and a goat, or another farm animal. And it can be difficult to imagine the exact owner of the large cape, with its leather exterior, soft red lining, and high collar. The action taking place is also a mystery. How, and why, has the very tip of the cape wrapped itself around the tail of the creature, pulling its hind legs off the ground? Even though the piece contains a lot of detailed information, Swenson leaves us with no explanation for what is happening. We are left to imagine the action that led up to this odd moment. Swenson has given us a scene without a story, and the work's power lies in its ability to evoke our imagination as we try to make sense of it.