Beasts of the Sea

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Beasts of the Sea is amongst the last works of Henri Matisse. The painting was made using cut-out method. The painting is particularly interesting because it is in two halves. It makes use of geometrical shapes to depict or symbolize certain aspects of the sea.

The two halves of the painting represented life and death. The left half depicts various sea creatures and vegetation in their natural order, showing creatures floating above the vegetation on ground. In the right half the creatures are seen at the bottom, depicting them as dead. As this artwork was created by Matisse towards the end of his life, it could be said that he was trying to depict life and death through sea creatures.



