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## Ashley Bickerton A big fish in bondage

Barbados-born artist Ashley Bickerton was previously associated with the 1980s Neo-Geo geometric abstraction movement when he astutely and humorously addressed art's commodity status. His warts 'n' all style, now described as "tropical surrealism", is typified by this ten-foot-long hammerhead shark in bondage, which hangs from the Lehmann Maupin stand (F17). Covered in industrial

orange netting and adorned with coconuts and sachets of distilled water, *Orange Shark*, 2008, is in-your-face art that reflects Bickerton's life philosophy: "I must strip myself of vanity, lizard and cow. And lay myself naked to reveal the hairless, smelly, horny primate that I am." The work is an edition of three (around \$500,000 each), two of which have been sold to private collectors. **Gareth Harris**



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