

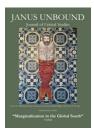
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#### Andreae Callanan

# Dismantling the great whale, Snooks Arm

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"A work that always fetches an audience if carried out on shore!"

-Edith Watson. Photograph caption, undated (c. 1915)

The white fat looks like foam, a lather spilling over the beast as though the men were doing the animal some great favour by bathing it. The whale is lodged on its side on the slipway, flanked by clapboard-cased structures, their lines a league of calm horizons. One man stands atop it, flensing knife honed and quick. One fin leans casual, as though to beckon, come closer, witness the new century at work.

Tensile baleen won't cinch the waists of the world's wealthy wives much longer. Soon, the machinery of the age will forge onward, ever smooth and unperturbed.

We're almost through here, blubber dragged away to the fires, flesh stripped from bone, bristled plates ripped from jaw. Ribs a bloodied cavern.

The photograph is a black and white memory, proof that once we knew a time when mere men broke Leviathan into his elements,

melted monsters into lamplight.

## **Biography**

Andreae Callanan is a doctoral candidate in English at Memorial University, and author of *The Debt* (Biblioasis, 2021).