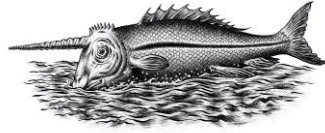




De Bestiarum Naturis 614 – The Sea Unicorn



*Here already, but even more elsewhere,
everything has already been said
about the Unicorn.
Little is known, instead, about the one of the Sea.
It appears in a single seventeenth-century image
from the odd Rochefort series.
In it the draftsman,
wishing to represent the Narwhal,
hesitated for a long time,
probably thinking that the horn of that beast
was also that of the Unicorn,
the Monoceros, the Alicorn or who knows what else...*

*Seized by such unresolved contradictions
and unable to escape his doubt,
he then drew two beasts for one:
one truly resembles the Narwhal,
the other is a Unicorn with fins and a crown
that floats, awkward and bloated.*

*Indeed, it is placed in the illustration
– with scant artifice and even less science –
as a hasty closure to one of those short circuits
that already then caused us to founder
among sentences forced to be finished at any cost.*

DBN 614 – THE SEA UNICORN

Drawing based on the Rochefort Codex (the National Library of Aruba)

India ink on paper

cm 34.7 × 15.0

2026