

CHRISTINA SHAH

seafood department

Neptune's flesh linens—
filleted billet-doux
displayed under clingfilm
on stainless steel gallery shelves

pictures of the floating world

styrofoam futons, dormitory-style
their studded, extruded blue spoom
does not hint at ichthyosauric history

carp's branded scales
a bleeding *irezumi* iron street grate

array of baby octopus
cartilaginous little baseball mitts

dressed smelts— prophets
gleaming in mass graves