

ORCA

by Elana Wolff

Downtown Holiday Inn, Vancouver

We arrived at night in the aqua room
that had beckoned us in from the drizzle.

Wearing my street clothes, I watched from the side
while she in her swim suit, immersing toes first,
demurred.

At the opposite end of the pool, submerged-

a huge black and white killer whale.

Painted true-to-life, it seemed to sway

and swell authentically

in rhythm with the swimmers.

How afraid my daughter was: she didn't

dare go in.

She only tempted danger, flirting-

dipping skittish toes and giggling.

Big eyes batting long dark lashes, far away from peril.