



Richard Aldrich's *If I Paint Crowned I've Had It, Got Me* (2008)

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Artist Richard Aldrich Draws a Blank

By Andrew Goldstein



T.S. Eliot said the bloody-minded playwright John Webster "saw the skull beneath the skin," and here artist Richard Aldrich demonstrates a similar X-ray aptitude with canvas and its frame. Taking a cue from Arte Povera artist Lucio Fontana, Aldrich

began with a painting that wasn't quite working out, and then excised and excised until all that was left was this spare, spiritually ascetic result. Add a few paint-streaked wooden slats, and presto, it's a sculpture.