

Introduction to a book of drawings relating to a commissioned painting.

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Painting finds its form through continuity, a development from preceding work . It is part of a continuing process – idea in an isolated sense never occurs. It is one idea which changes and evolves, it can become more complex, it can be clearer through simplification. Paintings, drawings, prints are all part of this process. Audience has no part in this private dialogue; later it witnesses the residue.

Commission..... reference to Yorkshire.....not stifling or inhibiting demands, but enough to set up a different relationship between myself and the work. Awareness of an audience is present from the start; concept , form and colour cannot develop through the same questioning and reassertion carried from previous work. The content must in some way relate to the specific. Yorkshire – landmarks, structures, dales, rivers. Cities contained by landscape. The close hidden places remembered. The new, alien structures within a familiar frame. Motorway networks dissecting memory.

My first twenty years were spent in the West Riding. I know it, I know it but it is no longer intimate. The drawings are attempts to contain this, to focus thought and experience --- the painting took its direction from there.

John Loker 1984