

Being Alive - Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description, by Tim Ingold (2011)

[And]

The Perception of the Environment - Essays on Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill, by Tim Ingold (2000)

Ingold's essays have been hugely influential on my work so far as, besides being an academic who discusses movement, perception and the world on the essential basis of lived experience, he also harbours a particular fascination with the weather and sky. Ingold portrays supposed divisions between sky and earth, experience and perception as superficial boundaries, hindering our understanding of being; instead he presents an entangled world, a complex, tangible and also unknowable one.

Having traced linear pathways of various rock formations, tidal marks and landscape ridges of Arnside (Cumbria) onto paper, it is then fractured and placed on glass, and filmed throughout dawn and dusk to observe the changing relationship between light, line and perception. Falling light gives clarity to line as colour is dulled – as quality is dimmed, the outline of form gains detail; a clarity not perceivable in the light. These temporal moments of silhouette are ephemeral, and edges are rapidly smudged and merged with the night, with the unknown, and contorted by possibility. Usually I work outside and observe the changes of light and line without filming, so the experience is an embodied one, both observed by me and happening with me; observing silhouettes whilst (unintentionally) becoming one. I used paper and film to try and capture an element of these observations, but it's really incomparable to the real thing! I very much recommend indulging in a spot of silhouette-gazing at dusk, if you can spare the time...

I am extremely grateful to Independent Dance and the Gill Clarke Resources Fund for generously providing me with copies of Ingold's work – it has so far accompanied me on various excursions in Lancashire and Cumbria, and has formed a solid basis from which to commence my PhD research. As I am only at the beginning of my studies, I very much look forward to increasing my familiarity with Ingold's ideas as my research progresses; thank you so very much for providing me with this valuable support – I'm afraid it already has its fair share of pencil scribbles and mud smears, and hopefully has many more to come!

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Exploring line and light; Heidegger's 'world's worlding' at nightfall.



"In short, the experience of smooth space *is* light, sound and feeling, not something that we obtain by their means. It is neither optical nor haptic but atmospheric." (p.134)



"Who is to say whether it is *on* the earth or *of* it?" (p.131)



"Becoming like birds their consciousness is launched on the same aerial currents that animate their kites, and is subject to the same turbulence."
(p. 135)



All quotations from;

Ingold, Tim. (2011) *Being Alive – Essays on movement, knowledge and description*. Routledge: Oxon