

Exhibition at the Künstlerhaus Dortmund
'Voyage: sea journeys, island hopping, and trans-oceanic concepts'
 February - March 2013

David Lilburn

List of Exhibits

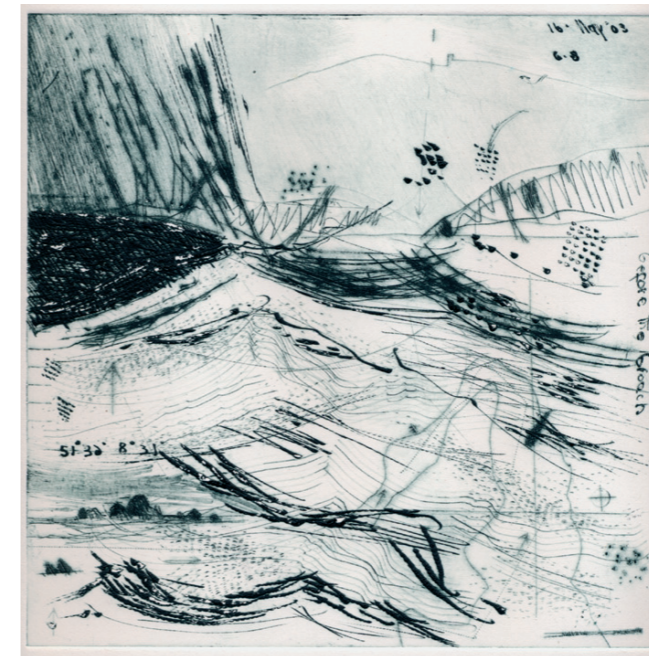
'Sailing the South Coast, Smerwick to Youghal', 2013
 drypoint, watercolour, chine collé,
 h70 x w360 cms, drypoint, watercolour, chine collé,

'South Coast', series, 2004
 each print 60 x 60 cms
 drypoint, watercolour, chine collé,

'Off the Coast', series, 2013
 drypoints
 20 x 20 cms

'Is Mise Eireann', 2007
 drypoint, watercolour,
 h50 x w35 cms

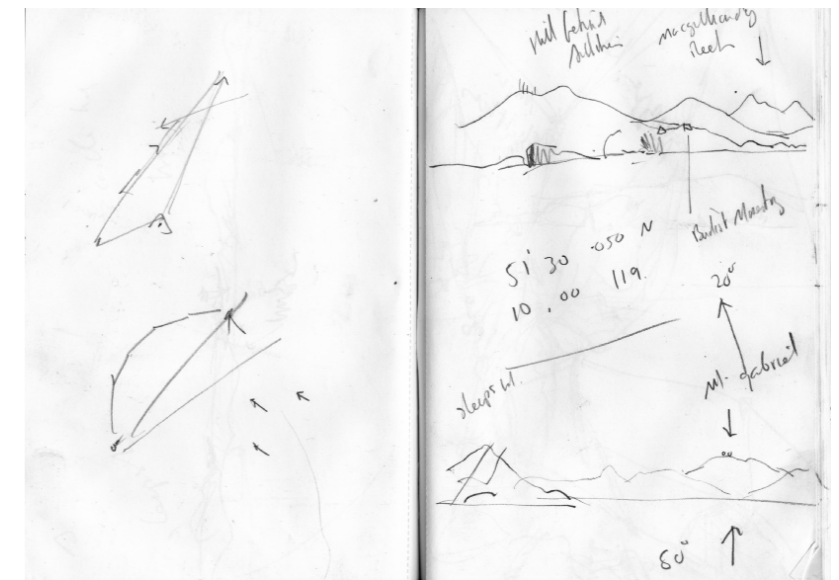
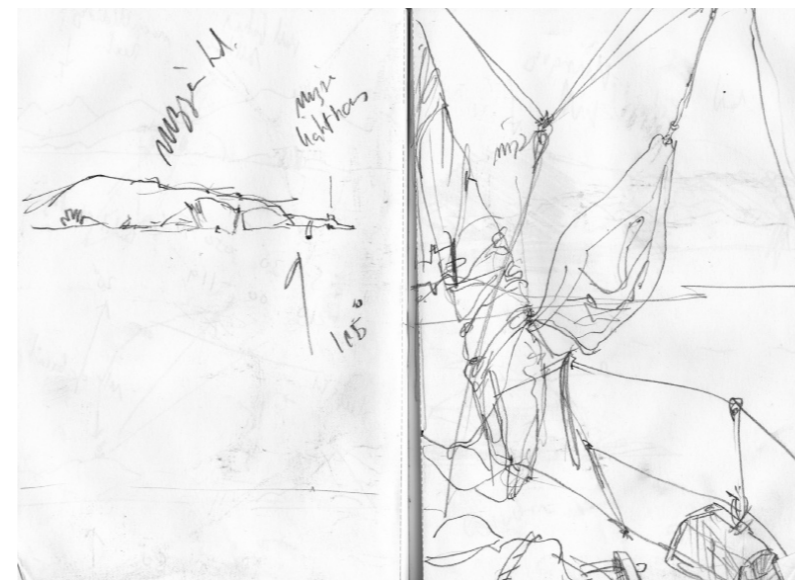
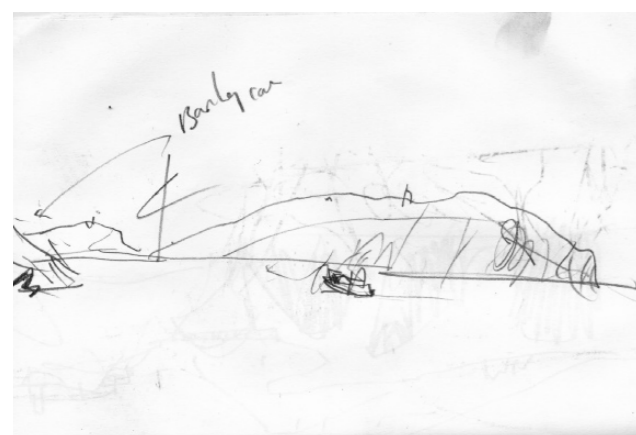
Sketchbooks



'Depart Kinsale', drypoint



'Is mise Eireann' (I am Ireland),
 drypoint, watercolour
 first exhibited in 'CEAD in China',
 Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, 2007



images taken from sketchbooks made on the voyages off the South Coast of Ireland.



'Sailing the South Coast, Smerwick to Youghal', 2013

drypoint, watercolour, chine collé, h70 x w360cms

The coastline, from the wild and rugged Atlantic coast of County Kerry, transversing the beautiful deeply indented ragged coastline of West Cork to the low, plainer shores of East Cork - the southern edge of the island of Ireland; a porous membrane continually traversed with arrivals and departures, whether military, commercial, criminal, or cultural, which has for long been a vital threshold of contact with continental Europe and beyond. It is this coastline, one of the best recreational sailing grounds in the world, that lies at the source of my attempt to: re-create, re-present, re-imagine, re-live, re-invent, a 'sea journey' and map it in - 'Sailing on the South Coast, Smerwick to Youghal'.

The print is based on my experiences of sailing in these waters, intermittently over the last fifteen years or so, and draws on, among other things, memory, the logs, sketches, charts, photographs, stories and histories of the islands, ports and harbours on the way. It is loaded with historical and contemporary references (... the massacre of the Spanish expedition in Smerwick Harbour 1580, the Battle of Kinsale 1603 which marked the end of Gaelic Ireland, C18 smuggling in Derrynane, the cocaine haul off Mizen Head 2008, the sacking of Baltimore by Dutch and Algerian pirates 1631..), coastal navigation features (...tides, obstacles, harbours, quays, marinas, shipping traffic, leisure traffic, navigation buoys..) and many of the wonderful landmarks: lighthouses (... An Tearracht, Fort Point Valentia, Mizen Head, Galley Head, The Old head of Kinsale, Roaches Point Automatic, Ballycotton..), fishing villages (...Dingle, Knightstown, Portmagee, Derrynane, Crookhaven, Skull, Baltimore, Glandore, Union Hall, Castletownsend Courtmacsherry, Kinsale..), magical Islands (... the Blaskets, the Skelligs, Valentia, Clear and Sherkin..), bays and harbours (...Dingle Bay, Bantry Bay, Roaring Water Bay, Gascanane Sound, Dursey Sound...) and personal memories, experiences both real and imagined.



Detail



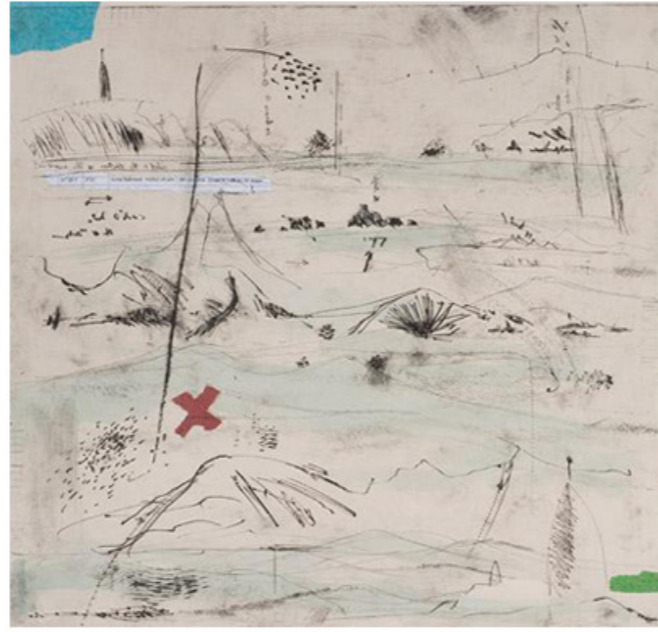
'Sailing the South Coast, Smerwick to Youghal', 2013. Details

'South coast series', 2004

a series of prints based on sailing trips taken along the south coast of Ireland.



'South Coast Series; 'Depart Kinsale',
Drypoint, watercolour, Chine collé, 60x60 cms



'South Coast Series; The White Lady',
Drypoint, watercolour, Chine collé, 60x60 cms

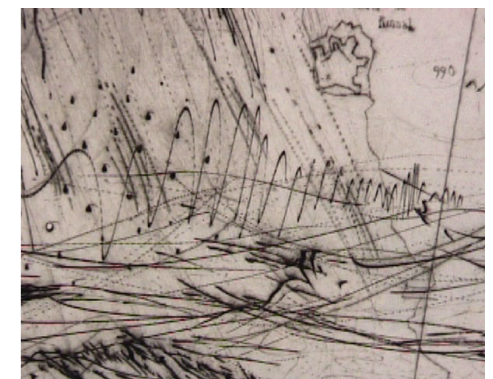
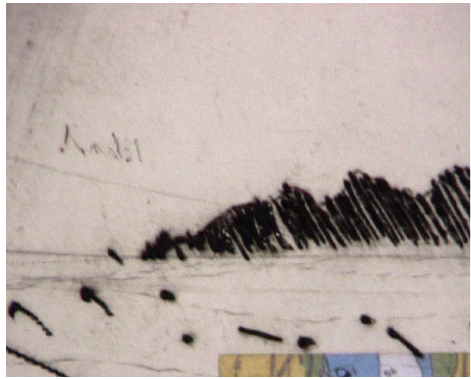


'South Coast Series; From Deenish to Dursey',
Drypoint, watercolour, Chine collé, 60x60 cms

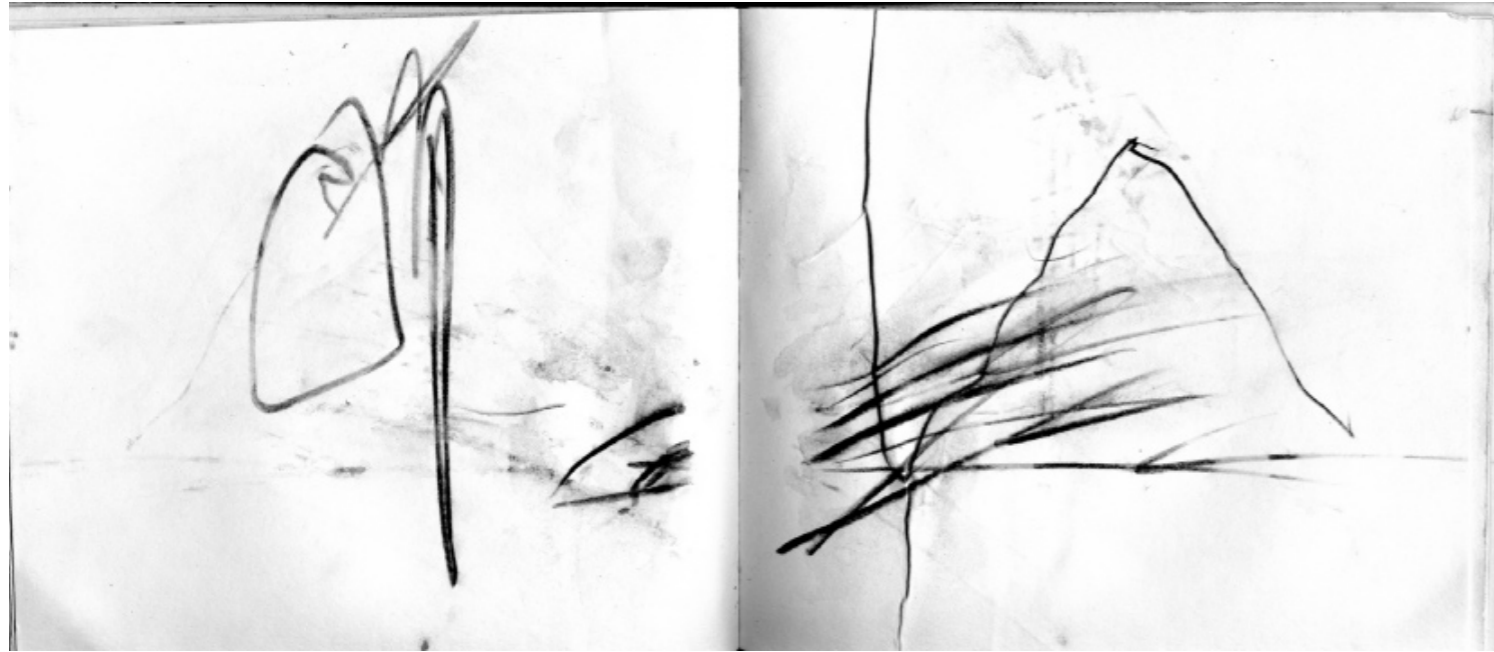
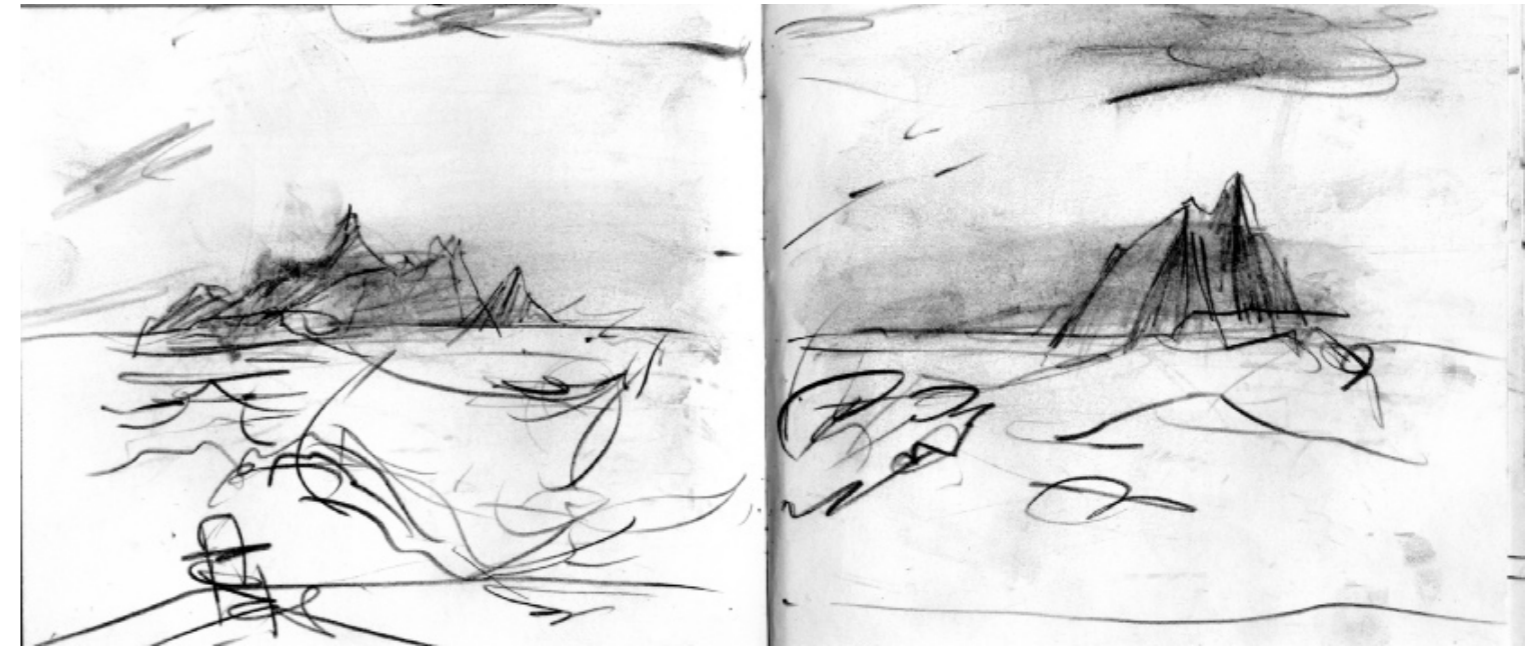
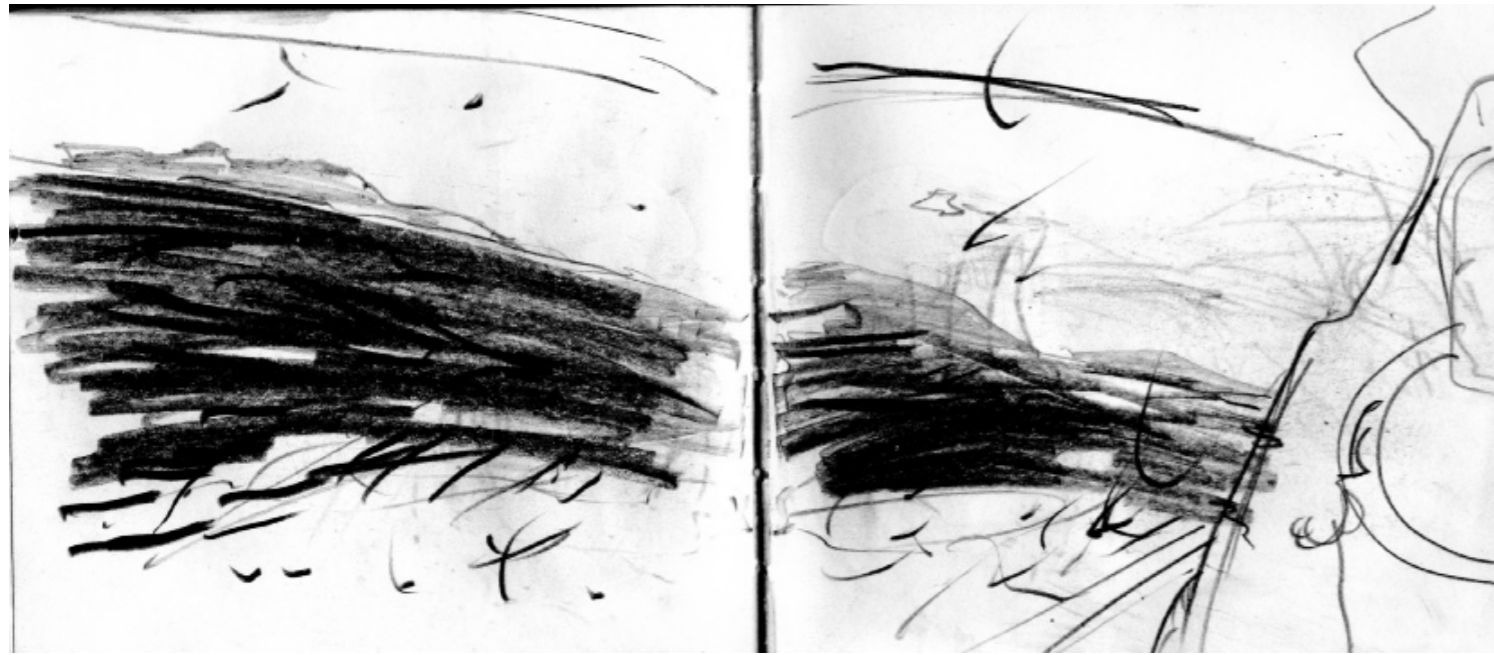


'South Coast Series; Off the Old Head',
Drypoint, watercolour, Chine collé, 60x60 cms

One way to read the tangled fragments of 'textures' - lines, marks and colours - that make up the prints in this series 'South Coast', is as a map; charted not from the detached, 'omnipotent' viewpoint of the scientific cartographer, but drawn from an accumulation of experience of an artist not only afloat on the wonderful coastline of Kerry and Cork, but adrift in the currents of his own history.



'South coast series', details



From a sketchbook dated 7th august 1998 which contains drawn fragments of a boat trip to the Skellig rocks of the Co. Kerry coast.

..I drew intermittently in the book from the time the boat pulled out from Portmagee to when it returned to the port some six hours later. I remember the trip; feet apart balancing on the open deck, splashed with spray, cold fingers, the sea and sky full with birds..the black triangle of rock at first, in turn glimpsed and hidden by the swell, then towering above the open decked boat.

The drawings made in the boat were drawn with water soluble pencils and many of the pages drawn away from the comfort of the shore were spray drenched; bleeding and smudging the urgent roughly drawn marks, many further complicated by creases and mirror image traces of the drawing on the facing page. The blunt arcs and horizontal lines used to map the strange stone beehive constructions high up on the rock are also smudged and washed from the action of the drizzle and mist that later that day enveloped me as I wandered through the ruins of that ancient monastery.

text by David Lilburn, *Walking Drawing Making Memory*, published in 'Drawing Texts', Occasional Press 2001