

To hear the hrrrump of a big hairy thing

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You are walking, getting deeper into the landscape, you are clambering, crawling, hopping, jumping, treading, squishing and plodding. In your hands are tightly folded papers, a sheet of card, a fist full of graphite, a pencil case slung across your chest, a rucksack that includes snacks far beyond the journeys requirements, and sometimes a dog. As you walk, balancing all these things, ears open, nostrils wide, eyes straining with delight to take in what they see, your fingers itch and move, and dart, and stutter, they weave and slip, walking themselves across the paper.

To hear the hrrrump of a big hairy thing is a collection of drawings made by walking across blank OS map papers. The act of walking is the way each drawing is made. The pace of footsteps, the terrain assessed by toes, the length of the walk, the textures and tone of it, all find their way onto the paper.

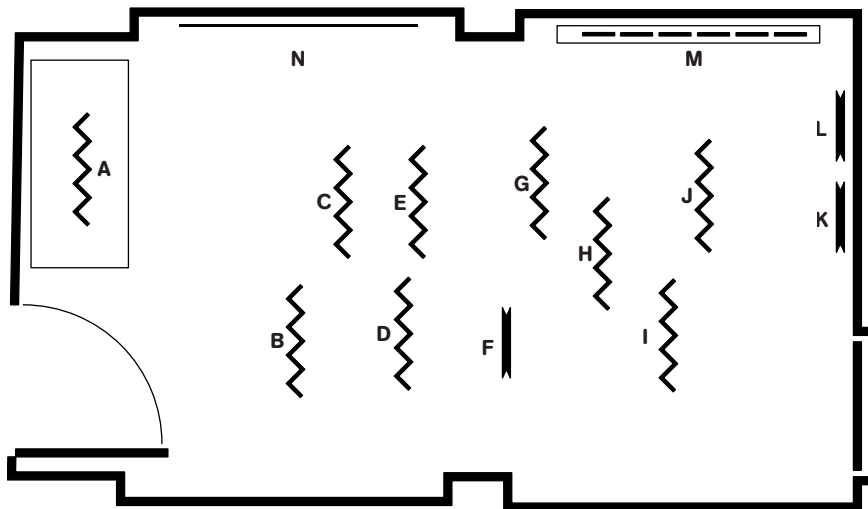
These map papers have become fine companions over this last year. Their folds are friendly territories to cross with a 10b pencil. Their blank crispness always feels ready to take on a journey, not just a view. They would be upset if you stood too still with them for too long. They unfold and are filled with you as you walk, marked full of place, and route, collecting conversations with the landscape.

Each drawing that forms a part of **To hear the hrrrump of a big hairy thing** is a re-writing of a landscape into a series of assemblages, a call and response with traversed landscapes rather than just observational mark making. An exquisite corpse of fleeting glimpses, lingering eyes, bumped pencils, rain drops, trips and falls, distant trees suddenly looming large, cavern deep darks.

With environmental wolves at our door, we need to seek for new ways of seeing, for new ways of feeling and reading our environment. These drawings made by walking are just one such method that works for me. Traversing these lands in this manner is a form of performance, a form of research, a form of creation, of conversation, self-care, discovery, interrogation, and appreciation. From these walks these new landscape assemblages condense space, time, journey, fact, thought, feelings and understanding down into a new story, a new book, a new map to review that space from and connect to it. The drawings in **To hear the hrrrump of a big hairy thing** are the outcome of this act, the work was the walk itself.

microscope

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|----------|--|---|--|
| A | Swellendam / George : 09.09.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm | I | 100 Acre Wood : 27.08.23
Graphite and coloured pencil on
OS map paper, 440 x 1000mm |
| B | Woodville Big Tree : 09.09.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm | J | Little Karoo, MiddlePlaas : 12.09.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm |
| C | Piazza della Frutta, Padua : 08.11.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm | K | Fondamenta Zattere : 09.11.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm |
| D | West Coast National Park : 13.09.23
Graphite and coloured pencil on
OS map paper, 440 x 1000mm | L | Grootswartberg : 12.09.23
Ink on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm |
| E | Cango Caves 1-6 : 12.09.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm | M | Collected Sketches 2023
Ink, graphite and coloured pencil on
munken paper, 440 x 1000mm |
| F | Cape Columbine N.R. : 14.09.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm | N | The Text
Graphite |
| G | Mont Rochelle N.R. : 07.09.23
Graphite and coloured pencil on
OS map paper, 440 x 1000mm | ----- | |
| H | Rio Della Misericordia (night walks)
Venice : 05.11.23
Graphite on OS map paper,
440 x 1000mm | Curated by Kirsty Badenoch at Microscope:
Periscope's investigative space for talking,
thinking and testing with natural processes. | |
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