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## Mackerel Sky

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*The Mackerel Sky* is partially autobiographical incorporating many sites and images as well as multiple media. As I reflect on this piece, the image is intensely personal, painful to analyze, and not particularly uplifting. The work is, I believe, a multilayered metaphor and open to the viewer's personal engagement. Many art works communicate more allusively and creatively unexplained; this work is probably one of them. But a few observations: I've used strong contrasts; a timeless and breathtaking sky framing an abandoned and crumbling farmstead, bountiful harvest with fallow land too wet or too dry to sustain a crop, inevitable versus senseless death, and symbols of life and death. I try to suggest loss in general...loss of life and passing seasons, loss of home and livelihood, the many hours spent in hand labor, and the passing of old technology.



*"The Mackerel Sky"* Oil Pastel, Pencil, Silkscreen, and Found Objects 1998  
Jacob Van Wyk

Sources. . .

