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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. . .

