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A book of drawings by **Michael McLoughlin** Crumlin 2010-2012

I am here because I know you will be too



mmcloughlin draft text 25-2-14

I remember meeting Sheena in The Lab We talked about the unique character of the area, the Crumlin area, and of the various groups and clubs and coffee shops and dances and games. I was drawn to the possibility of exploring these places that are so much a part of the relationships and friendships that have grown here over the years. This body of work is about places where friends meet. Where people check in with each other, share what has happened over the previous week. It's about places and moments of interaction. About belonging. And having the support of friends and your community around you.

The more I think about it, the work is about place you'd be missed if you weren't there.

About an unspoken reassurance that just happens between a group of people over time.

About the importance of friendship.

The drawings in this book were mainly made between 2010 and 2012. Although, many refer to activities that took place in the 2 years previous. When I started visiting Crumlin, I was mainly documenting activities, taking photos, making drawings, recording conversations. I made a series of pen and ink drawings called It's nice to see your friends once in a while. Much of this earlier work was in an exhibition in The Lab. I also made a series of lightboxes and some soundworks.

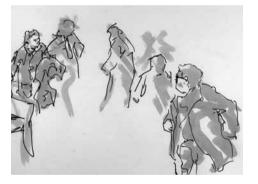
During this time I visited many place, talking to people, taking photos, drawing and got the feeling of a vibrant, supportive community. I remember the fantastic comradory and neighborliness in Father Kitts Court. The wonderful support between residents, how people looked out for each other. I remember meeting groups of friends at Bingo in the The Star, In Mother McCauley Day Centre, in Lorcan O'Toole Day Centre, in Crumlin Bowling Club, in the Allotments, in Walkinstown Social Services Centre.. again and again meeting friendships, support and community.





How do you represent a feeling, the idea of what takes place and where it takes place? As the work developed I began to focus on two elements in particular; the physical spaces and the gestures; the instances that happened and environments they occupied. These drawings became gradually more and more paired back. In someway, the spaces began to seem more theatrical, like stage sets. Tonal block shapes of different places. Lighter and lighter drawings of people.

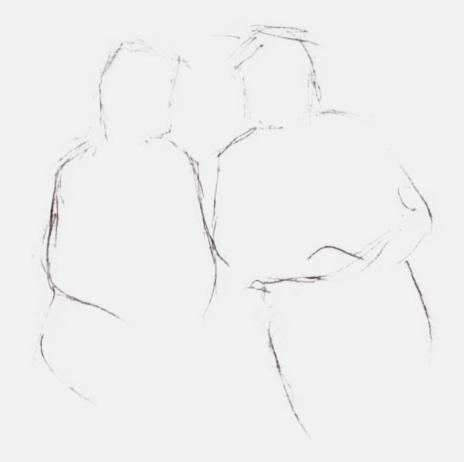
I felt that the focus of the work I was making wasn't to chronicle the activities themselves, but to record the fleeting moments, exchanges, that happen in the most informal way and are so, so important in showing an easy and reassurance that exists between friends. I was aiming to create a record of activity, of places and people, of events and the buildings that housed them. But the more I looked and the more I visited and the more I felt that connection between people was the core. The places and the activities are the backdrop around which this other thing happens. And this other thing is what holds it all together. So what is it? Friendship, Community, Support, Comradary, Care, Love?



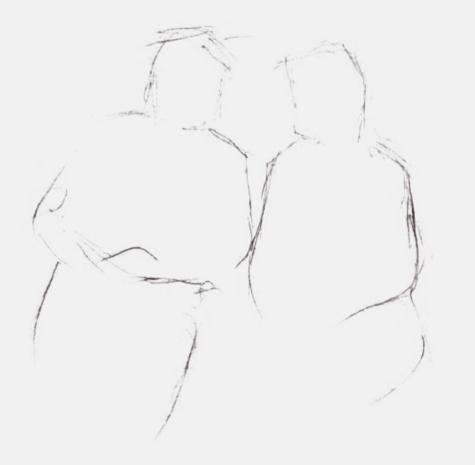
People have lived in the Crumlin, Drimnagh, Walkinstown area for thousands of years. The city has grown out to meet them in relatively recent times. This is a place where people have moved to and lived in for generation and generation. It has a history, a continuing evolving history, and the people who I met making this artwork are part of this history. It is a place that simultaneously displays a definition based on the longevity of its existence and a continuous flux as it develops and changes with its residents. Many of the residents who, over the last 50 years, have formed the places in the drawings in this book are still involved in their communities: meeting friends, dancing, playing bingo, singing the odd song, bowling, chatting, talking, slagging and most importantly, looking out for each other. I hope this body of work represents their place within this, the reassuring role the play, offering friendship, a support, a consistency within an every evolving environment.

It is nice to see your friends once in a while

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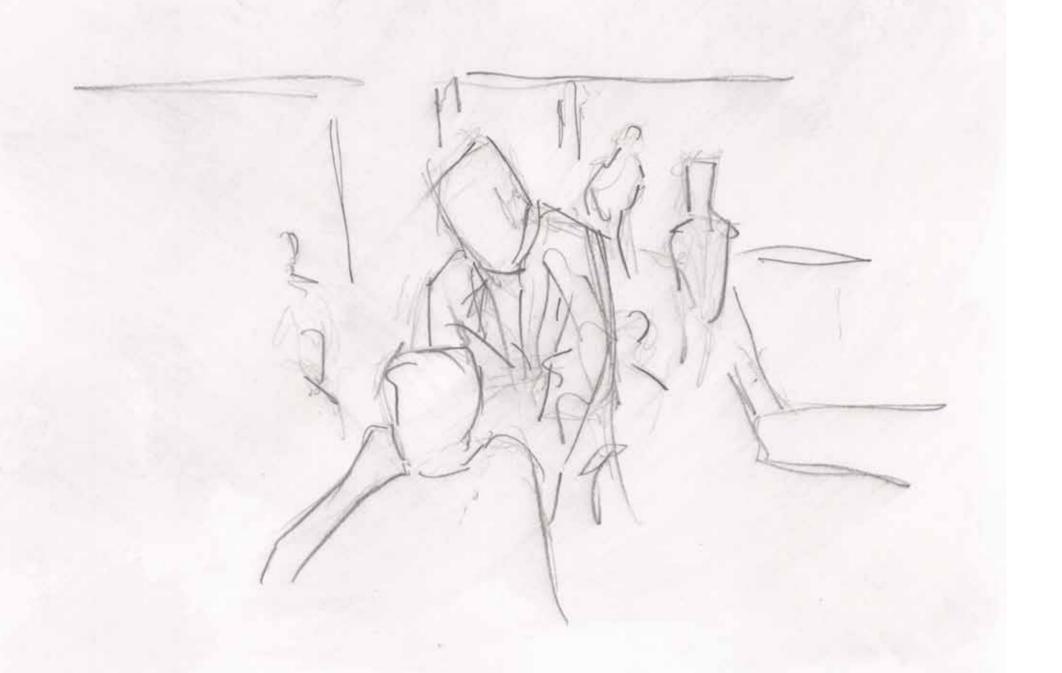


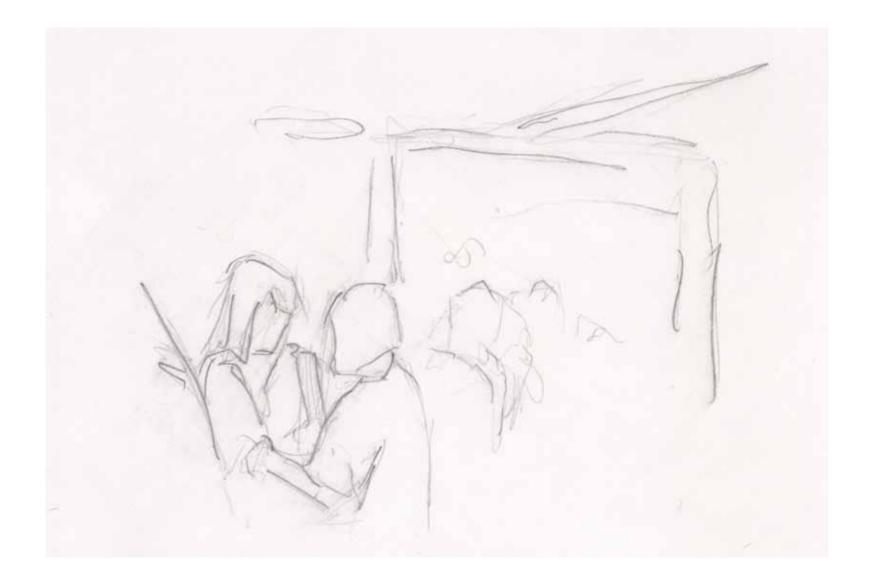














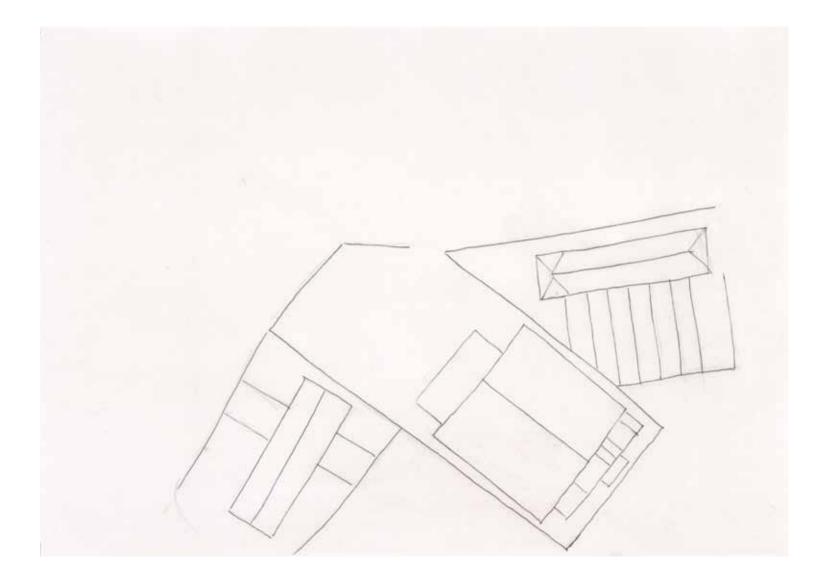
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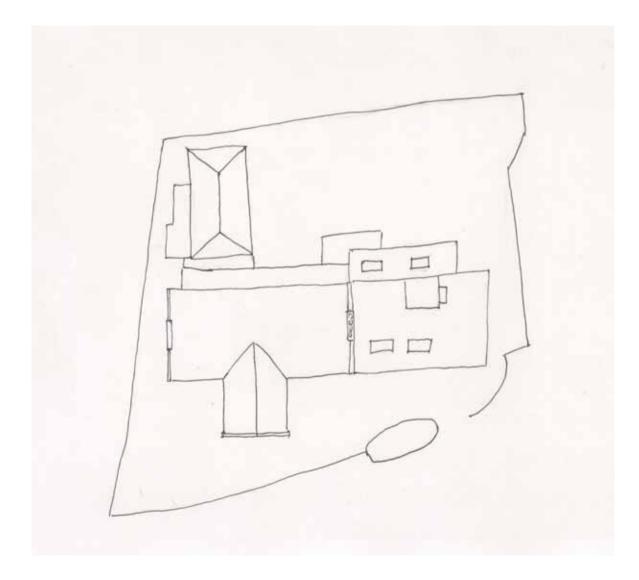


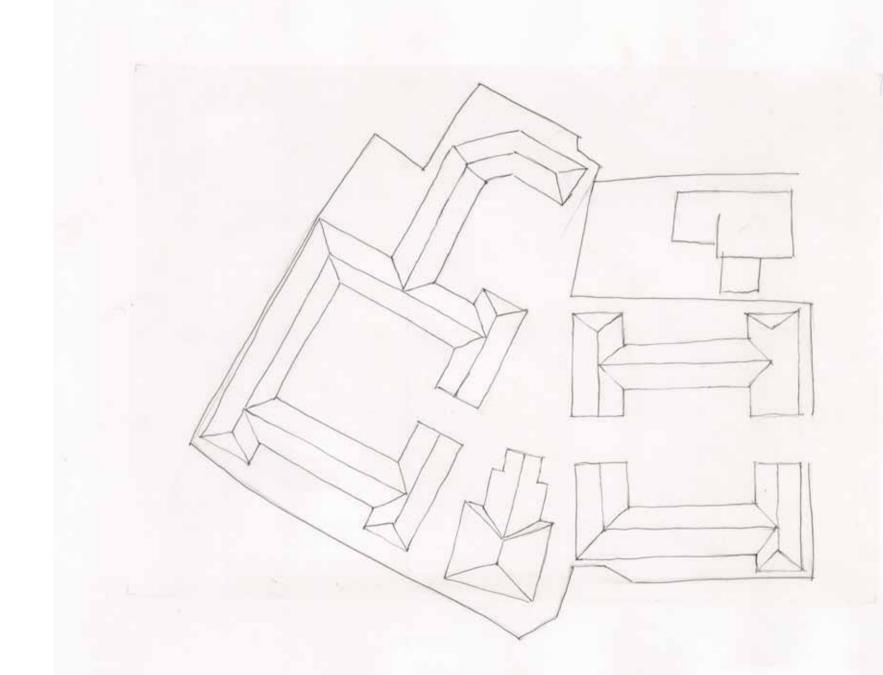




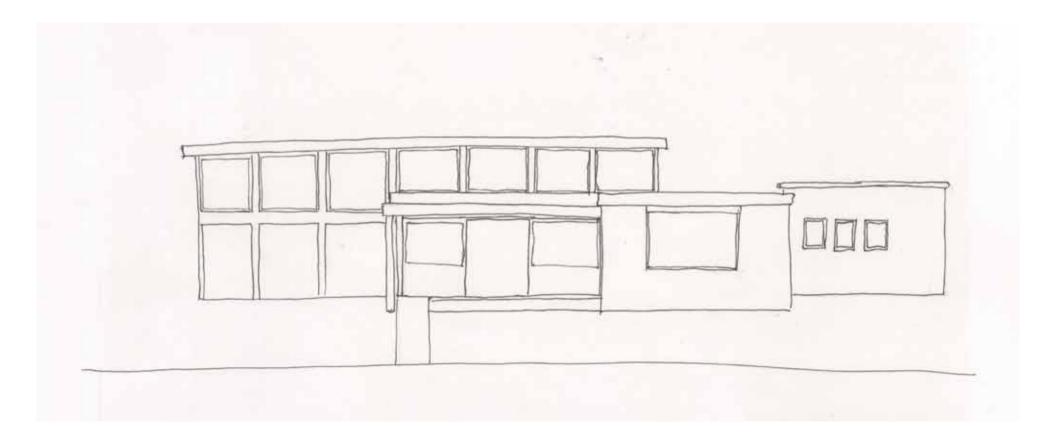


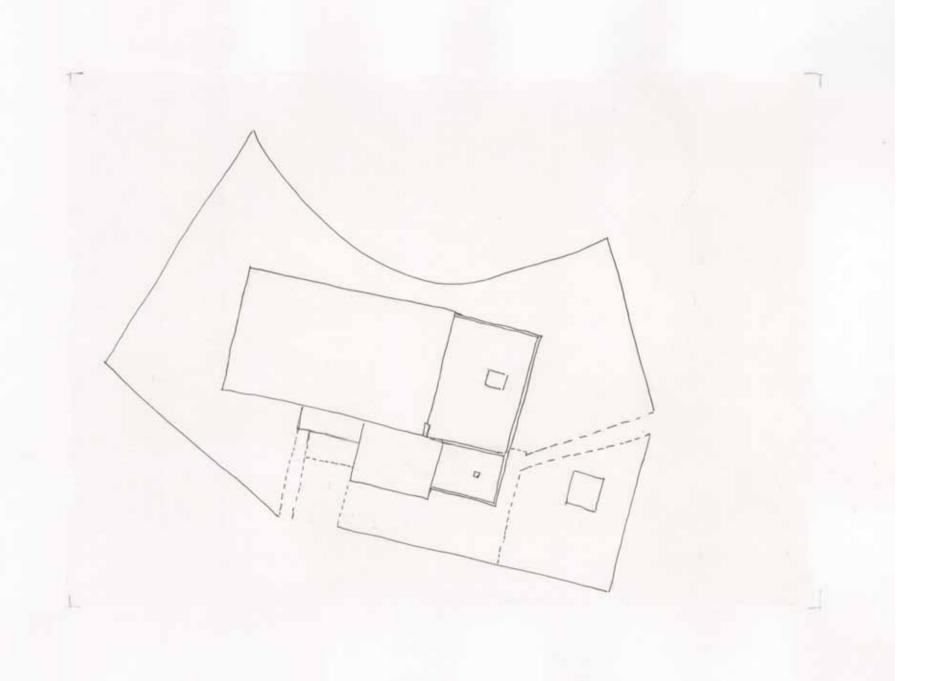


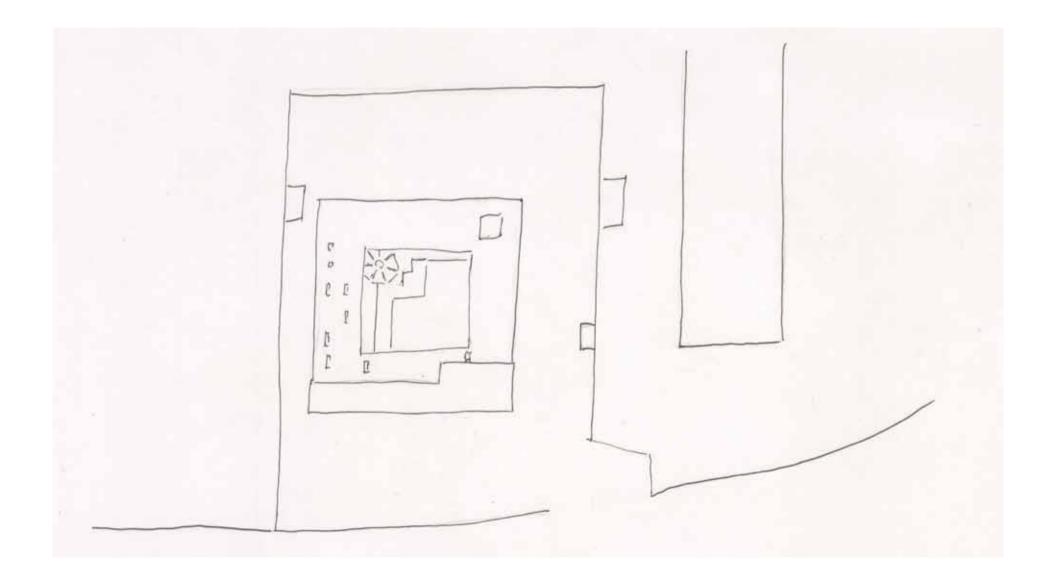


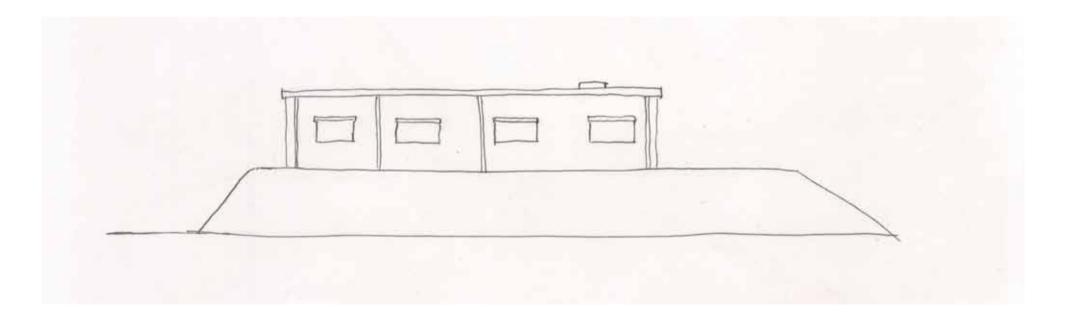




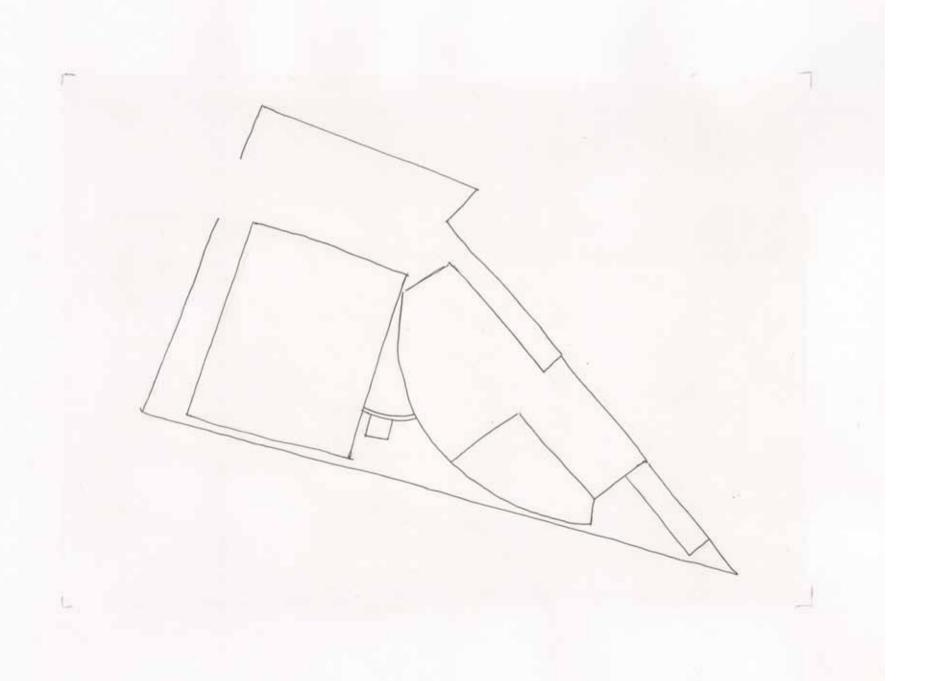


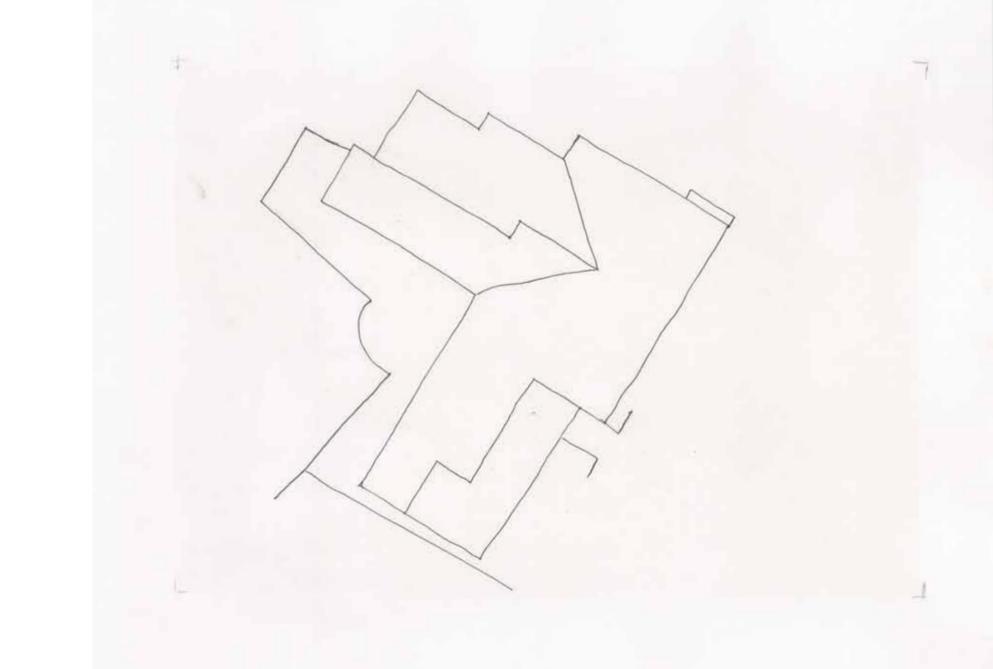


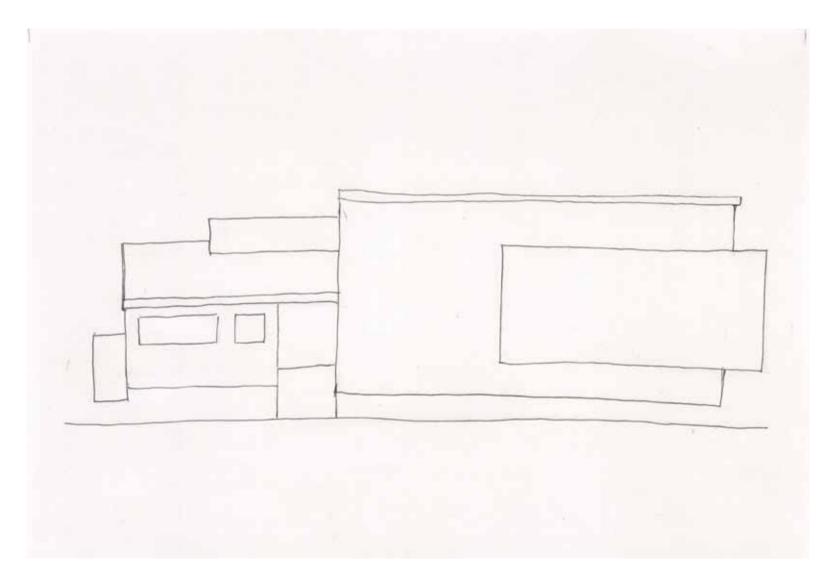












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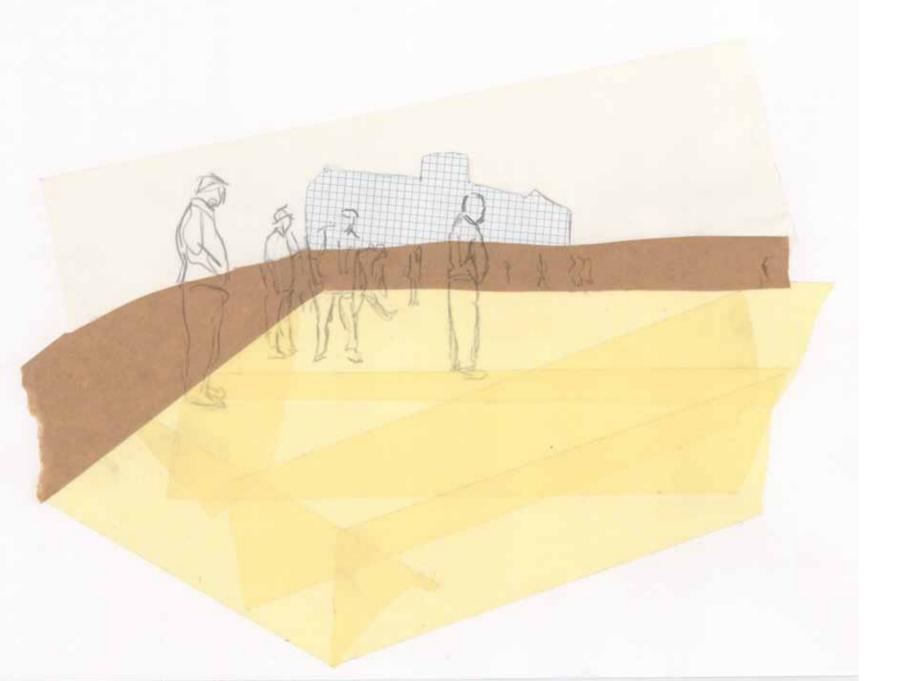


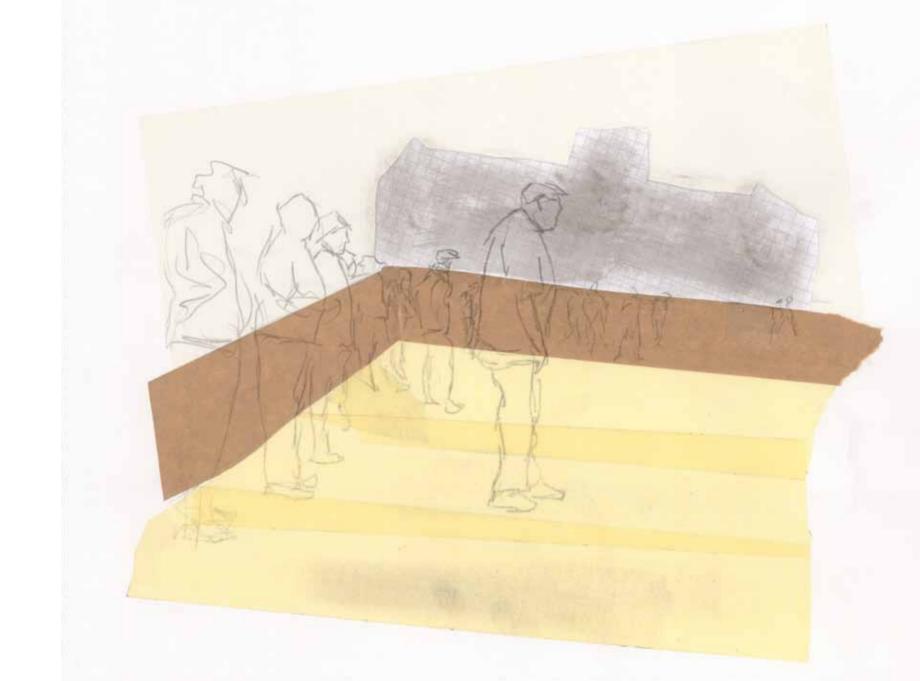


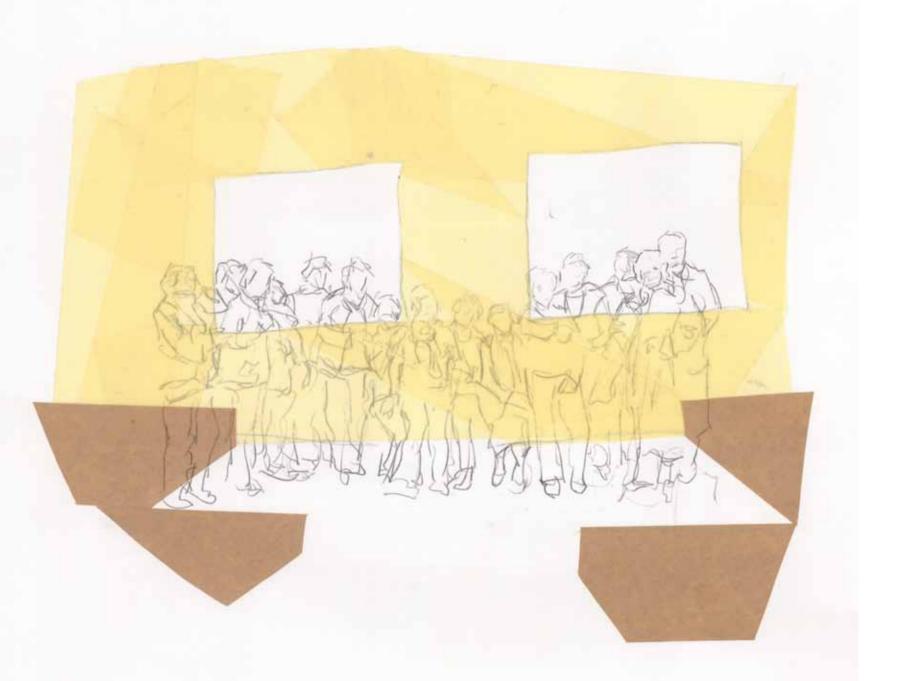




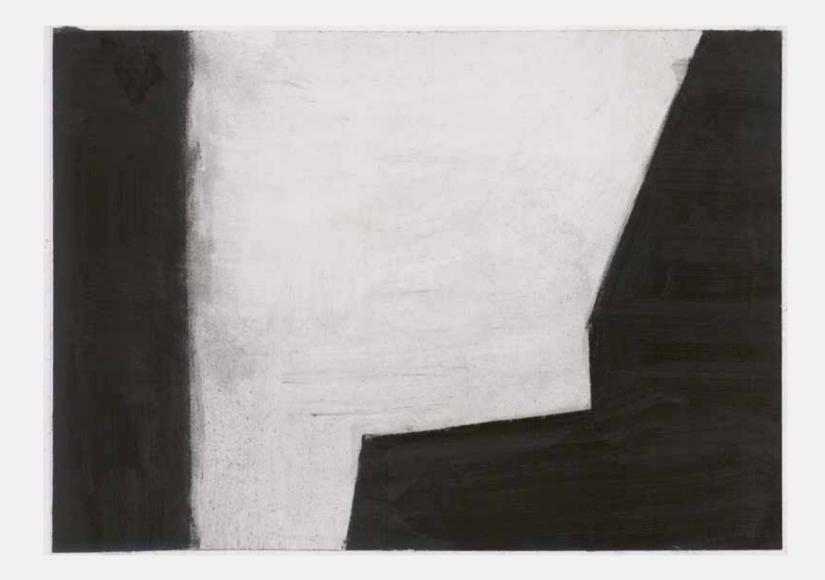








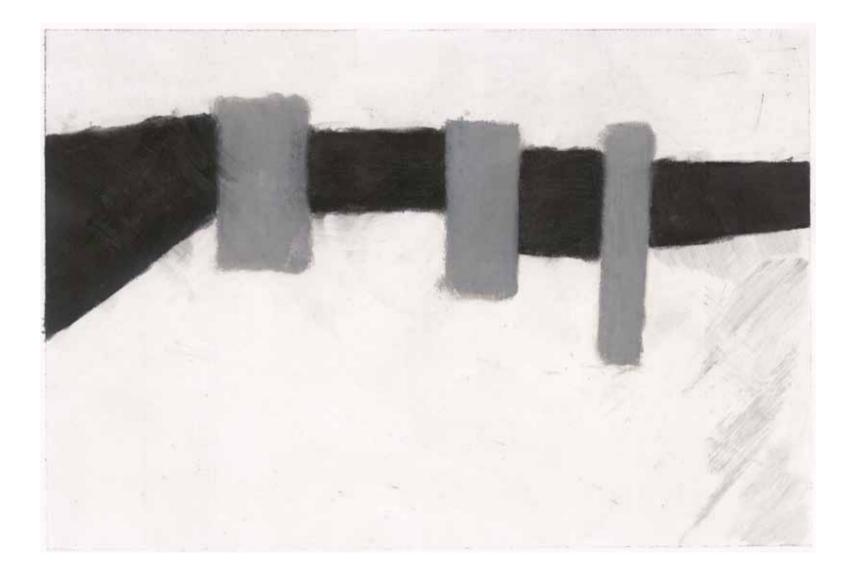


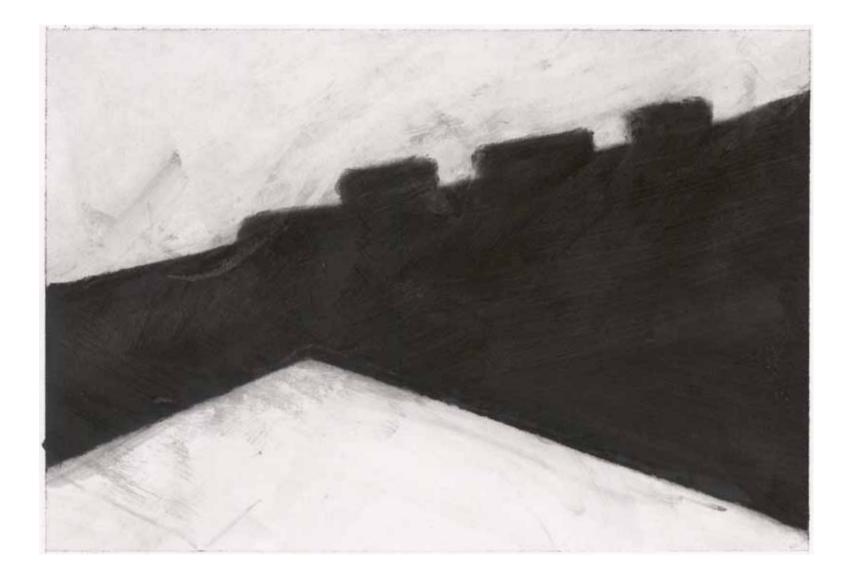


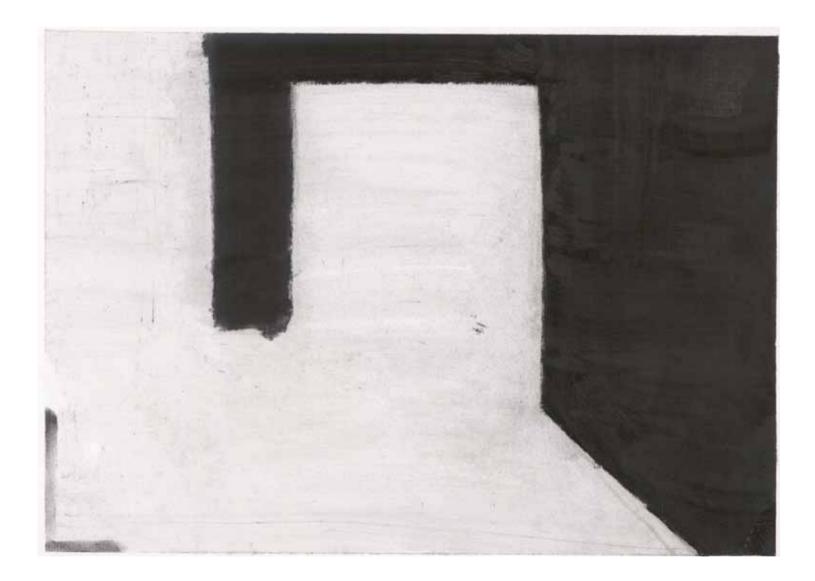




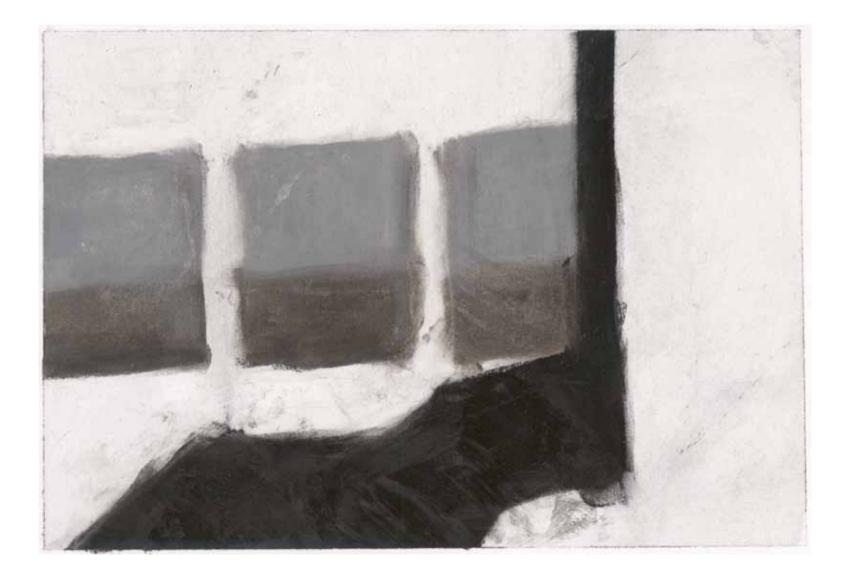


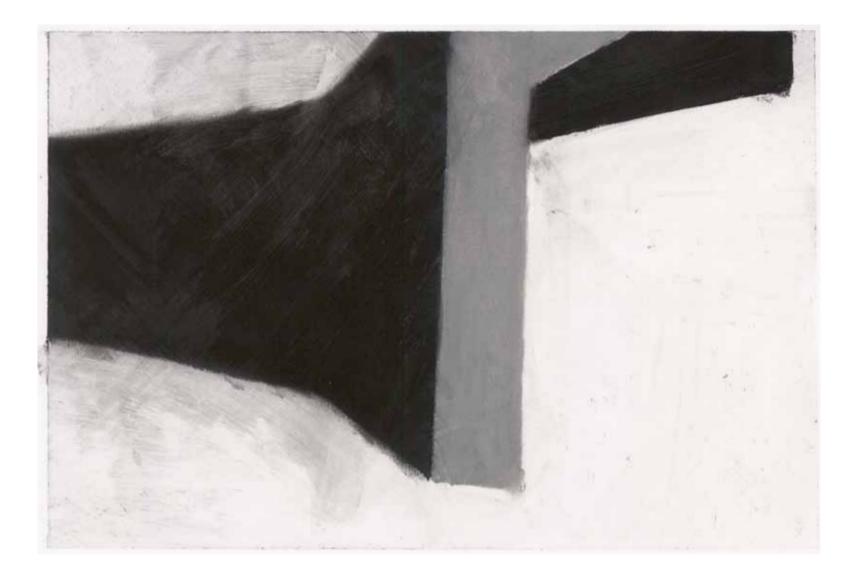


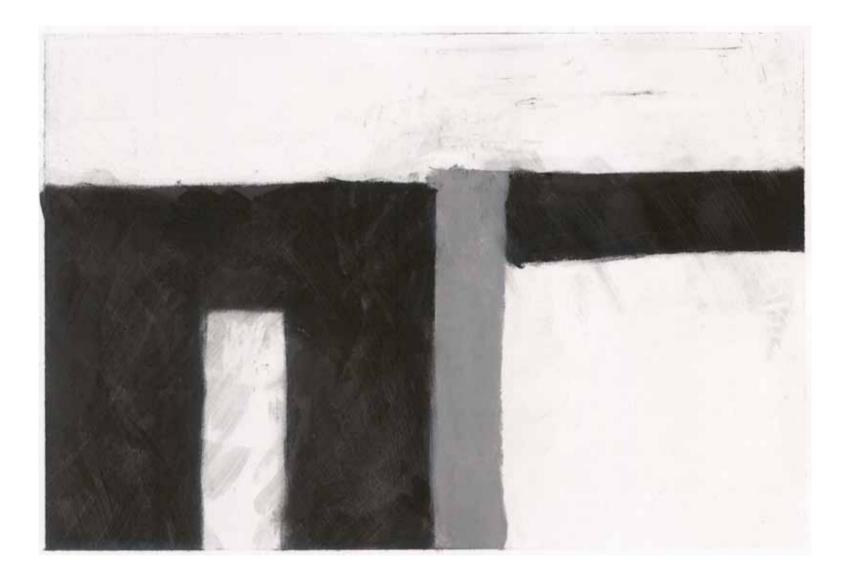


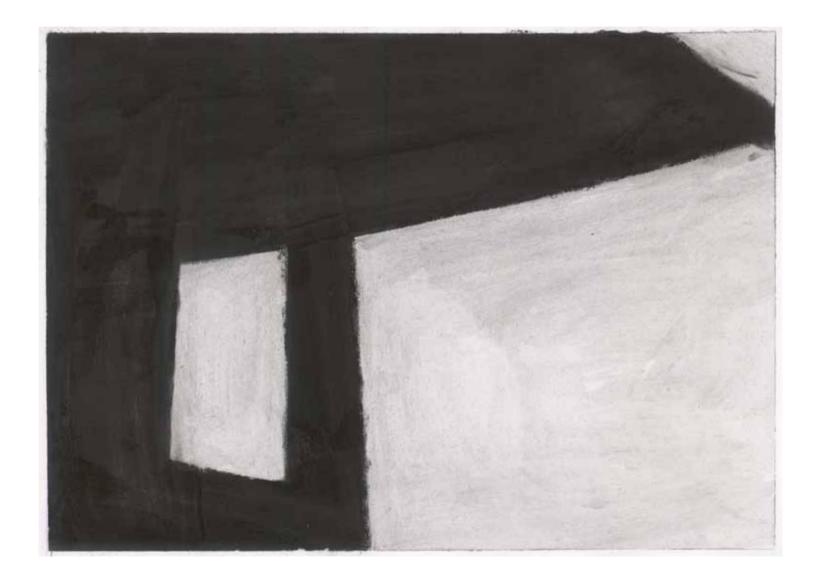


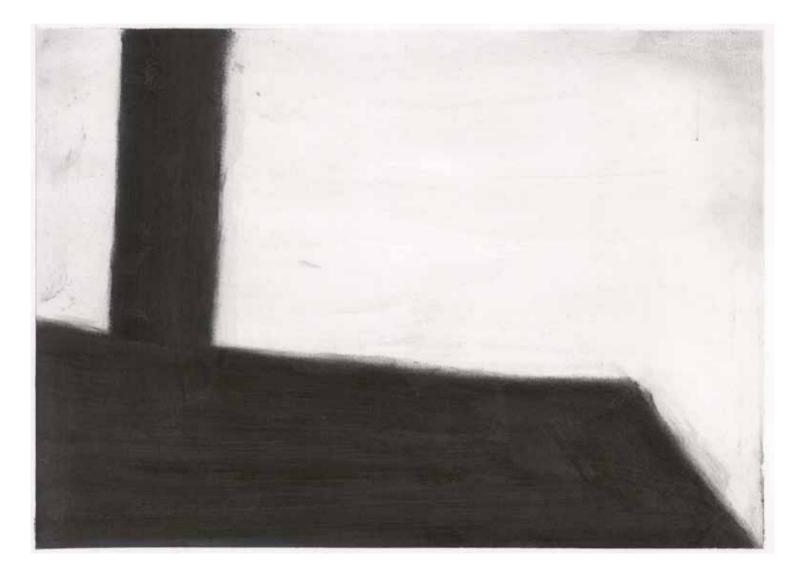


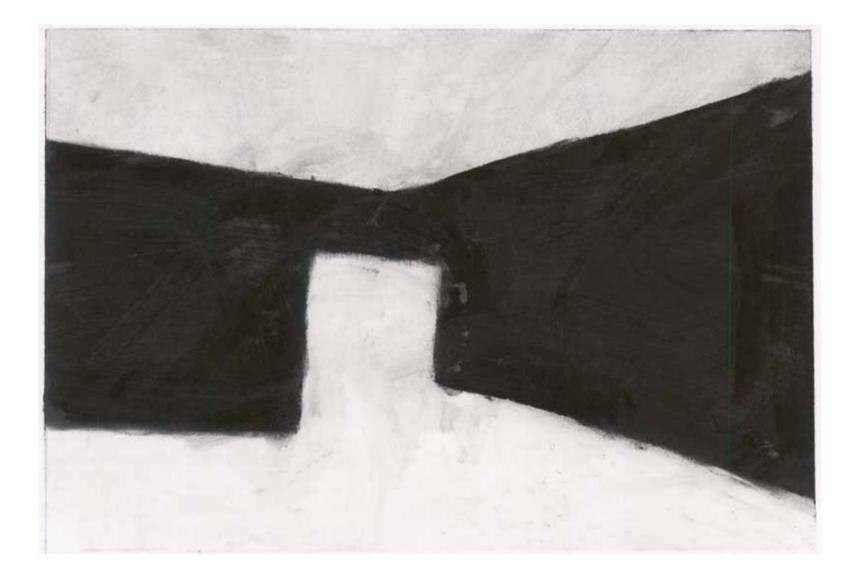


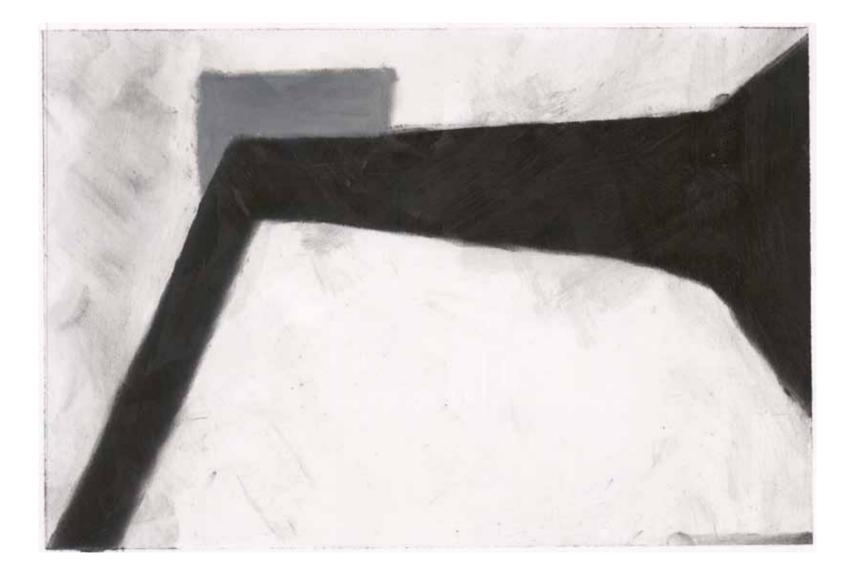


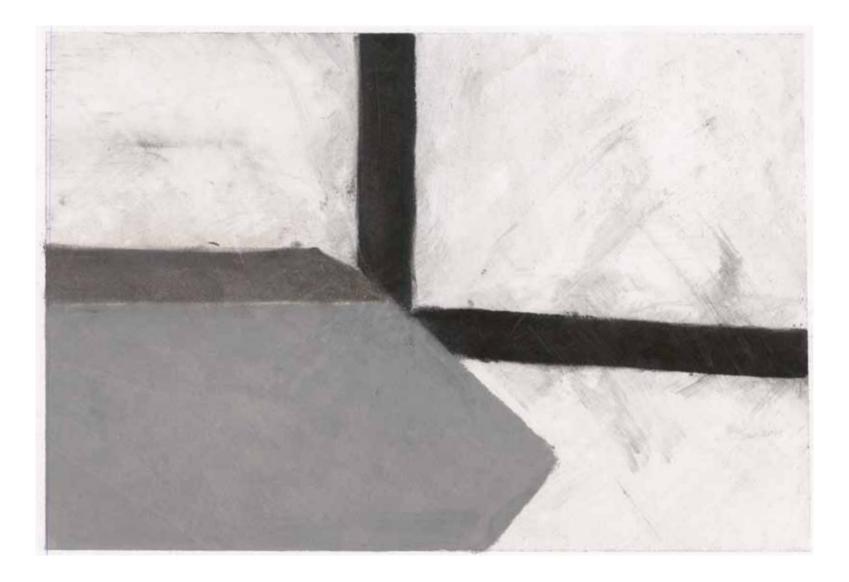


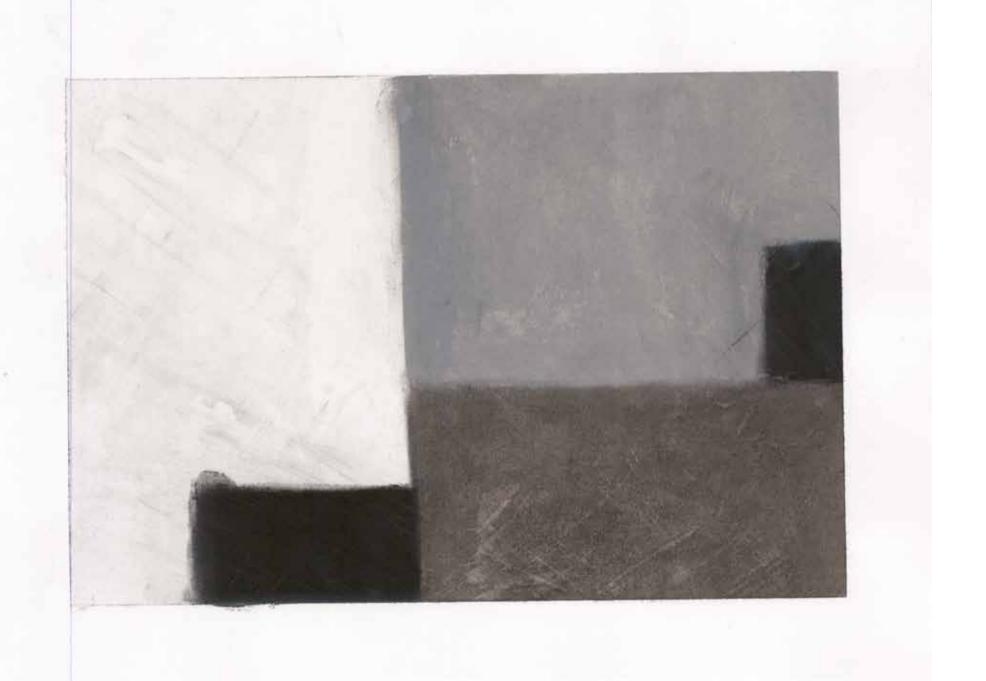




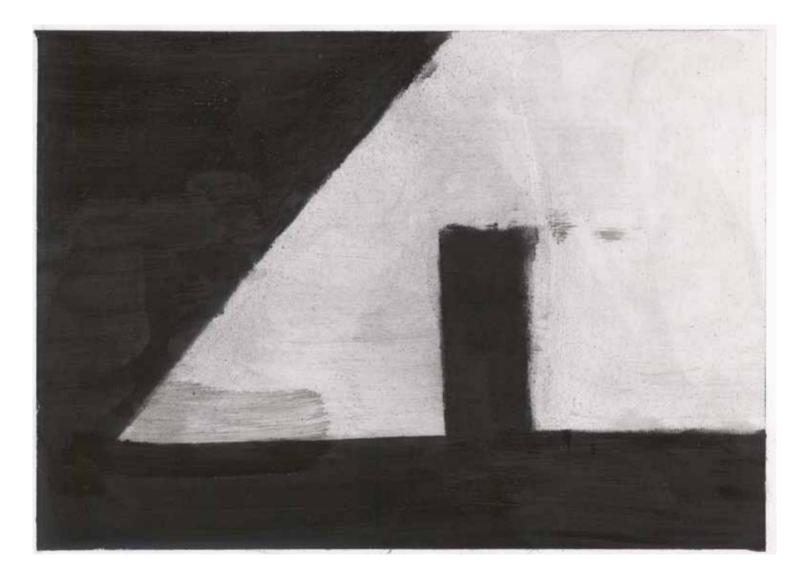












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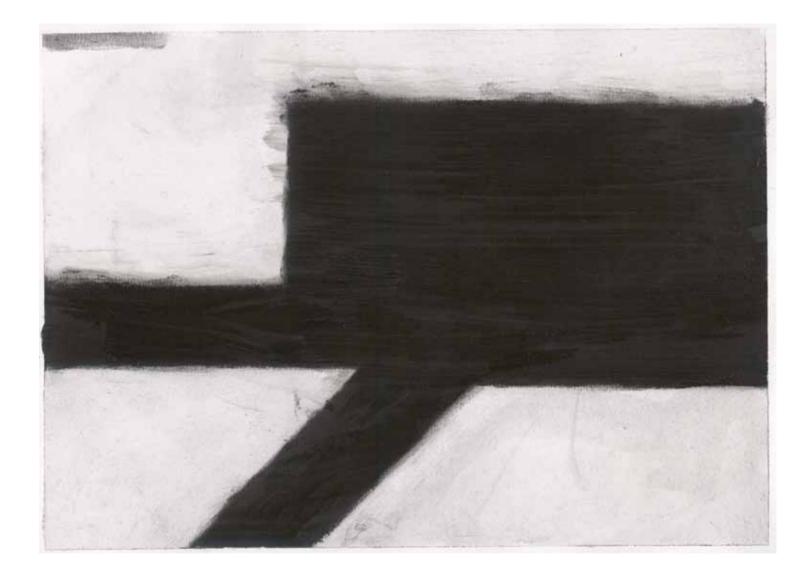


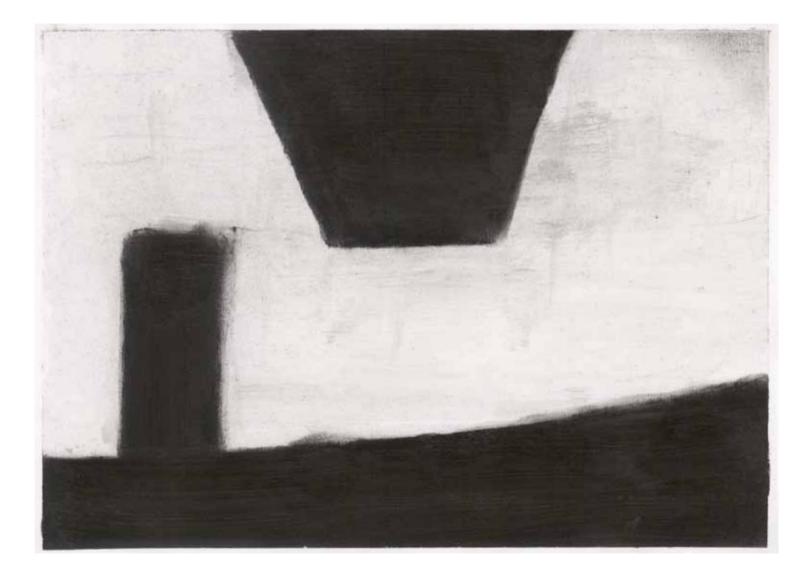


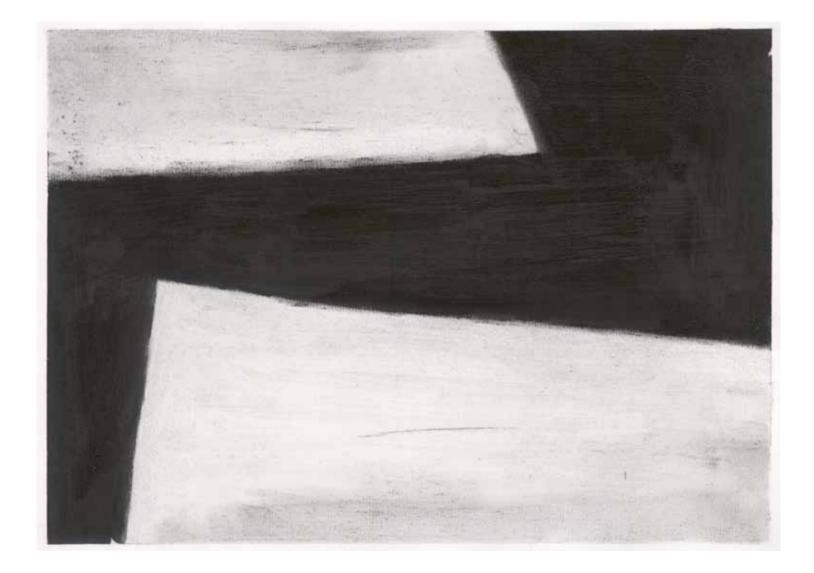




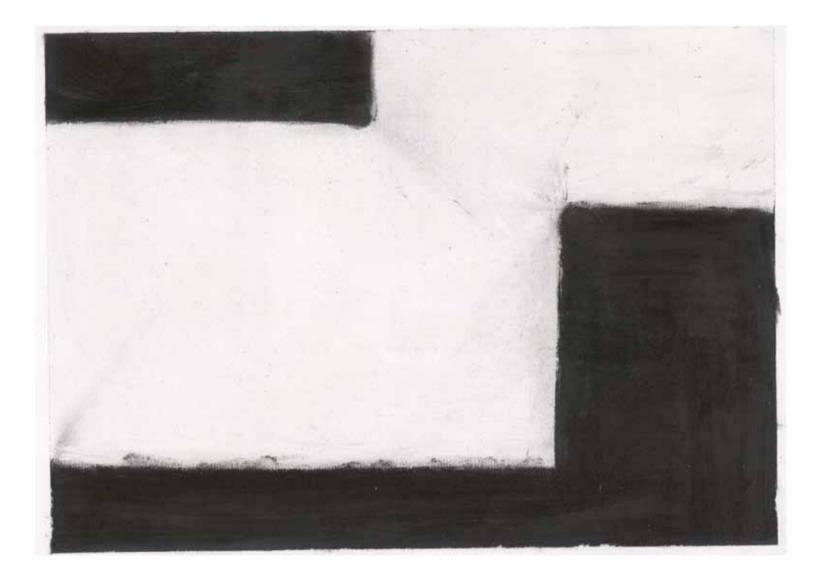


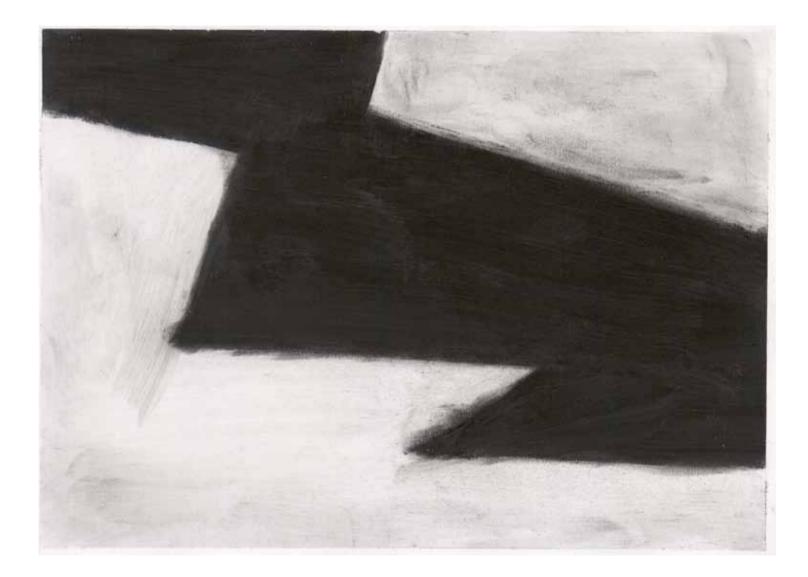






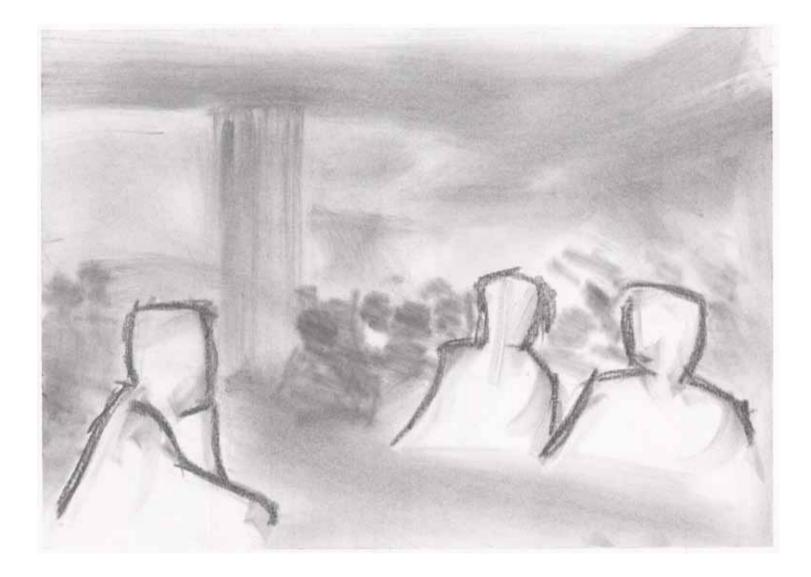


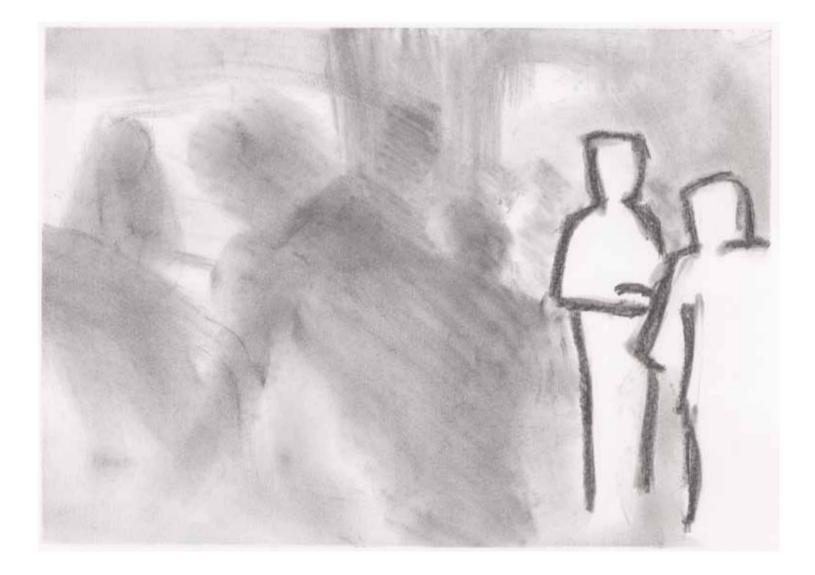




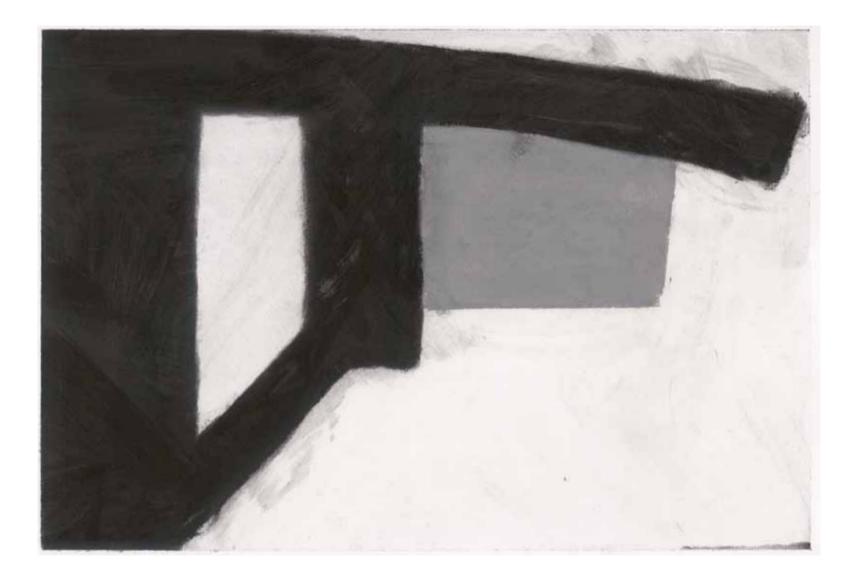


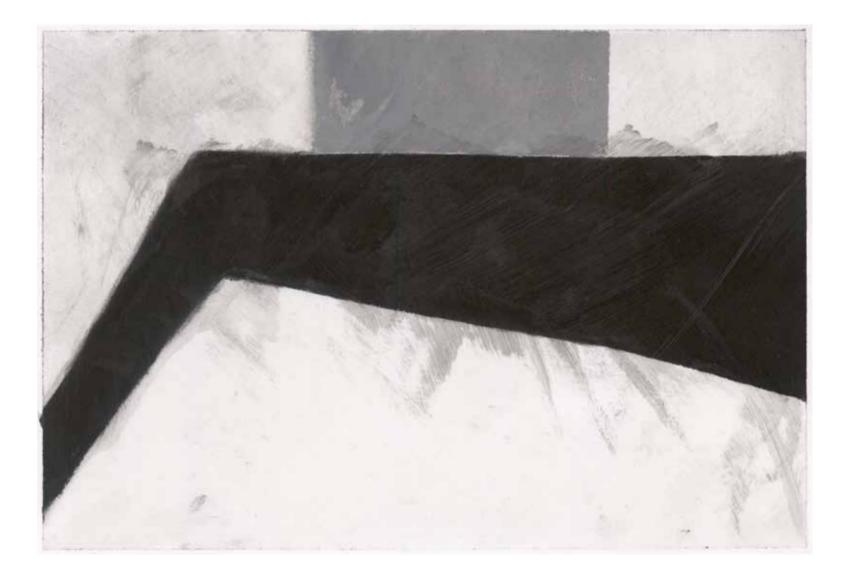




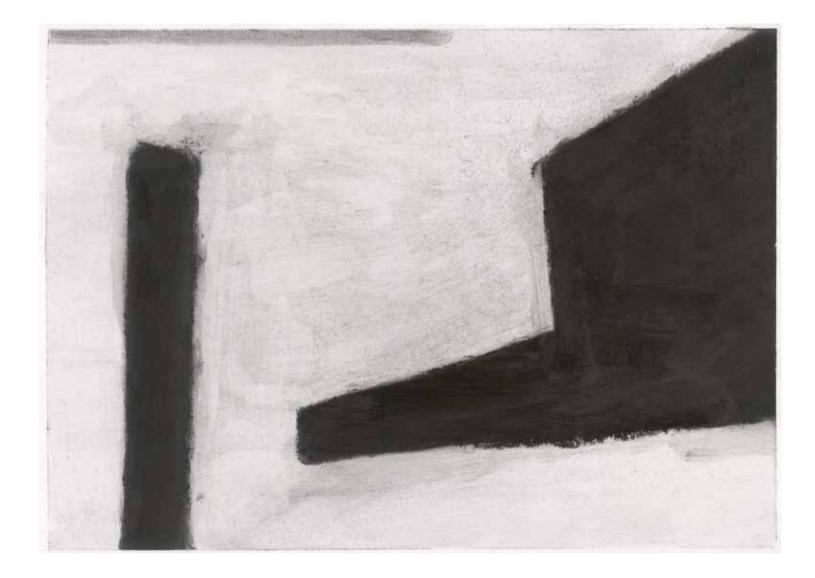










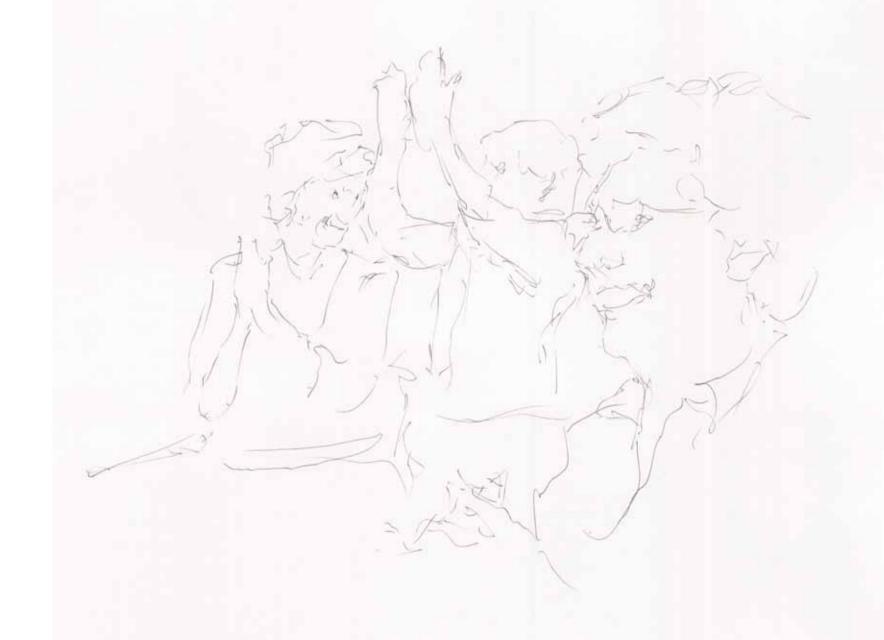






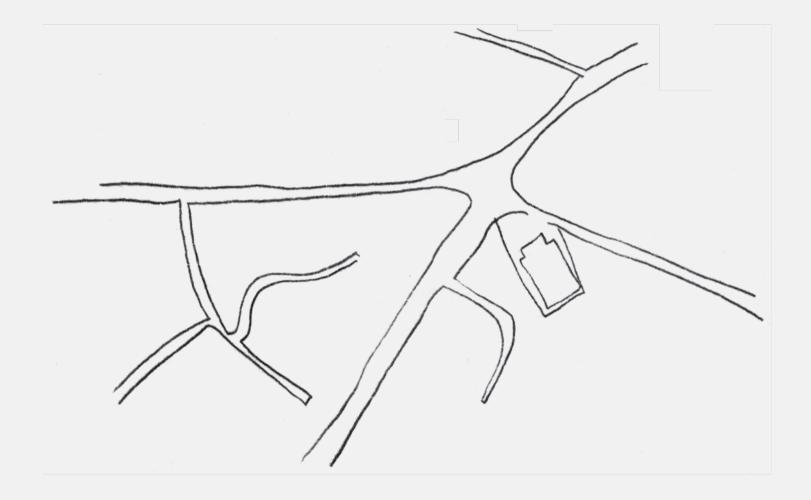


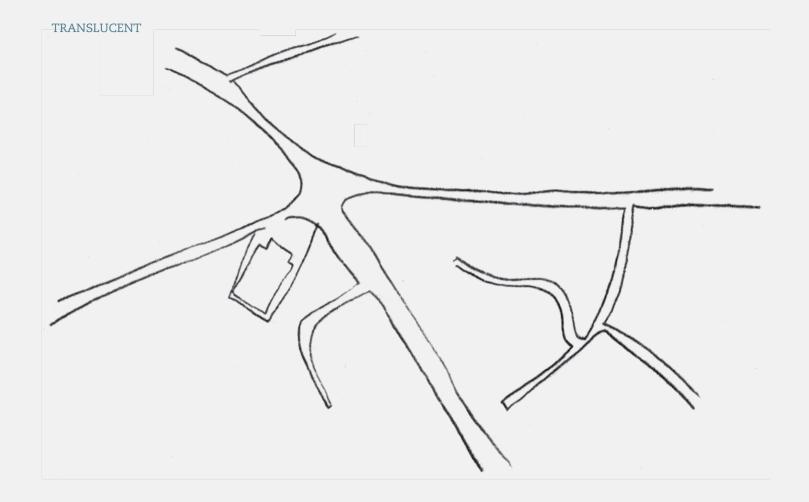


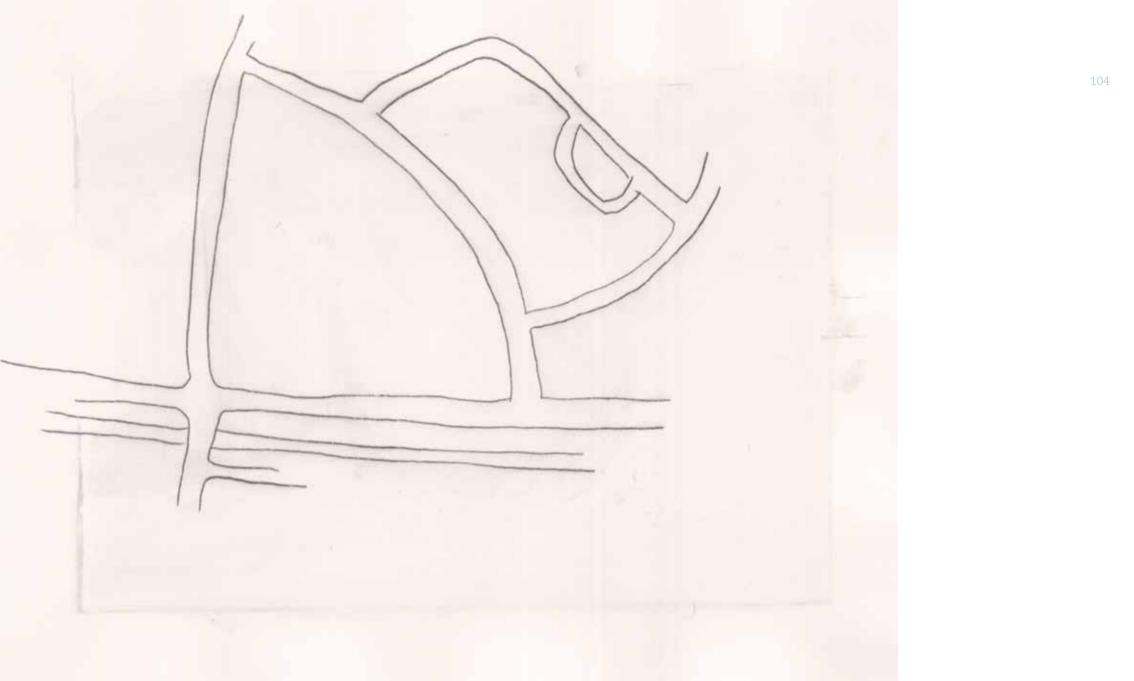


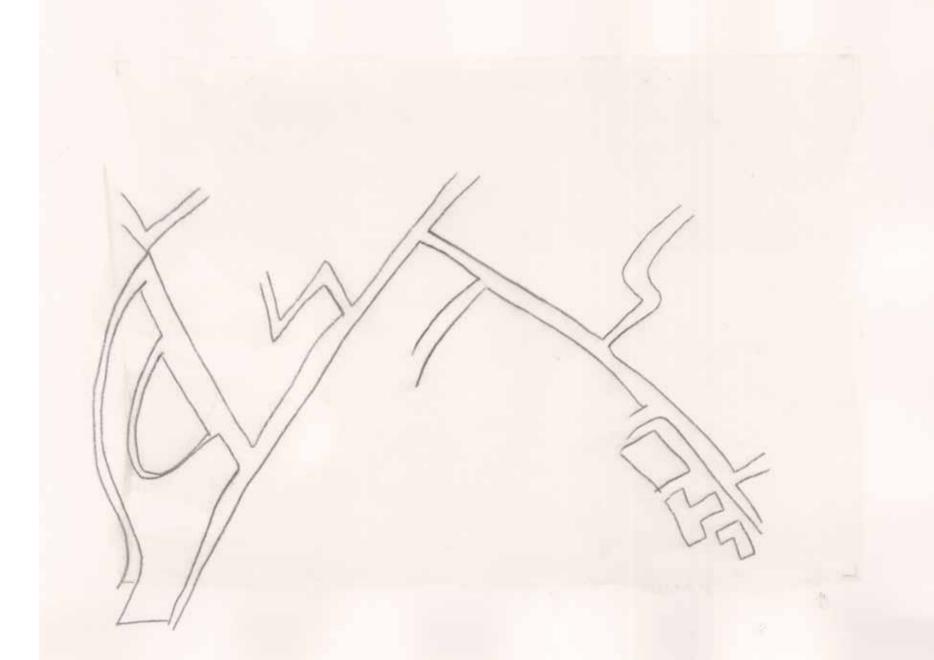


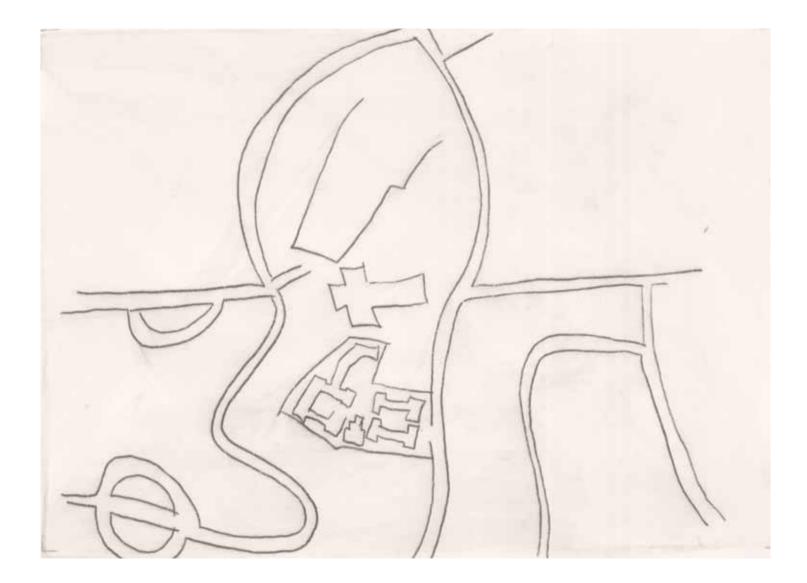


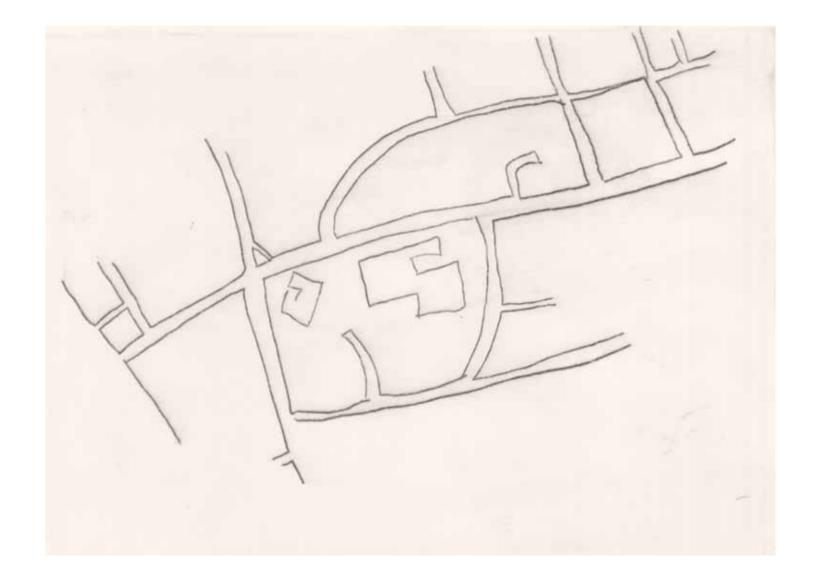


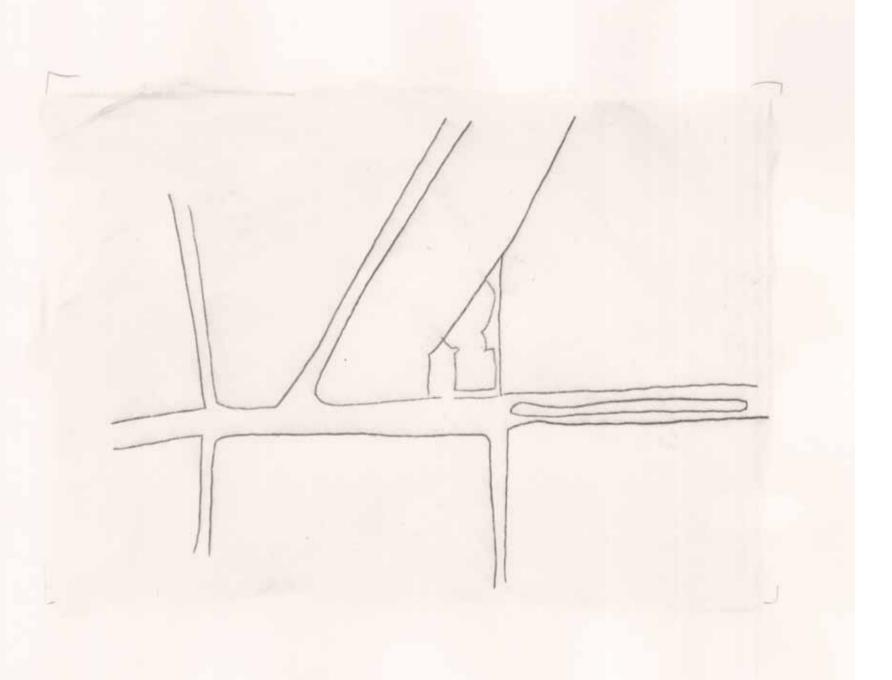


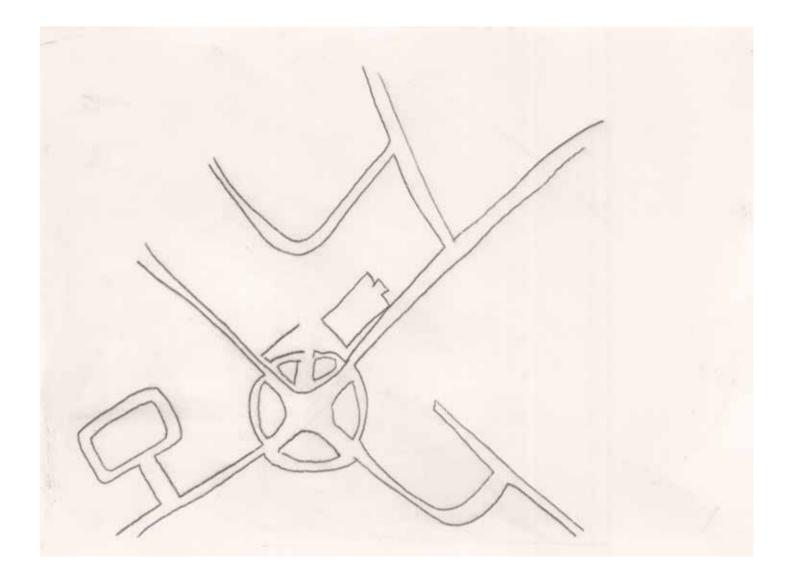


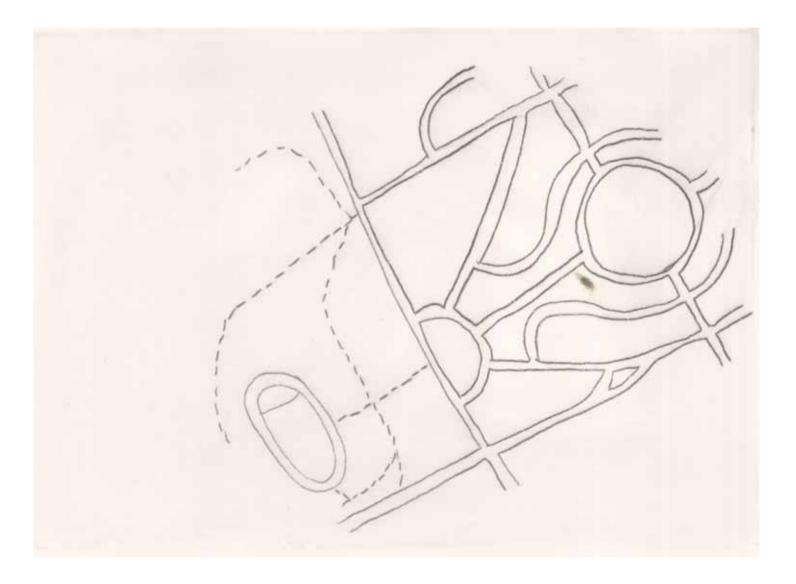














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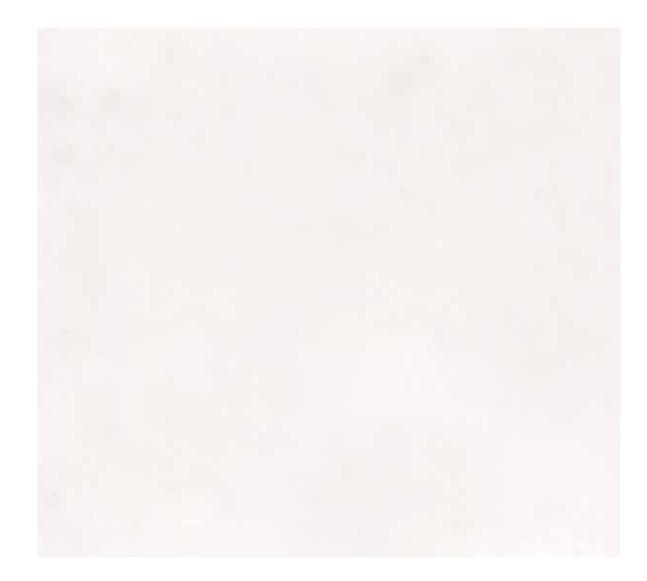


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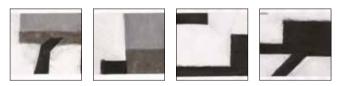
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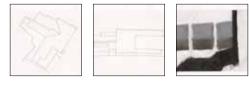
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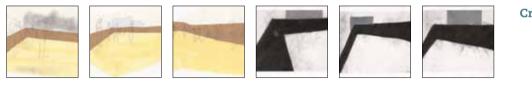
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The Star Kildare Rd Crumlin Dublin 12 01 4559659



Sel. A









