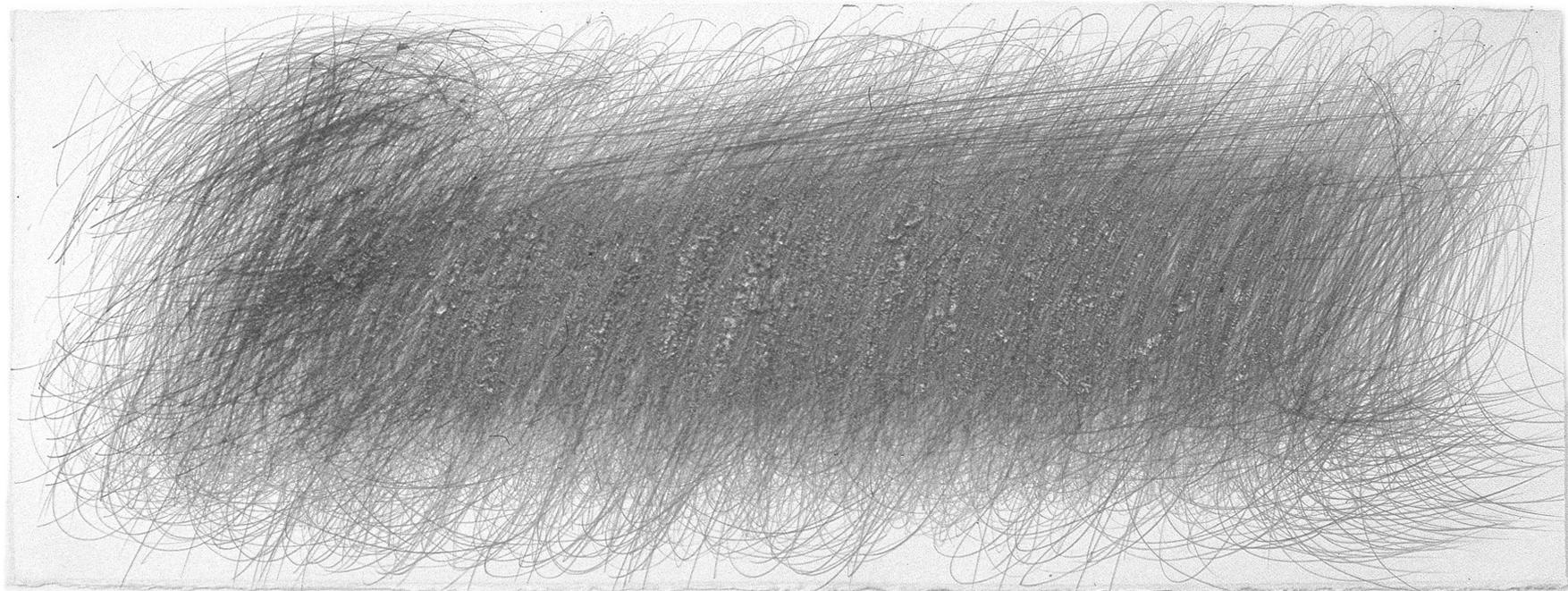


Claude van Lingen



1000 YEARS FROM NOW

Prospective (future) time and space have been the central concern of my work since 1978. The paintings, drawings and mixed-media constructions consider not only the linear concepts of space and time, but the layering of every physical, conscious and subconscious experience we might have as individuals or as a global collective. In other words these works encapsulate the events, emotions and conditions that link the past, the ever changing present and the unknown/anticipated future, linking them into an inextricable whole.

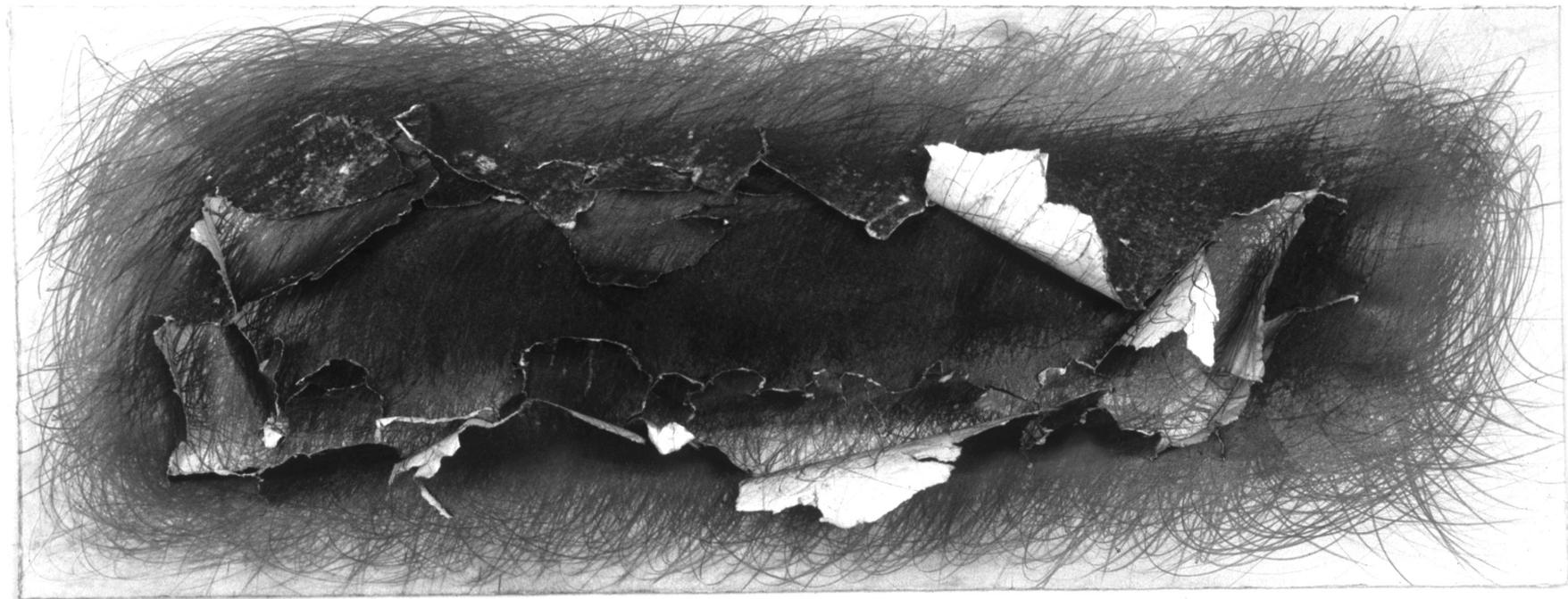
I use traditional drawing, painting and sculpture techniques for a number of reasons, not least because doing so addresses the question of their historical links and their (either real or perceived) demise in the technologically orientated future.

The paintings and constructions started in 1978 and 1979 consist of surfaces divided into a thousand squares and dated a thousand years into the future. In the paintings a square is to be painted with a colour basic to the artist's palette each year for a thousand years.

At the same time, I also made a similar thousand-year piece using ten grams of twenty-two carat gold and one using ten grams of sterling silver. In these works the linear aspects of time and space and the mental/imagined considerations relating to the future are stressed. The participation of many generations of owners, artists and museum preservationists (not preserving, but adding to the work) for the completion of these paintings and sculptures is called for. An important consideration is the linking of all the participants in the creation and viewing of these paintings and constructions over an extended period of time and in different places under varying conditions.

During the 1980s, the ideas embodied in this project were extended into figurative and non-figurative paintings into which were inserted broadcast TV sets or mirrors. Here the static painted image records an event or events of a brief period in history and is set against the constantly changing situations as shown on television or embodied in the viewer's reflection in the mirrors.

The "1000 Years From Now" drawings form a series begun in late 1992. Dates for one thousand years into the future are written one on top of the other.



Each series in this format consists of seventeen drawings, each made with a pencil ranging from 6B to 9H from a single manufacturer.

I started the series titled "The Millennium Series" in January 2000. It consists of paintings in which the dates from 2000 to 3000 were written, one over the other, using eleven colours basic to the artist's palette, and one using all these colours. The acrylic paint was applied – ten years at a time – and left to dry for about a week between sessions. This process resulted in paintings about 11cm in thickness that took about two years to complete.

These works explore the non-linearity of space-time. Subsequently, I extended the concept of superimposition into the writing of phrases and lists of names one over the other. With this in mind, I made two drawings of the victims of the World Trade Center – each 280cm high (2.5cm for each floor of the buildings) – between 2001 and 2004. Later I created drawings consisting of phrases such as "I Am Right, You Are Wrong" and "God Is On My Side", as well as lists of "The Religions Of The World" and "The Languages Of The World".

The drawings in the "1000 Years From Now – Species Expected To Go Extinct In The 21st Century" series reflect my deep concern for the welfare of our environment. The names of eleven species that are expected to become extinct are written, one over the other, with graphite of varying grades. Three larger drawings have been made in which all the names of the species are written. In the first, all their names – both scientific and common – were written with 6B graphite, making for a dense black drawing. I made the second by writing the scientific names with 6B graphite and the common names with a hard 9H pencil, resulting in a ripped and torn surface. The third drawing was made by writing the scientific names with 6B graphite and rubbing them out with their common names, creating a ghost-like image.

The aesthetic reactions, and associative and metaphoric readings these works engender, are left to the individual viewer.

Claude van Lingen
Austin, Texas 2007

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Image: (page 2 and 3) 1000 YEARS FROM NOW
Endangered and Threatened Species of the 21st Century, 2006
Clams
Dimensions: 27cm x 76cm
Medium: 9H Pencil on paper

Image: (page 6 and 7) 1000 YEARS FROM NOW
Endangered and Threatened Species of the 21st Century, 2006
All species
Dimensions: 27cm x 76cm
Medium: 6B Graphite stick and 9H Pencil on paper

Image: (page 10 and 11) 1000 YEARS FROM NOW
Endangered and Threatened Species of the 21st Century, 2006
Amphibians
Dimensions: 27cm x 76cm
Medium: Graphite on paper

Image: (page 12 and 13) 1000 YEARS FROM NOW
Endangered and Threatened Species of the 21st Century, 2006
Snails
Dimensions: 27cm x 76cm
Medium: Graphite on paper

Map - South Africa

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Concept: Harrie Siertsema
Co-ordination: Abrie Fourie
Text: Claude van Lingen

- ⊕ - Graskop
- ⊕ - Dullstroom
- ⊕ - Pretoria - Tshwane
- ⊕ - Irene - Tshwane
- ⊕ - Richmond
- ⊕ - Cape Town