



## BEN STRAWN | Artist Statement

In the beginning there was the dot- the 'you are here'. Then came the line- the indication of direction, distance and time. The line circled around and joined itself to become a shape, a perimeter, a within and without, an expression of ownership, self and other. identity-to identify with-definition of self. A map, may of course, be a way of conveying all sorts of information. The lay of the land- description of the 3-dimensional physical world we inhabit or extra dimensional spaces we may navigate- maps of consciousness, maps of feeling states.

It is interesting that in order to gain perspective we rise above and look down at our worlds; in the process we lose perspective in the renaissance sense. i.e. 'Renaissance perspective' The world flattens onto the picture plane. Shape flattens into modern art. Matisse rules the world. The mapping of feeling states is directly imbedded in the painted form, mark making, color relationships and the information conveyed through the perceptual receptors of the viewer. This is experiential transmission. A picture is worth a thousand words. The Polynesians created navigational maps to describe pertinent information to travelling the seas between islands. By tying together sticks they were able to describe direction, location of islands, distance, ocean currents, winds, etc... but the maps as objects in themselves have intrinsic beauty; as abstract composition of line, form, material, shape.

We map in order to try and understand our place in 'reality' be it physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual.