**Romola V Thumbadoo**

WORKSHOPS - VIP Founders ...

Pecha Kucha Mid Course 2022

05 Romola Thumbadoo - 9:56 am

Pecha Kucha, Cartographic Cognition, and Rapid Ink Sketching to Journey Map Road Tripping in South Africa

Pecha Kucha: a storytelling method to talk less and show more.

Preamble

The following is just text to contextualize my Janice Tanton Project commenced in JAArt 101! - Pecha Kucha, please excuse me!

- **Cartography:** the study of making maps
- **Cognition:** the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience and the senses
- I study **Geography** and the intermesh of time and space; and in particular, I explore **Cybernetics** etymologically in the context of its rootedness in the word steering, guiding and navigating, within the motional time driven world of social and digital media, including photography; and **Cybercartography**, digital atlas storytelling via a multi-sensory, multi-media, interactive process.
- I love drawing the passing landscape when I have the luxury of being driven. I sketch things that I see as they present and my mind and pen race from mountain to tree to river, rock to flower - as fleeting as the encounter is, these tiny individual lines register some connection deeper than I access by just looking at the vista; something beyond me embeds itself within me.

- I think these are the roots for that: 1) decades ago, Kimon Nicolaides book taught me the natural way to draw: to look at my material and keep my eyes firmly on it as I draw such that it becomes a part of me; 2) the Frederic Franck zen/seeing/drawing process accesses fault-lines in my mind and brushes off dust or slack; exfoliated and sharpened, my mind registers more; and 3) the Hippocampus in the brain creates spatial maps. Some theorize that motion plays a role in hippocampus functioning; some research disputes this. I see the benefits of motion and sitting still in my **Ink Sketching**.
- I love words; drawing helps me cheat - I get to access "art" while staying with pen and ink.
- When I started Art Class, the project I proposed was to map my road trips by **Ink Sketching** them, to complement my photographs and contribute to my formal studies in mapping.
- It was only after several trips crisscrossing across South Africa that I finally began to integrate some land-based knowledge my country of origin. It was only after the last of five road trips that the pieces started to fall together and I began to see patterns. My trip to God's Window in the Drakensberg Mountains triggered a personal early warning alert to the devastating climate change advances that were to sweep over my very birth place in Durban, Kwazulu Natal on the Indian Ocean. Intense land transformation was already showing the direction and nature of its destructive reach.
- Beneath its unspeakable beauty, the land was shrieking. I memorized the surface till the last trip. My last trip to the God's Window, Kruger and Hluhluwe/Ufolozi National and Provincial Parks, and Richard's Bay (now projected to become the port of prominence in Southern Africa), awakened me to the flooding that was coming and that is still to come.
- I have yet to write that story, and use my photographs and research to support it; my Animal Gaze Photoatlas begins to explore that topic

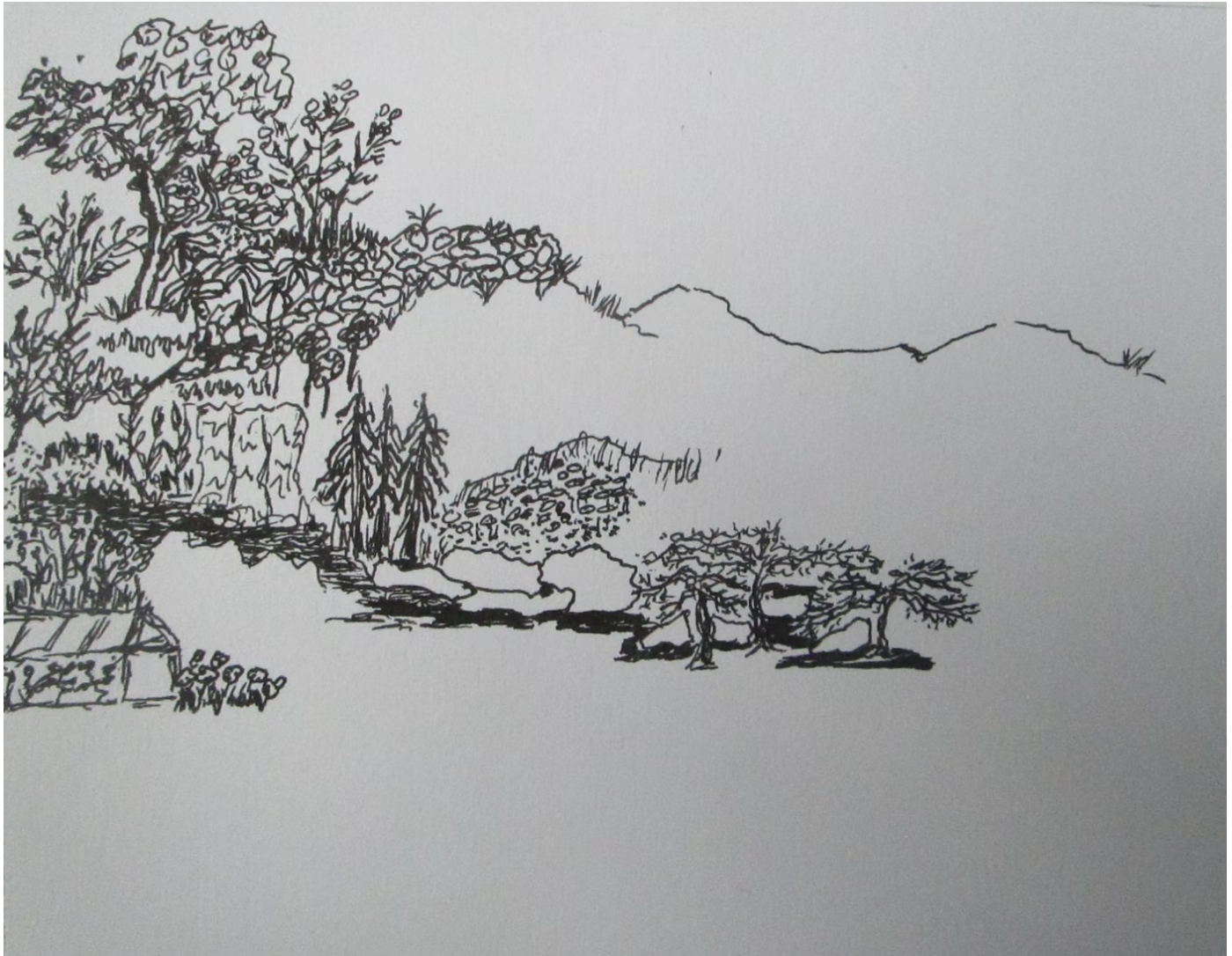
LINK. But it was the cumulative mostly incomplete **Ink Sketching** that enabled me to draw the pieces together.

Project Presentation

I travelled several key routes on this trip and the images chiefly present these. However the one other critically important landscape is that of the Karoo. I did not get to drive the trip across its dry sands and mountains during this trip; I had traversed it twice before and could feel it live in me then. But, just a few days ago, I found that I had **Ink Sketched** it before in 2017! I include these as the two postscripts - they actually foreshadow this Cartographic Cognition. Most of the sketches were done with Uniball Needlepoint .7 or Vision Fine.



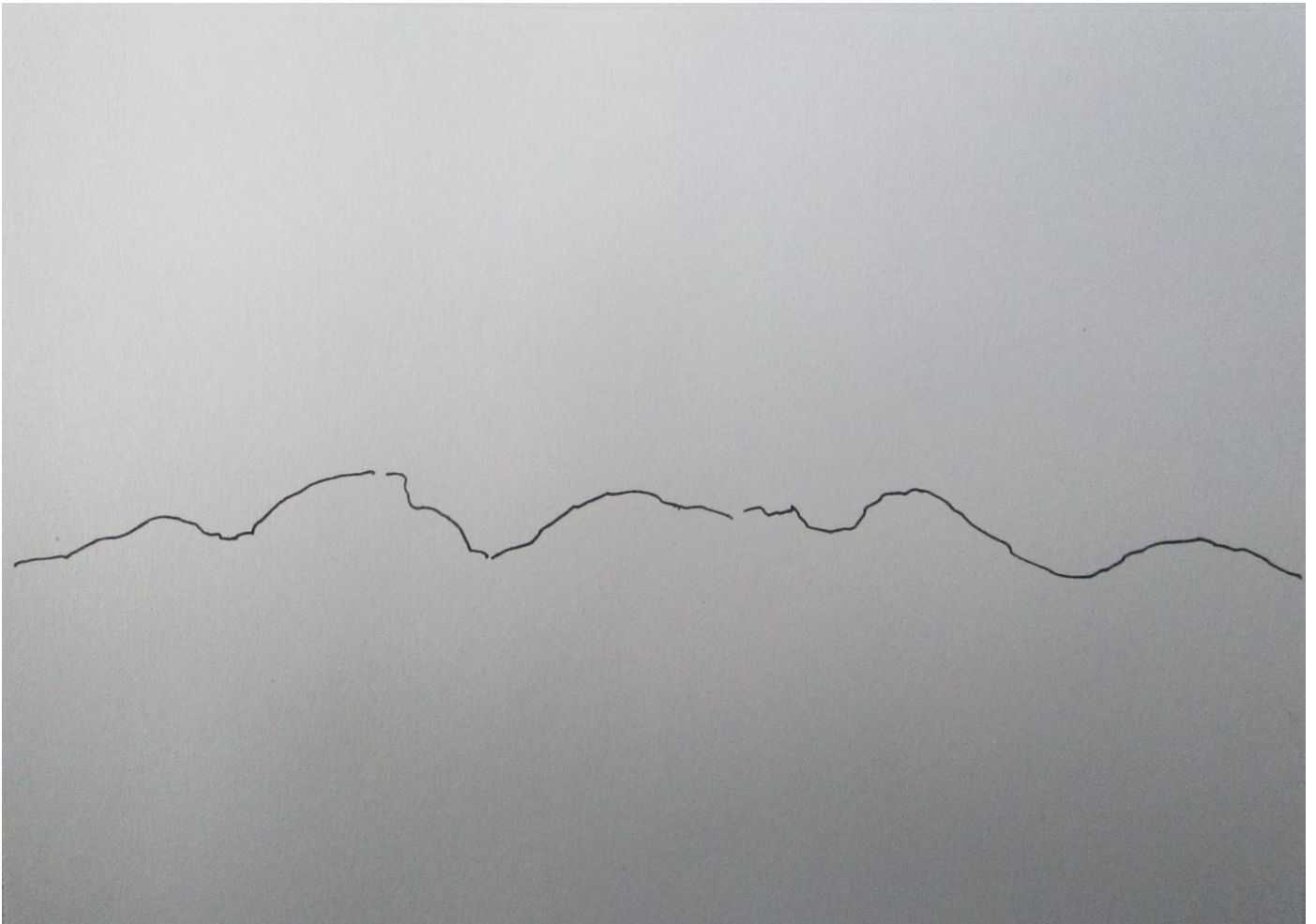
This sketch was done during my five day trip from Cape Town to Durban, via the Garden Route. I drew anywhere on the sketch pad, back and forth, up and down - and individual mountain peaks, trees and stone embedded on the page and eye/mind. That was more than 1636 kilometers because we dipped into the mountainous interior quite frequently.

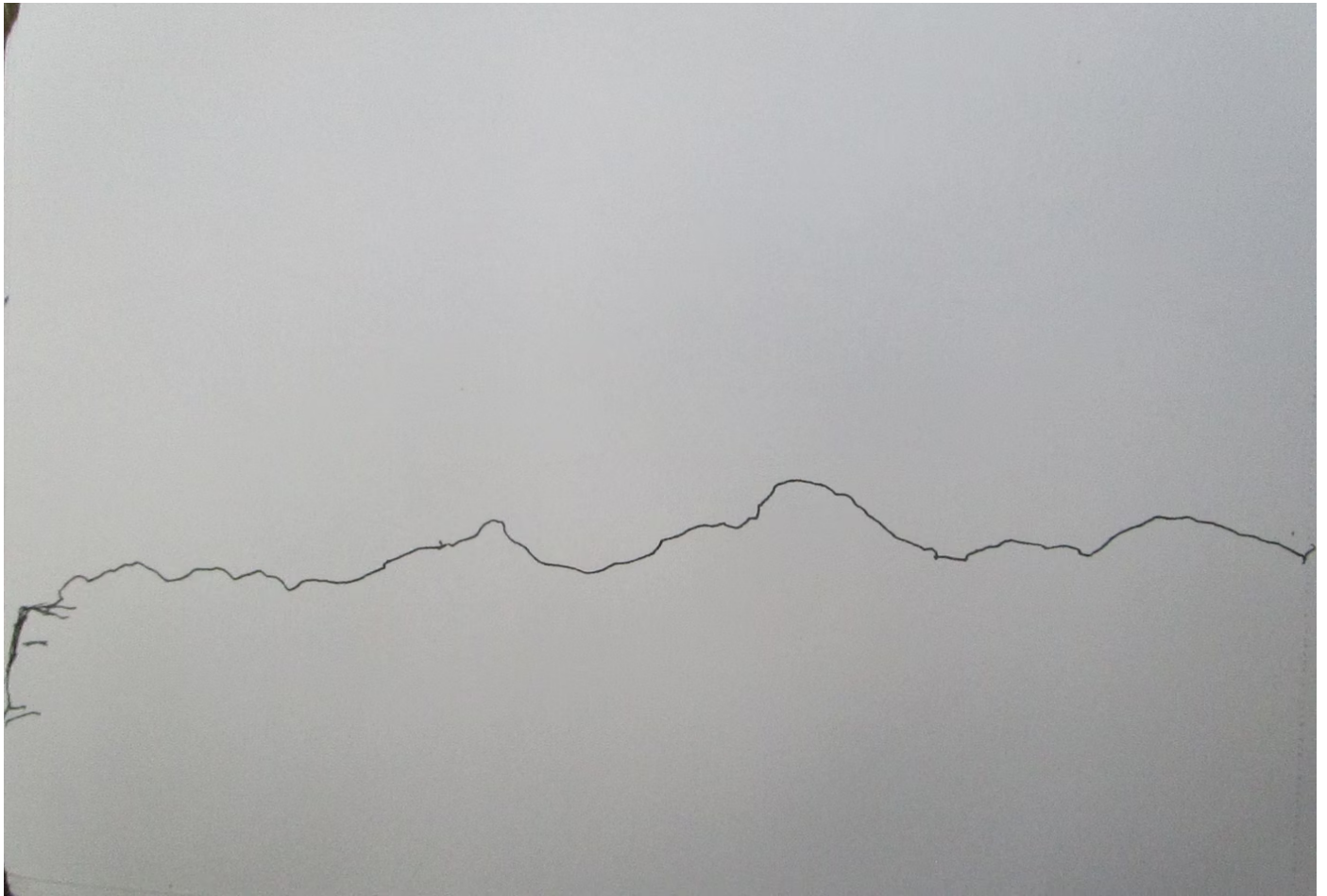


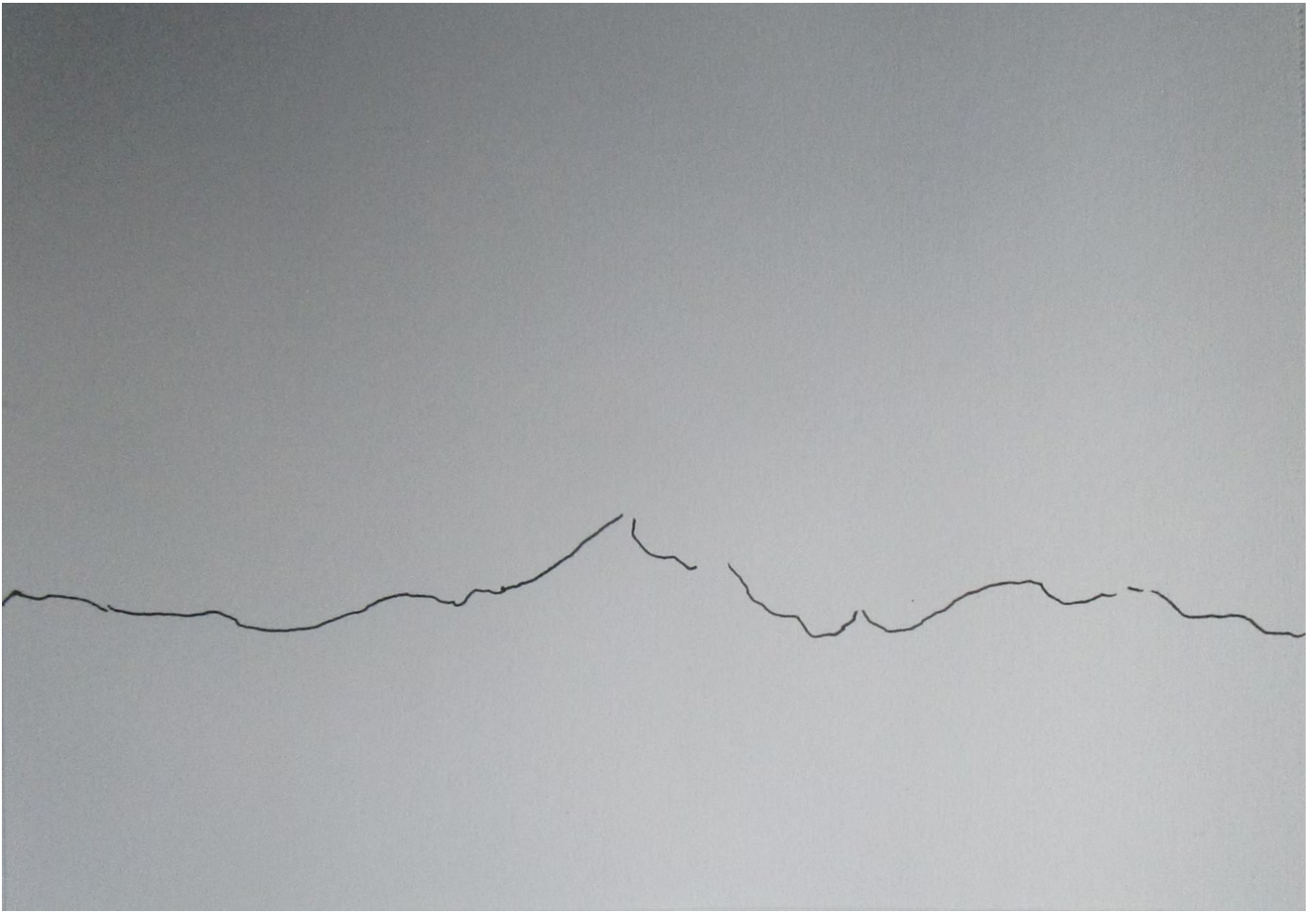
In this sketch (thorn trees, dunes, rocks) I used Artliner 4. I don't like the heaviness of the ink. Towards the end of my vacation I found two superfine Uniball pens - .03 and .05 - I was thrilled - they are the finest pens I have.

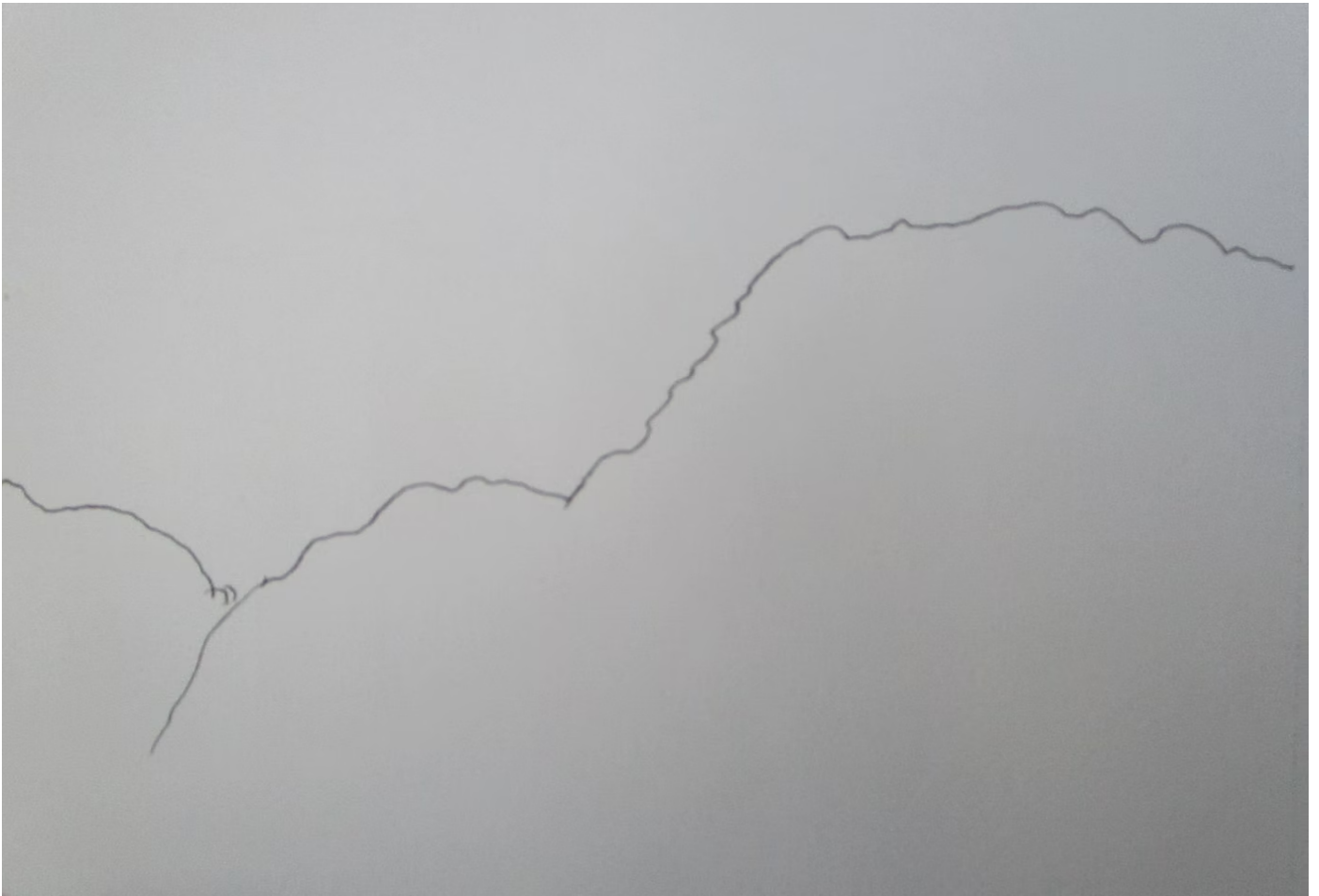


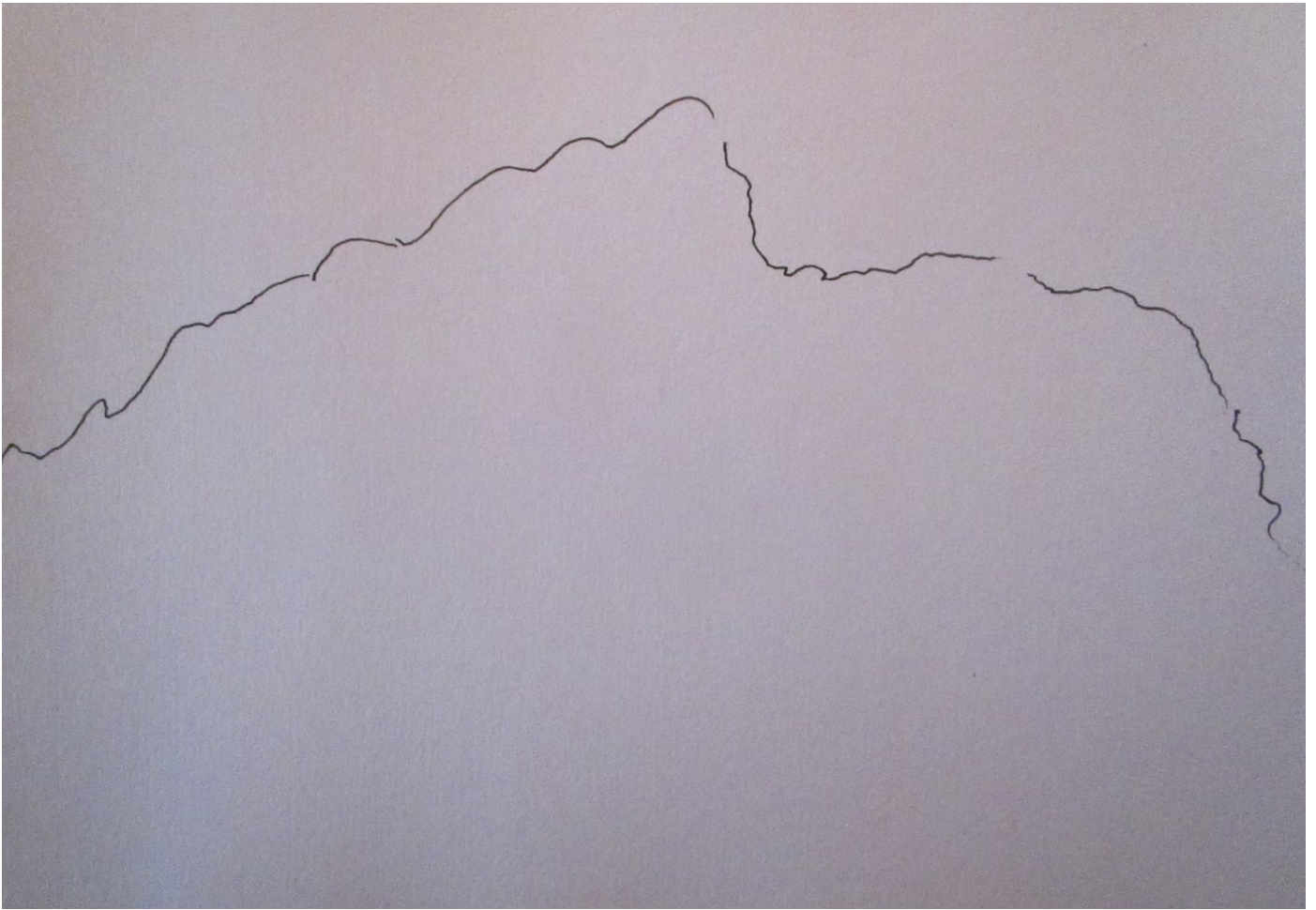
A static location - my sister's garden. Here, over the course of several days, I was processing the multiple shades of grey and the hiddens in the multiply networked map of family.

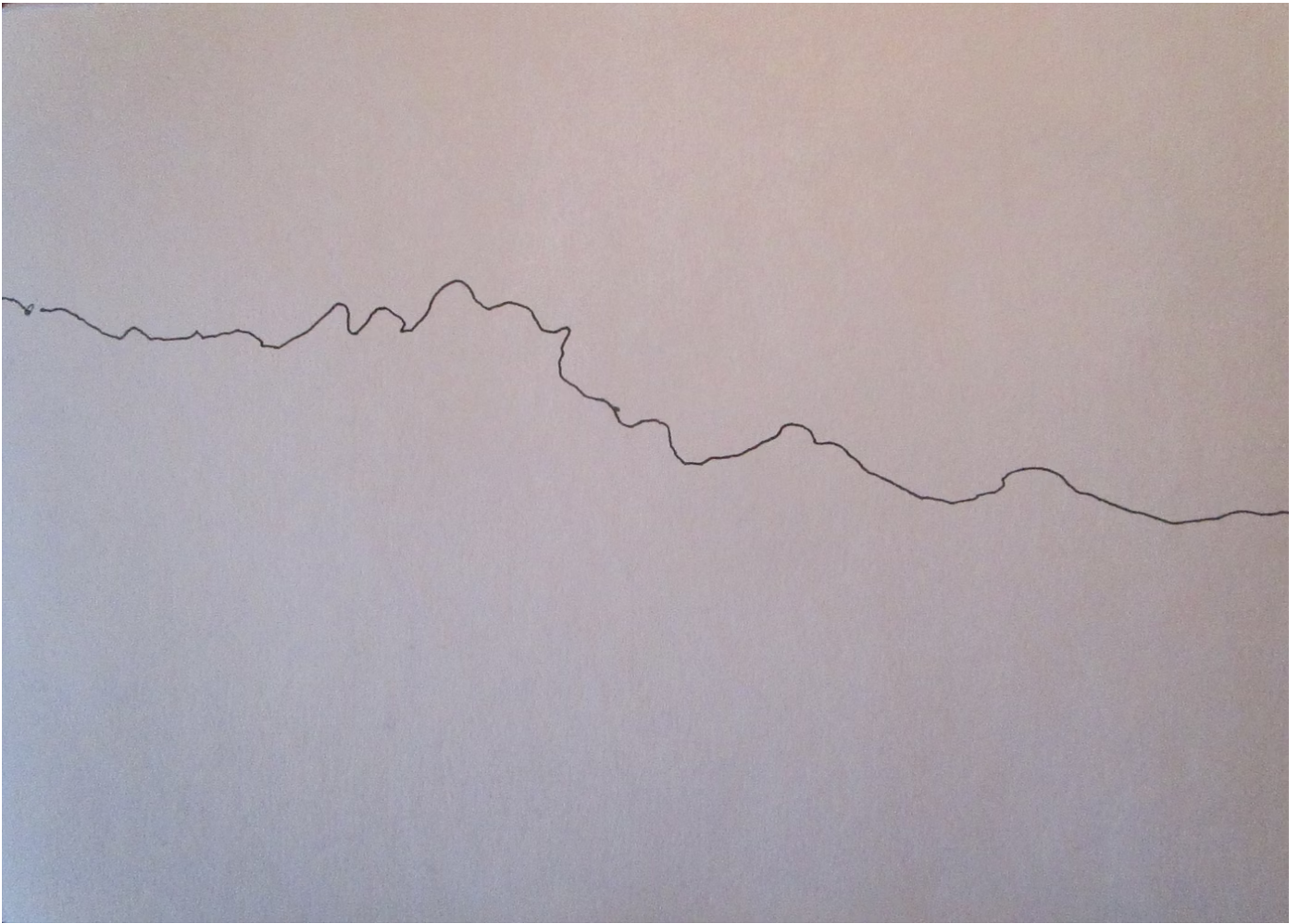












I followed the extent of the Table Mountain skyline with pen and eye from right to left but you have to look at them from the back of the sketchbook to see the flow; I sketched from a balcony in Claremont. The range depicted in my sketchbook was recognizable to the homeowner.

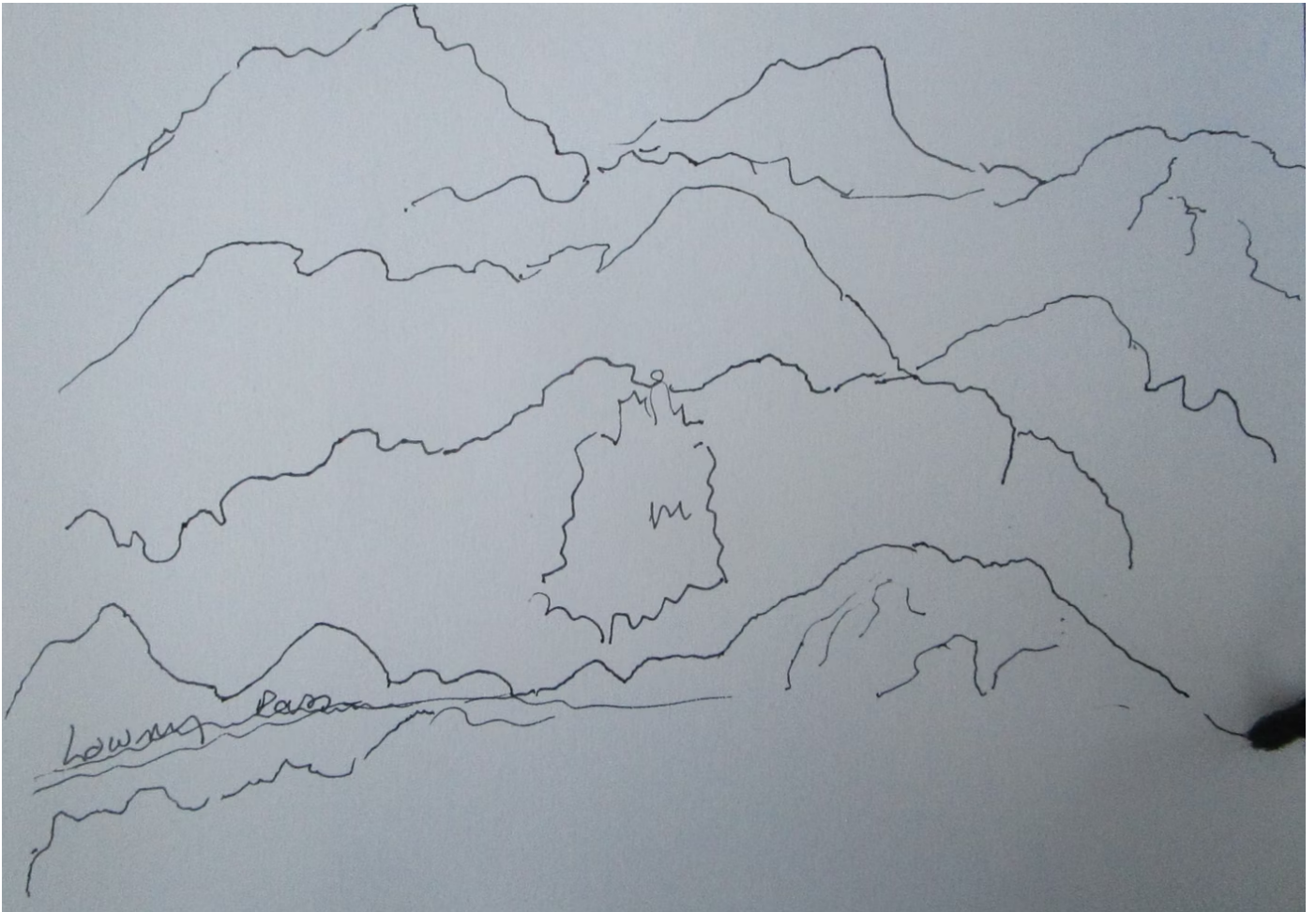


iSimangaliso Wetlands Park in Kwazulu Natal - dense with vegetation, high level sand dunes, wild turquoise ocean, shores walked only by crabs, and memory of ancient people from eight thousand years ago in fish weir. I only understood its future on at the edge of the Richard's Bay deep water port on my final road trip.



Monkey ball trees and internal reflections in Kwazulu Natal iSimangaliso landscape.

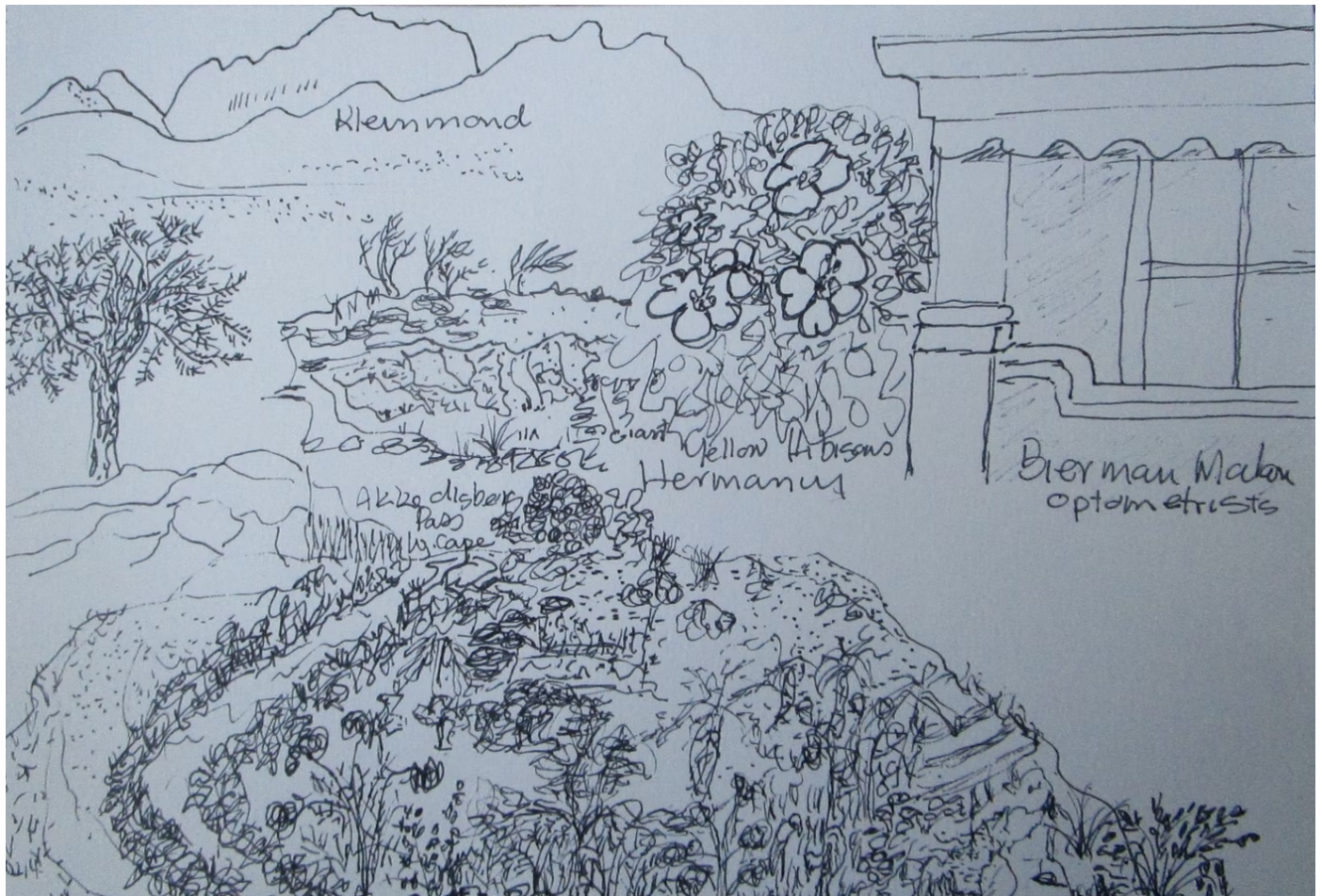




Mountain Ranges in the Cape - compelling rocks; an accident on the highway gave me more time to absorb the rugged earth formation of thousands of years. We were on a road trip to Kleinmond, Kogelberg, Fynbos landscape, De Hoop Nature Reserve and the southernmost tip of Africa!







From the parked car while shopping in Hermanus - a more leisurely sketch.



Ocean, waves, water and movement. Indian Ocean.



Into the Drakensberg Mountains and Gods Window Lookout.



POST SCRIPT ONE from an earlier trip in 2017: from Durban to Cape Town via the Interior, the Karoo.



Again POST SCRIPT 2 - from the 2017 Karoo trip.

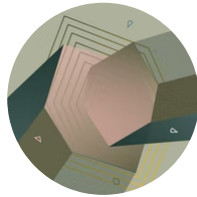
Conclusion

As I said earlier, drawing helps me cheat by linearizing art!

I have not yet surrendered to colour and form, but thanks to the encouragement of Janice Tanton and our classmates, I have started art tripping!

PS Sorry I see I am a delinquent student - I have forgotten about the dates and signature! SO, a work in process!

Durban, South Africa · Updated Today, June 14



Romola V Thumbadoo



Jackie Minnaar 1w
These are incredible.



Marilynn Jeffery 1w
Amazing!



Kim Stewart 1w
Tremendous work in line and word! Thank you for sharing, you are an ocean of information in script and sketch. 😊 🖋️



Diana Vissers 1w
Your ink and paper transported me along your roads travelled - I see the shrieking and also the healing texture of life in vegetation. Beautiful stitches Romola- I should like to travel with you and share your observations of the landscape. Your drawings are a map of your experience (hippocampus?)



Romola V Thumbadoo 1w
Hi Tks! If you come in the direction of Ottawa it will be great to catch up - I am in Kanata. Thanks for the comments - appreciated - we can discuss too if you like!



Karen Brennan 1w

Wow! I really enjoyed the ink art and the words. I am glad I got the chance to read it after this morning. I am so amazed by your ability to draw along the road and come up with a picture that represents the whole area.



Romola V Thumbadoo 1w

Thanks - this is so encouraging - thought I was just scribbling - just doing the PK exercise finally made me think about it more seriously - even though that was the intent with Janice's first project assignment!



Meg Van Rosendaal 1w

These are lovely sketches and a great record of a journey through an artist's eyes and words! I'm particularly enchanted by the idea of one drawing emerging from a 1636 km trip! I think they're even better all together - many textures and values, many perspectives, many kinds of marks. It would be a wonderfu ...[MORE](#)



Romola V Thumbadoo 1w

Hi Meg - thank you for your comments. They are 6x9 - but later I shall pose some Canadian map images done on a 9 x12 sketchpad - I like the larger page size better - but the smaller one is great for travel.



Sandra Sheffield - Young 1w

Romola I just listened to you describe your project - it is so you! and all your travel experiences rolled into one - i just love them!

PREVIOUS REPLIES 1



Sandra Sheffield - Young 1w

[Romola V Thumbadoo](#) you are very cool 😎 as you! and such an interesting artist 🙌