

## **WALKING DRAWING, MAKING MEMORY: A BALLYNAHINCH SKETCHBOOK**

DAVID LILBURN

Ballynahinch Castle & Occasional Press,  
2009

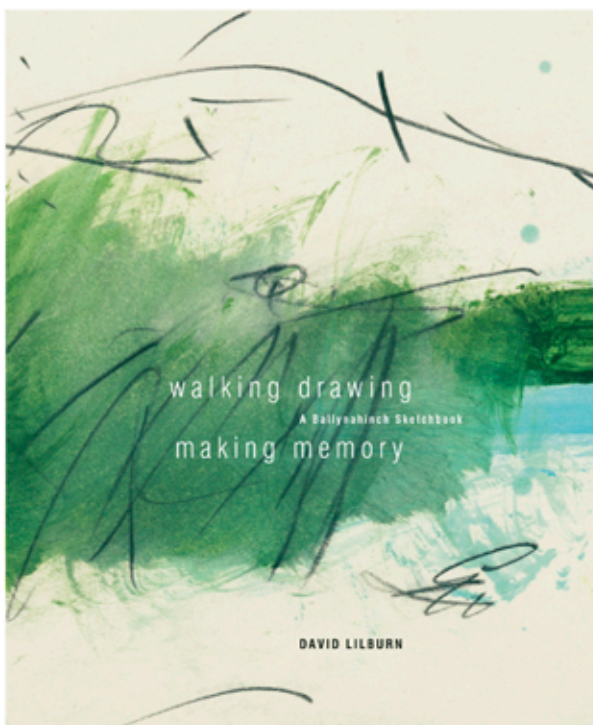
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Niall Naessens

**A**s part of a series of artists' books published by Ballynahinch Castle and the Occasional Press, David Lilburn was invited to explore and respond visually to the environs of the castle and the surrounding Connemara landscape. Lilburn's book has the poetic title *Walking Drawing Making Memory*. In this Ballynahinch sketchbook these four activities are one



and the same thing. The book follows his artistic process from his sketchbook drawings through to the more considered work of the printmaker's workshop. Lilburn's sketchbook drawings are delightful. They are immediate, fresh and scribbly. With scant economy they hint at more than document his experience.

The book is a pleasure. The only text is a short essay by the artist expanding his idea of *Walking Drawing Making Memory*, explaining how and why he makes drawings. He connects the drawing process with memory. The plates have no text to distract you, not even titles or margin notes. The titles are listed at the back of the book. This allows you to enjoy the book as a pure visual experience. There are fold-out leaves for triptychs and panoramas.

The book starts with notebooks and finishes with Lilburn's more deliberate work from the printroom, which are derivative of the earlier drawings. He has a preference for drypoint and monotype. These are direct and immediate ways of making original prints, cutting out the lengthier procedures of etching. His prints are not laboured and retain the immediateness and nervous tension of the sketchbook drawings.

The book is published in a limited edition of 300 and half of the copies contain an original drypoint by Lilburn. The typography and layout is as thoughtful and understated as the work illustrated within, making it a desirable and collectable book. ■

Niall Naessens is a printmaker and painter.