The objects of landscape architecture

[Inkwash, ink, paper, 30 x 22 inches]

Measurement is a knowledge system that is used to make discoveries about the particular landscape features known as stone alignments. (It is used similarly to find out about many other landscape features). My thesis is that prehistoric stone alignments (on which most contemporary versions are modeled) withdraw from measurement. Their capacities as landscape elements - as landscape systems in interaction with other objects and systems - is unable to be understood through mathematical operations. Whatever functionality they might have (and the very notion of functionality participates in the knowledge order also occupied by mathematics) is only superficially understood by mensuration, the act or process of measuring. A different kind of study using different techniques is required.

The investigation presented here is an attempt to discover what it is that stone alignments conceal from measurement. This hidden quality - so hard to define - is what makes them of interest to landscape architects who wish to introduce ineffability to their work. Mineral objects are extracted from their geological matrix, relocated often hundreds of miles from their site of origin, and stood vertically as an interactive field of objects. Their mute, irreproachable objecthood, their very being, is locked up. They offer their remoteness to other objects, making the locked up being of these other objects, humans included, a correlative of their own withdrawal from the world of things.

The drawings are an attempt to understand this correlation.