

SEA FIELD

In 'The Subtle Knife' by Philip Pullman, Will is able to cut windows into other worlds. He can only do this by attaining perfect mental and physical poise which lets him feel and so guide the infinitely sharp point to cleave open seams between worlds.

As the space through to the other world opens, Will hears, as well as sees, the parallel place on the other side.

Soft waves breaking on a sandy shore.
The spatial thrum of the landscape as time passes in it.
Another place beyond the fabric.

'Sound landscape photography' is a concept I've found to describe an image of a place, created in the listener's mind, by being still and focusing on an unedited passage of binaurally recorded time.

Are things you hear more real when they seem to come from the empty space around you?

Hugh Huddy, sound landscape photographer

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In 1475, a monk called Darkellen Moss was meditating, seated on a rock upon an exposed hillside. It was night. Peering at the stars and feeling the strange mind-bending effect of seeing the curvature of the Milky Way, he became acutely aware of how he, and everything is perched on the edge of infinite space. Somehow, in this moment, he saw into the future.

'Sky glow' is a name used to describe the veil of luminescent reflected light that is cast over the night sky by countless light emitting utilities on the ground. Street lights. Floodlights. Headlights.

Is there an equivalent word for 'sky glow' which describes the way environmental noise casts out the depth and detail that would otherwise be audible in the sound landscape?

Dark skies. Quiet horizons.

A long time ago, when my mum used to give me lifts to school in her car, she would often be distracted and worried by the noise of motorbikes. It was when she could hear them but not see them in her mirrors. She didn't know where to point her eyes to match what her aural brain was seeing. During childhood, an infection had caused her to lose hearing in one ear.

Visual fields. Spatial hearing.

Dead centre.

Hugh Huddy, sound landscape photographer

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The sound of the sea captured in a place.

Waves benignly crashing on the wall.

Timeless yet full of time.

The sound always changing with the tide, weather and seasons.

A soundscape our ancestors would have heard.

For them, the sea as a place of danger, adventure, food, resources.

For us, different things....

Listen to the Sea Field.

Where does it take you?

To when?



Hugh Huddy, sound landscape photographer