

It is important to keep in mind that history and memory are two totally different systems of reckoning.

Yes, you reply, but they are intertwined. You draw an enigmatic diagram with your hands. Memory folds back on top of history.

This used to be wilderness, but the wilderness was cleared away, the land cultivated by your grandparents. (And if not by your grandparents then by somebody's grandparents.)

The landscape provides evidence of its own history, both visible and invisible. The dirt is rich and black and reek of iron.

This is where the field you sow becomes the field of vision.

The building on the horizon is at once a house and a barn, with man and beast sharing a single roof. There is an economy in overlapping. Words, too, can yoke meaning.

Wear, for example, refers to clothing or adornment, conjuring the presence or trace of a body. But it also describes the deterioration of an object over time: weathering, wear and tear, wearing thin. Bridging these two ideas, it might suggest the deterioration of a body, as in the word weary.

Wear derives from the Old Norse word *verja*, which at once means to clothe and to invest or spend.

Meaning changes over time or in transit—sometimes adapting to new circumstances, sometimes covering its own tracks. In this sense, a word cannot account for all its meanings at once.

An accounting is a computation or a narrative, a consideration or a report.

Text by Michael Ned Holte

Rachel Foullon · An Accounting

March 11 - May 1, 2010

ltd losangeles