

# Illusion-Reality: The Artist William Tillyer and his Struggles Against Nature.

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I have written about the painter William Tillyer and his long career to paint the illusion of nature and reality.

He is regarded by Bernard Jacobson as 'a giant among his peers, quite possibly this country's greatest painter since Constable and Turner'.

From looking at his art I constructed an understanding of the necessities for his creative process and this was tested by meeting him recently to discuss his art.

By using a mesh fixed to the canvas, he has created spaces to move around, as well as cutting the canvas to reveal the wall that supports the hanging art. Alongside such artistic actions his history is suffused with early absences as his father went off to war for five years in the first year of his life, leaving him being brought up in a triumvirate of Maternal Great Grandmother, Maternal Grandmother and Mother. Tillyer's maternal grandmother, pregnant with his mother, lost her husband at the battle of the Somme. So his mother grew up without a father and feared losing her husband and repeating the paternal loss to her baby son.

Such are the illusions and realities of Tillyer inside his creative, and artistic preoccupations since his late adolescence. The ways he perceives nature and death and a control of its processes has driven his creative life and will be discussed in the paper.