

Ellen Berkenblit's drawings and paintings depict a private world where true and imagined experience exists side by side. In this realm, animals are able to share their thoughts and humans understand. The animals and figures hover between representation and a purely abstract application of paint--yellow and red zigzags become bats flying out of a spider's web or lightning bolts approaching.

Berkenblit's work does not connect with things outside itself, but suggests a circuitous route of visual thinking, where conflicting ideas play out to reach a tentative conclusion. The paintwork itself, sometimes reckless, sometimes gentle, is as important to understanding the thoughts as the narratives depicted. The characters reflect the uncertainty, sometimes dreamily examining their tiny threads and branches as if nothing else mattered, other times scanning with anxiety for the outside force that will disturb their world.

The pictures are a diary, a product of the artist's surroundings and thought processes projected like notes from an underground cartoon.