

# The Writing Life

Annie Dillard

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Dillard

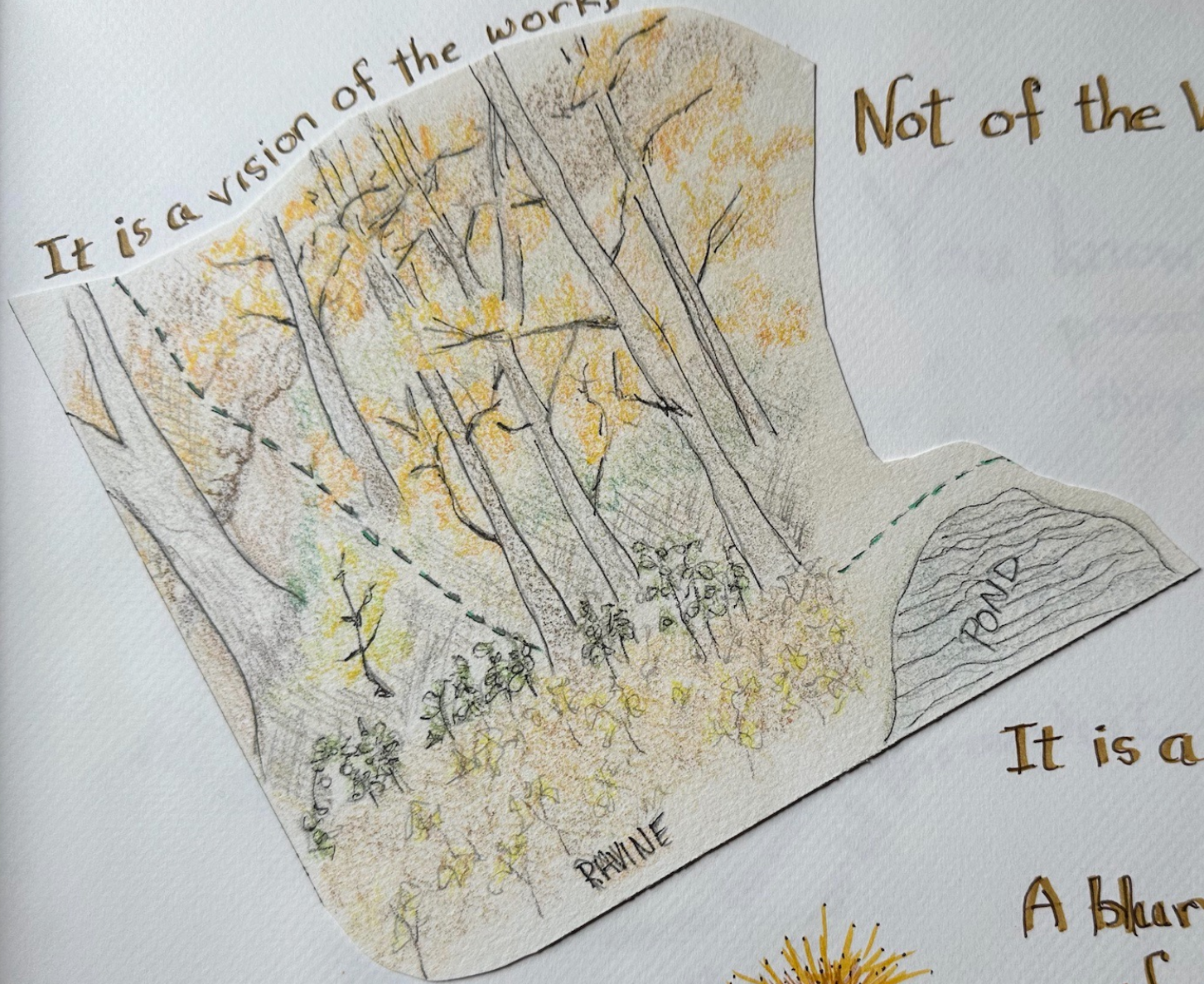


The Vision, I stress, is no marvelous thing. It is the work's  
Intellectual  
Structure  
and  
Aesthetic  
Surface.

It is a chip of mind,  
A pleasing intellectual object.

It is a vision of the work,

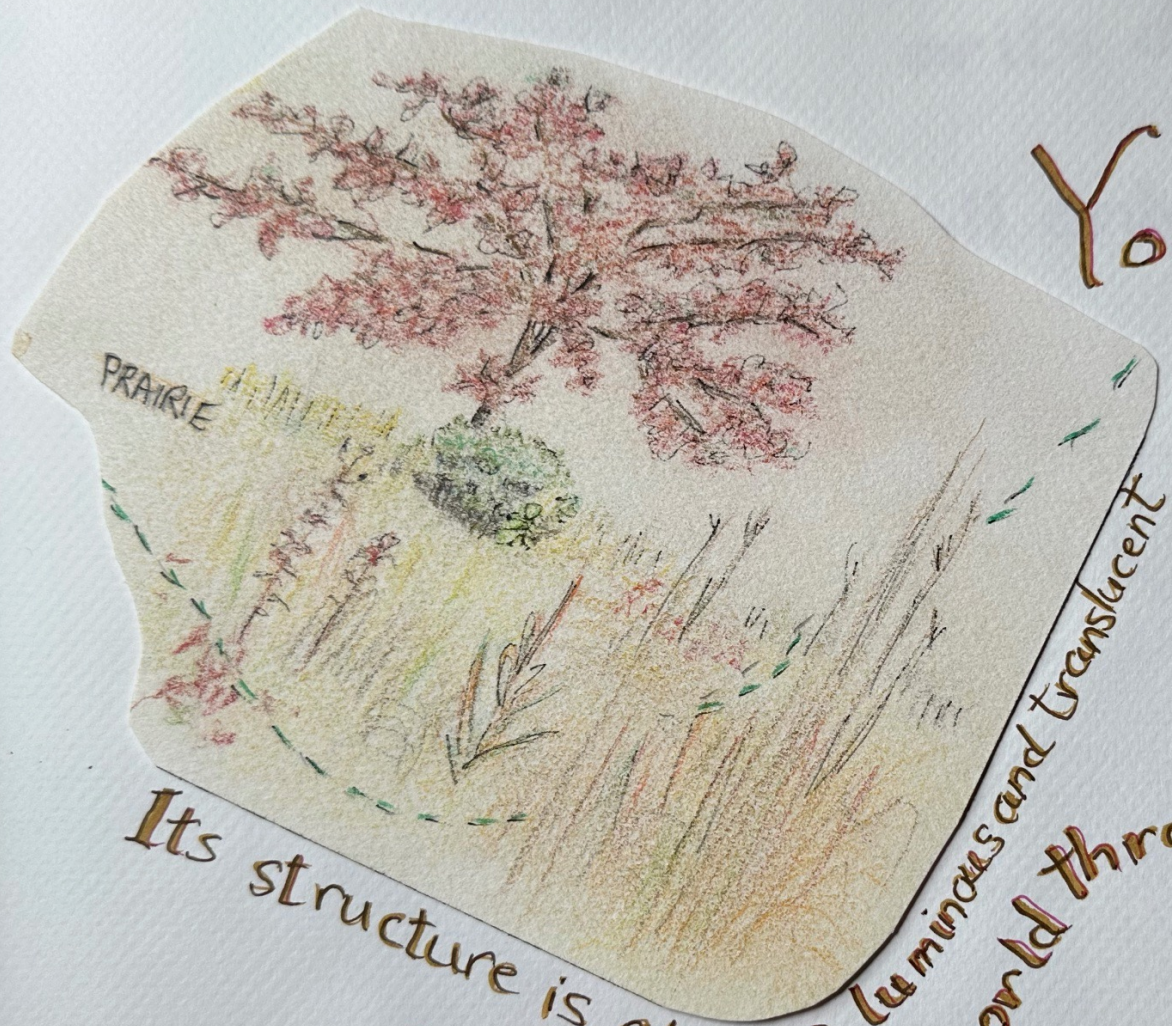
Not of the World.



It is a glowing  
thing.

A blurred thing  
of beauty.





You know that if you  
proceed you will change  
things and learn  
things,

that the form  
will grow  
under your  
hands  
and  
develop new  
and richer



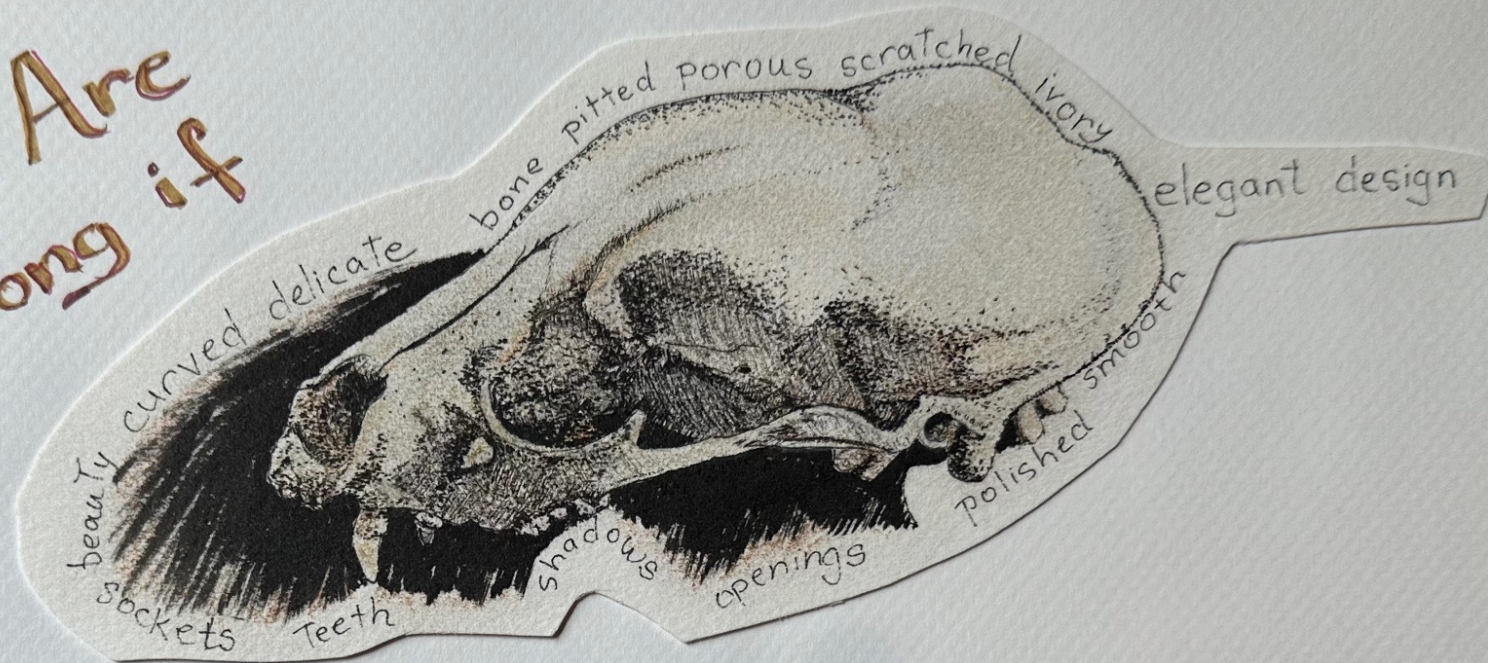
Its structure is at once luminous and translucent  
You can see the world through it.

But that change will not alter the vision  
or its deep structures;

It will only enrich it.



But You Are  
Wrong if



You think that in the actual writing,  
Or in the actual painting,  
you are filling in the vision.

You cannot fill in the Vision



You cannot even bring the Vision to



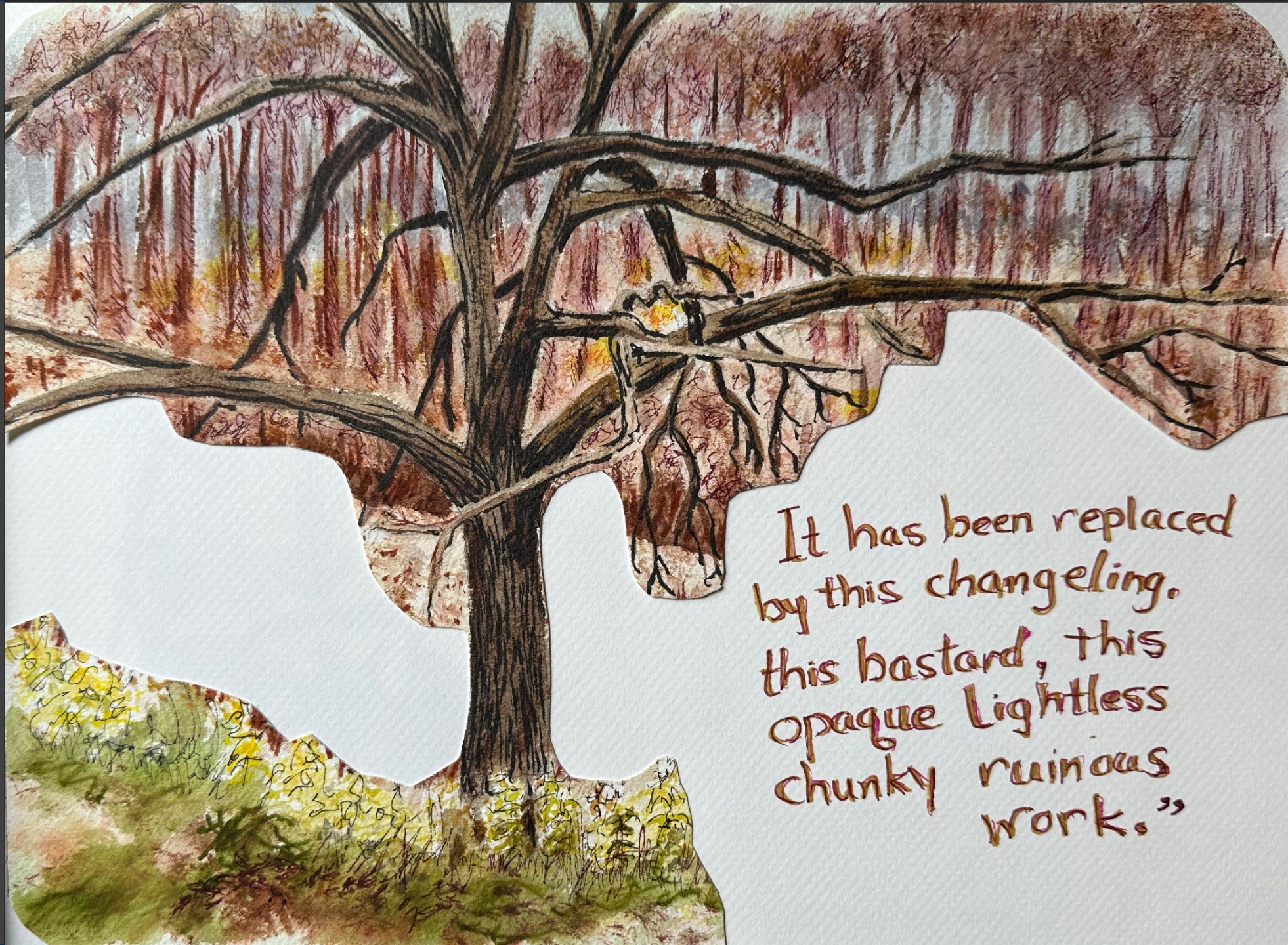


The Vision is not so much destroyed, exactly  
as it is, by the time you are finished,

FORGOTTEN  
FORGOTTEN







It has been replaced  
by this changeling,  
this bastard, this  
opaque lightless  
chunky ruinous  
work.”