



# Ben Nicholson

## Drawings and Painted Reliefs

### Peter Khoroché



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160 pages  
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Includes 80 colour and 40 b&w illustrations

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Though it gives an account of his entire career, this book, now available in paperback, is the first to focus on the works of Ben Nicholson's artistic maturity - the drawings and painted reliefs made between 1950 and 1975. Together with the white reliefs of 1934-9, these are the works by which he himself wished to be judged.

Yet neither drawings nor late reliefs have received the attention they deserve. The drawings have mistakenly been viewed as somehow subsidiary to the paintings and reliefs, when in fact their qualities of wit, poetry, spontaneity and sheer virtuosity place them among Nicholson's finest and most personal achievements, while the late reliefs are shown to be complementary expressions of the interiorized vision that underlies all Nicholson's work. As his imagination ranges from the particular to the universal, the two-dimensional image explores one facet of reality, the three-dimensional object another.

The 120 illustrations include a large number of works rarely or never reproduced before, and much of the extensive quotation from Nicholson's own writing has not previously been published. The author's fresh approach and sympathetic insight reveal the underlying ideas behind the many shifts of style and changes of medium in Nicholson's long career, making sense of it as a coherent whole.

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#### About the Author

Peter Khoroché wrote the catalogue for an exhibition of Ivon Hitchens's paintings (Serpentine Gallery, London and tour 1989/90) and for an exhibition of Nicholson's drawings and painted reliefs (Kettle's Yard, Cambridge and tour 2002/3). He is also the author of Ivon Hitchens (new edition published by Lund Humphries, 2007).

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