A Story of Drawing Closing Words

 As this explanation draws to a close I want to say a little more about the drawings we imagine are the beginning of drawing and by that I mean the pictorial images of cattle and horses that were drawn some 30,000 years ago onto the walls of the caves of Southern France and Spain .

Today , we know that these are not the beginning of drawing and that the very earliest drawings, were not in fact outline drawings that were designed to evoke presences but that they were decidedly abstract images , so images that were, the product of conceptual thinking and not a desire to imitate earthly appearances .

These very first abstractions were made some 40,000 before the Lascaux and Altamira drawings. Which means the story of drawing is not a slippery slope that takes us from figuration to abstraction , but one that starts with abstraction, then discovers the outline and figuration…… and from there continues as two parallel pathways , one servicing the pictorial side of drawing , the other the conceptual .

One working in service of Edgar Degas’ pastel drawings of dancers the other supporting Rudolf Laban in his development of a notation system for Choreographers.

 Both however , sharing the same objective …..

The translation of our thoughts surrounding multidimensional events into intelligible two dimensional matter .

 With that said I now want to return to that outline drawing of the world that I said at the beginning , “each of us carries ( however badly remembered) in our head” and ask you, “ is it a conceptual or pictorial drawing?”

 Stephen Farthing 10 December 2015