

editors review

**Wide open spaces at London's White Cube gallery.**

Threshold is a very simple exhibition. It consists of nine paintings in the white square walls of Jay Jopling's White Cube gallery in London. There are no people in them, only abstract, empty landscapes manufactured, suburban, industrial.

Koen's approach is far from obvious. He paints his spaces from obtuse, strange angles. *Mattress*, for example, depicts a bright pink sun-lounger on paving stones, but it's seen from a low, long view in a place that can't be defined. There is something absorbing in these empty, blank spaces.

His work is inspired by "the great road trip". Zion to him is a blurred, empty Alpine cliff-top road. Shadows of trucks fall across his canvas, but it's only a transitory involvement. Viewers are literally on the threshold of the world Koen paints - garage doors are closed, railroads and circuses are too far in the distance to enter. His world is obscured and dehumanised yet strangely beautiful. **Francesca Gavin** 12 December 03

Threshold - Koen van den Broek is at White Cube, London, until 17 January 04.

Gavin, Francesca. "Wide Open Spaces at London's White Cube Gallery." *BBC Editor's Review*, December 12, 2003.