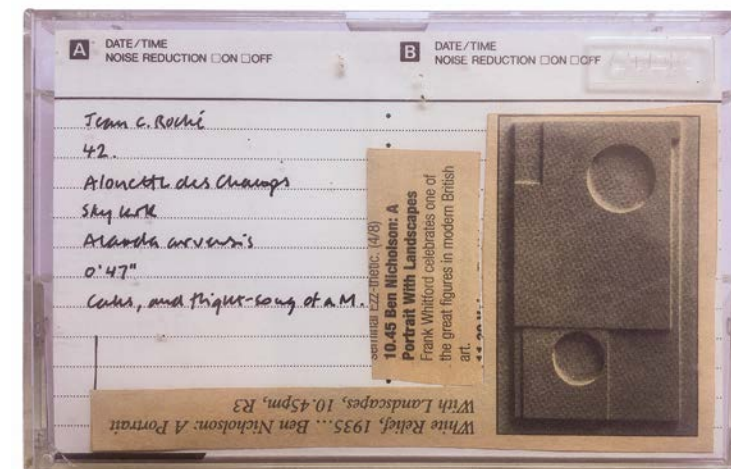


one can take a piece of
 cardboard and cut out a circle
 one depth or two circles two
 depths or six hundred circles six
 thousand depths or one can take
 a board and paint it white
 and then on top put a
 tar black and then on that
 a grey and then a small
 circle of scarlet then scrape off
 some grey leaving black some black
 leaving white some white leaving board
 some board leaving whatever is behind
 and some of that leaving whatever
 is behind that only stop when
 it is all the form and
 depth and colour that pleases you
 most exactly more than anything has
 ever pleased you before something that
 pleases you even more than pleases
 yourself then you will have a
 living thing as nice as
 a poodle with two shining black eyes

Blackboard

after Ben Nicholson

one can take a piece of cardboard and cut out a circle one depth or two circles two depths or six hundred circles six thousand depths or one can take a board and paint it white and then on top put a tar black and then on that a grey and then a small circle of scarlet then scrape off some grey leaving black some black leaving white some white leaving board some board leaving whatever is behind and some of that leaving whatever is behind that only stop when it is all the form and depth and colour that pleases you most exactly more than anything has ever pleased you before something that pleases you even more than pleases yourself then you will have a living thing as nice as a poodle with two shining black eyes



Transcribed from a recording of Frank Whitford, 'Ben Nicholson: A Portrait With Landscapes', quoting Nicholson; broadcast BBC Radio 3, 28 July 1994.

254 x 194, typewriter, white correction tape on black paper, 1994.