

Fig.202 Screenshot of the Dutch countryside where I detected a cloud. Usually not even trees are present and I have a straightforward connection to the clouds. I feel uneasy to live in the flatland but the proximity of rivers that comes directly from the alps give me some consolation. Yet the Dutch clouds can be so big that they stand as some giant mountains.

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After many years on the road I at last settled in the Netherlands. Here the famous Dutch landscape painters devoted great part of the canvas to the sky. I also quickly developed a great interest in observing the enormous cloud formations occurring over the very flat landscape. To be closer to the sky I began to constantly roam up and down and along the many dikes offering spectacular views not of distant mountains or hills but always and only of clouds above the thin green strip of flat land. While these clouds can be rather small in the winter time, with the changing of seasons they can become quite impressive. Viewing a Dutch landscape surmounted by clouds I often have the possibility of choosing from many scenes taking place in the sky. I often just pick the one that is right in front of me. As I begin to observe it at times there can be a small obstacle on the way and by the time I am able to fully view it I realize that the scene itself has changed. In this respect, within a short period of time the same cloud can itself transform in a totally different scene particularly if there is wind or a storm fomenting in the sky. On a similar note I have observed that if there is a fence or a grid between me and the cloud I am unable to detect a shape. And since a screen is based on a grid of pixels, is our imagination being hindered?