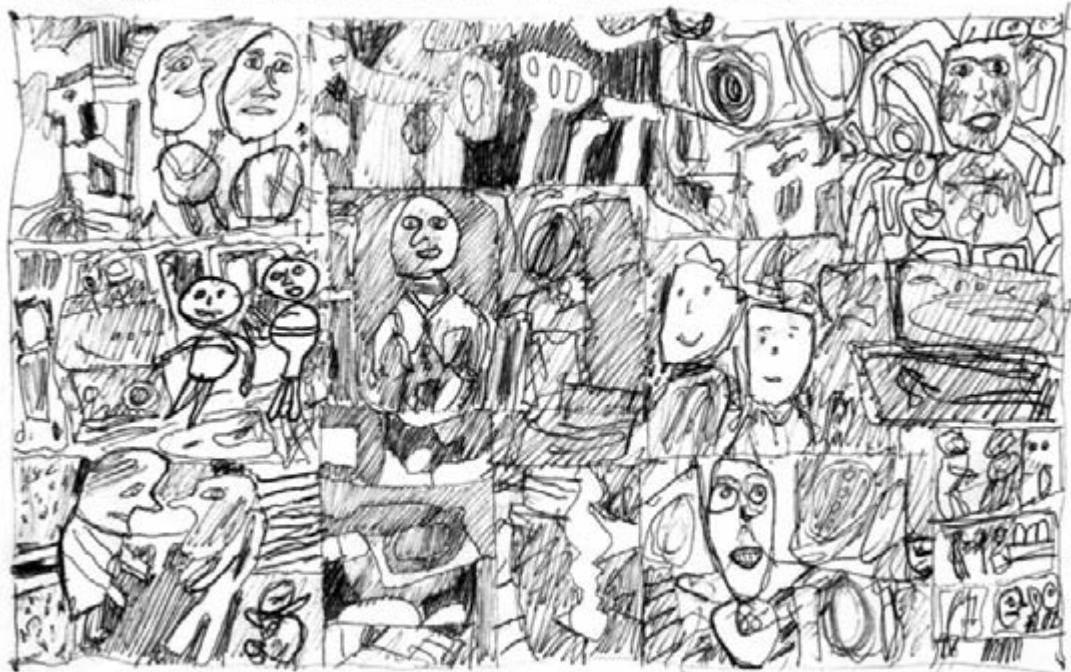


DRAWING OF "THE UPS AND DOWNS" BY JEAN DUBUFFET . 1977.



PUBLIC SPACES NEED TO FUNCTION FOR MANY DIFFERENT USES AND USERS

People's use and experience of spaces

A wide range of factors influence people's use and experience of spaces and therefore determine how they might be designed. Children, adults, elderly people, different ethnic groups and cultures, men and women – all experience and use places in different and distinct ways, as well as in similar ways. The design of spaces should always be informed and underpinned by an understanding of different people's needs and activities and experiences of landscapes.

Public spaces need to function for an extremely wide range of uses including:

- social and recreational purposes, for example, gathering, eating, dancing
- work, for example, buying, selling, mending, studying
- health and fitness
- aesthetic and cultural purposes (linked to social and recreational)
- ecological and environmental purposes.

A frequent aim in the design of spaces is thus to achieve 'robustness' (see p. 16) in spaces by accommodating and reconciling different landuses.

The form, character, proportion, scale and microclimate of spaces, and their relationship to other spaces all affect human use and experience, and are considered in the following pages.