

# When Time Stands Still

The Barns of 2020

Rebecca Johnson

# When Time Stands Still

This is a catalogue of seven new barns. They are bas-relief sculptures, low relief constructions made of salvaged and scavenged wood, carved plaster, pencil and paint on wood panels. These paintings offer windows into another dimension.

*Rebecca Johnson*

When ordered to shelter in place in March I was already well into creating a new series of barn paintings, the Crop of 2020.

My place is my studio. My shelter is my work.

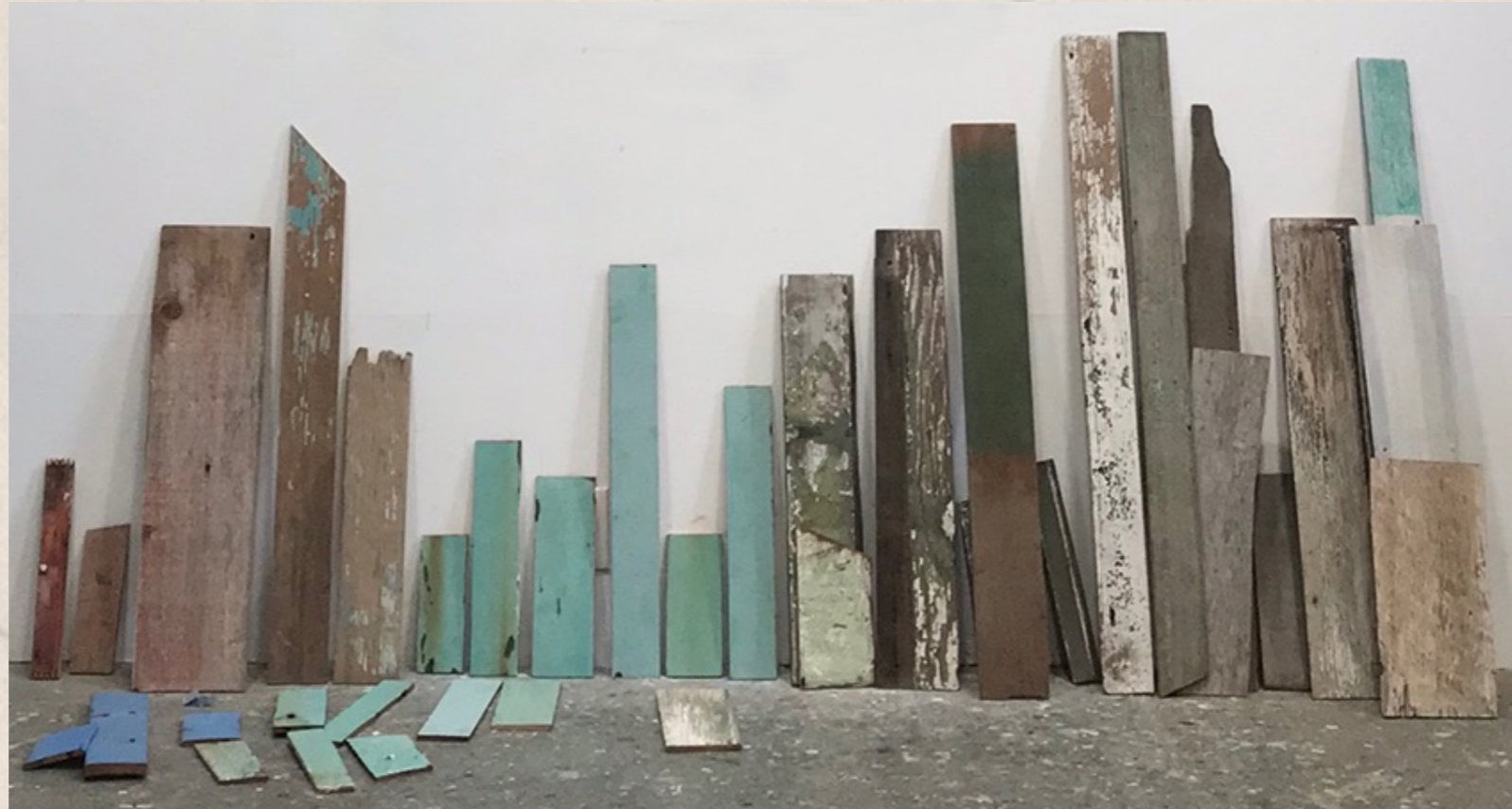
When working, it is not unusual for me to be solitary and focused, but this time was different. The world around me went still. It was a profound time, a moment I will never forget. The stillness was not just sound, it was a body stillness, a vibrational pause, a lower frequency in the air. The sky seemed bluer, my senses were hyper-focused, the silence was tactile.

How did this quiet affect my new work? I used less paint. Thinner paint creates an ethereal atmosphere. An ethereal quality is an ever-present element in my work but now ethereal became forefront. Stillness hovers in each painting.

The nature of building with wood on a two dimensional surface is that the wood sticks out from the picture plane. In the past I painted shadows to anchor the wooden barns to the surface, the land. In this series I used the structural mapping of pencil lines rather than shadow illusion to site the barns in a wash of thin color. I was also less inclined to cut in windows and doors as access points to interior space. The barns sit in a scrim wash of Paynes Gray sky, Burnt Umber and Naples Yellow earth. One can move through and around the space outside a barn or imagine the silence inside.

These paintings are shelters in a place. Each painting offers a quiet refuge suspended in time.

# Process

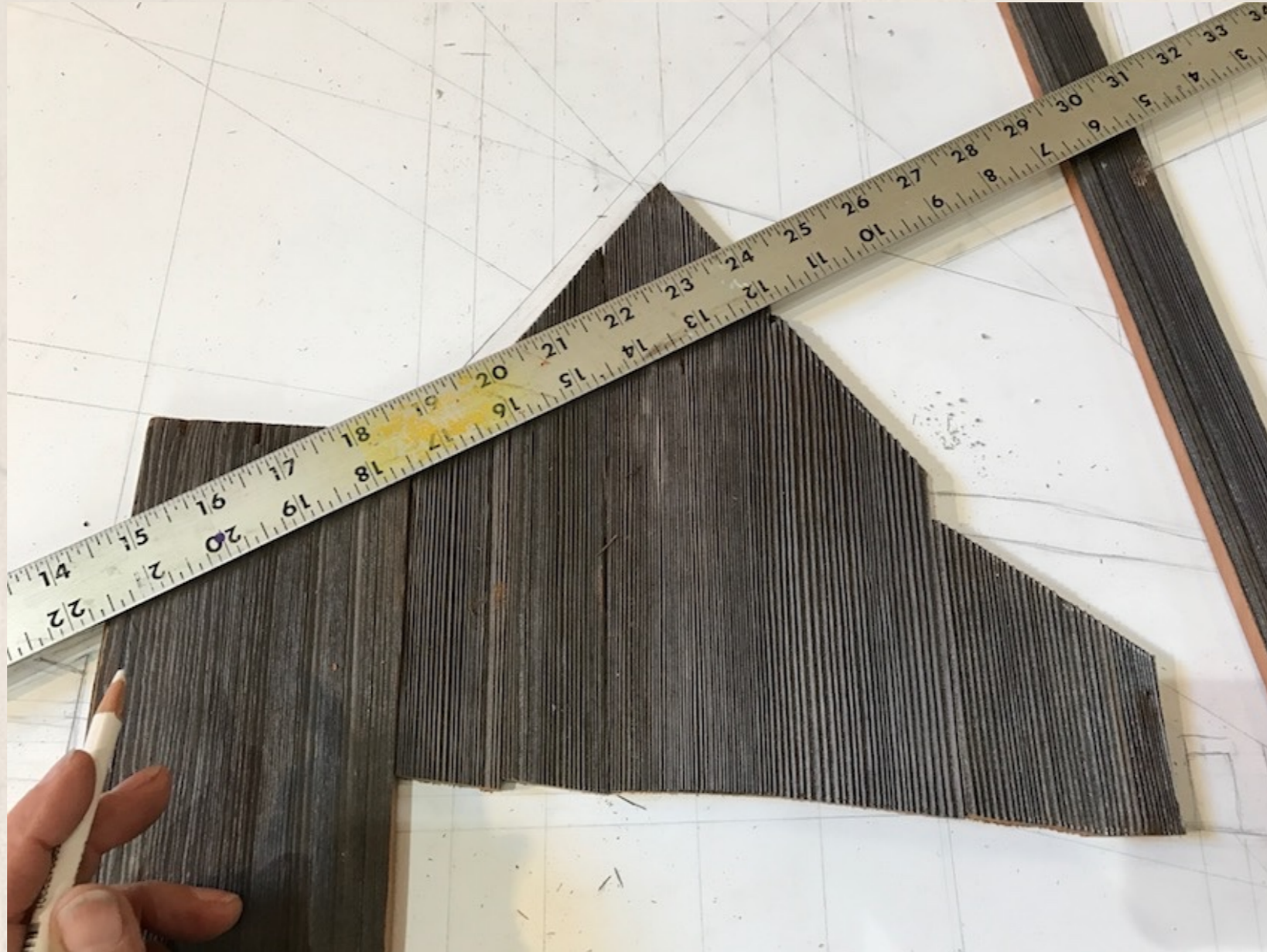


I collect wood from dilapidated old barns, barns that have collapsed into a pile of shingles, boards and beams. I climb over the pile with crowbar and hammer in hand looking for good pieces with straight tight wood grain. Other sources of wood are gifts such as driftwood on the beach or boards left by a friend at the gate to my studio. I like the beach finds because the sand and surf have made their marks and the salt and sun have patinated the color and grain. I also collect wood from remodel projects. I salvage the old bones of buildings such as the siding from the historic Navarro River Inn, window trim from a fisherman's cottage on Portuguese flats in Mendocino or boards from the bygone Horse Haven Ranch that once stood across the street from my studio. Slowly I add to my wood inventory. From this pile of culled selected boards I build a palette to create my barns.





Pondering



I draw a barn from memory or photograph then measure and cut the boards to fit my drawing.



Sometimes my love of the boards determine the design.



# The Barns

## The Crop of 2020



## Alder Creek

wood, plaster, pencil and paint on wood panel

48x40x2 inches



## White Barn North Coast

wood, plaster, pencil and paint on wood panel

30x30x2 inches



## Elk Barn

wood, plaster, pencil and paint on wood panel  
30x30x2 inches



Pink Barn Valley Deep End  
wood, plaster, pencil and paint on wood panel  
40x40x2 inches



## Green Variations and A Piece of Sky

wood, plaster, pencil and paint on wood panel,  
32x32x1.5 inches



Barn Variation listening to Goldberg Bach

wood, plaster, pencil and paint on wood panel,

34x34x1.25 inches



### Six Window Barn

wood, plaster and paint on wood panel

32x32x2 inches



For questions and information on prices  
or studio appointments please email

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There are three more available barns from my  
2019 Crop

For other painting and sculpture  
View my web page



<http://www.RebeccaJohnsonArt.com>

# Places



Alder Creek, Manchester, Northern California



Galletti Ranch Highway One, Manchester, Northern California



Horse Haven Ranch, Highway 128, Philo, California

Circa 2001

I would like to extend my thanks to Northern California for its beauty and open spaces, to Mendocino County for the barns standing on the land, to my friends for their support and to all the people who enjoy looking at my work.

*thank you*      *Rebecca Johnson*