

September 2021

beavergalleries

Artists in lockdown series

At home with Alex Asch



Q. What is getting you through lockdown?

A. Living in my studio home with constant access to an extensive collection of materials has always been reassuring. I find inspiration in my wife Mariana del Castillo's art practice. We spend a lot of time critiquing each other's work and indulging each other's visual aspirations. Music has been very important as a backdrop to my studio practice. I recently was given my aunt's record collection. The lockdown has allowed me to dig deep into this resource of early Americana. The Appalachian folk tradition to early spoken word. I have been watching movies and like to stop and unpick visual narratives and camera placement.

Q. What is your daily lockdown ritual?

A. In the morning I take a walk down to the Queanbeyan River, this allows me to daydream and clear my thoughts. My main focus is on my construction art: landscapes and architectural inspired sculptures. I'm also exploring a variety of side projects.

Q. Where are you finding inspiration at the moment?

A. I have been exploring and reading about several artists online. I particularly like the simplicity of the collages of John Stezaker. My own sketches come in the form of collages and small mashups, recently a cluster of cigar box guitars which were inspired by my exhibition of deconstructed instruments ('Strange couplings', Beaver Galleries, 2017).

Q. Has the COVID pandemic/lockdown changed your work, and the way you work, in any way?

A. The lockdown has changed the way I work. It has kept me from my regular road trips and visits to the surrounding landscape. Prior to the lockdown I embarked on some intensive collecting across the Southern tablelands allowing me to make headway on my Beaver solo exhibition early 2023. As a response to the first lockdown in July 2020 Mariana and I created The Border art space in our home. The space allowed us to exhibit our visual ideas during lockdown to an online audience.

I recently completed several ink drawings which I also animated. I am currently exhibiting this series of works with Mariana in the border art space- '*Following the Line*', works on paper. www.instagram.com/the_border/

I am disappointed that people are unable to visit my current exhibition *Timeline* at Canberra Contemporary Arts Space however there is a comprehensive catalogue online: <https://www.ccas.com.au/present>

