

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/](http://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>

