

## ART

## Beverly Buchanan

The small tabletop sculptures that Buchanan termed “shacks” are captivating objects—deceptively ramshackle works made from humble materials (wood scraps, primarily) that evoke rich narratives about people and labor in the American South. The charismatic Black artist, who died in 2015, at the age of seventy-four, grew up in South Carolina; after some years in New York, studying science at Columbia University and painting at the Art Students League, she settled in Georgia and embarked on a successful artistic career. More than a dozen of her shacks are on view in this rich exhibition at the Andrew Edlin gallery, augmented by vibrant works on paper that are similarly inspired by vernacular architecture. The improvised, expressive structures in some of these oil-pastel drawings assume a mythic air, although the pencil notations in “Blue Sky Shack,” from 1988, are a diaristic reflection on Buchanan’s relationship to folk art—not a storybook text. The show, deftly curated by Aurélie Bernard Wortsman, also includes a selection of the artist’s exquisite, rarely exhibited color photographs of Southern structures and their inhabitants, underscoring that her sculptures and drawings, however wildly imaginative, are always rooted in life.

— Johanna Fateman