



fall line

WYCLIFFE STUTCHBURY

SARAH MYERSCOUGH GALLERY



LANDSCAPE

The ancient British landscape and its ever evolving story is an essential part of Wycliffe Stutchbury's creative journey. His forthcoming solo exhibition is comprised of ambitious pictorial wall panels inspired by the countryside he has experienced and lived in over his lifetime; from the Fenlands of East Anglia to the South Downs coated in thick forests, where the artist spent his earliest days.

This childhood relationship to woodland means he has an intrinsically close bond to his material: holly bush, oak and bogwood express his emotional connection to his subject while acting as an index of place itself. For Stutchbury, the finished work is always an exploration of landscape, "an observation of its folds and contours, its valleys, peaks and ridges". Field, furrow, fold and fall line are all embedded in the undulating scenery his work recalls.

The artist respects his material as an elemental record of the British Isles' natural history: bogwood is the spectre of prehistoric oak trees, which fell 5000 years ago and were engulfed by rising waters. Semi-petrifying in sodden soil, the wood reawakens in acidic waters; tannins react with the acid to turn its grain the deepest charcoal black.



SUSURRATE

Stutchbury's making hand finds these secret histories in nature and creates compositions with them - different yet fundamentally connected to the life of the tree and its rural setting. The process begins in his studio, where delicately hewn tiles of wood are placed in a meditative, rhythmic order to create his abstracted pictorial compositions, which at once become emotive, intuitive and conceptual. The final mass of shimmering wood shingles suggests a tension between the unpredictability of the natural world and the artist's desire to impose new structures, while simultaneously retaining the life of the tree and its small and individual material imperfections. Inconsistencies and anomalies are augmented, allowing the material to express its story. Flaws and failings are shared by humanity and nature alike.

These tensions are at the heart of the artist's tale; a constant interplay between order and disorder as the natural world erupts around him, erratic and enveloping. Rhythms ebb and flow through Stutchbury's making process, as patterns emerge in linear forms and subtle tonal changes susurrate across the picture's surface - reminding us of the wood's creation, guiding us back to place; where moods change, sun warms and water soaks.

INCIDENT & PLACE

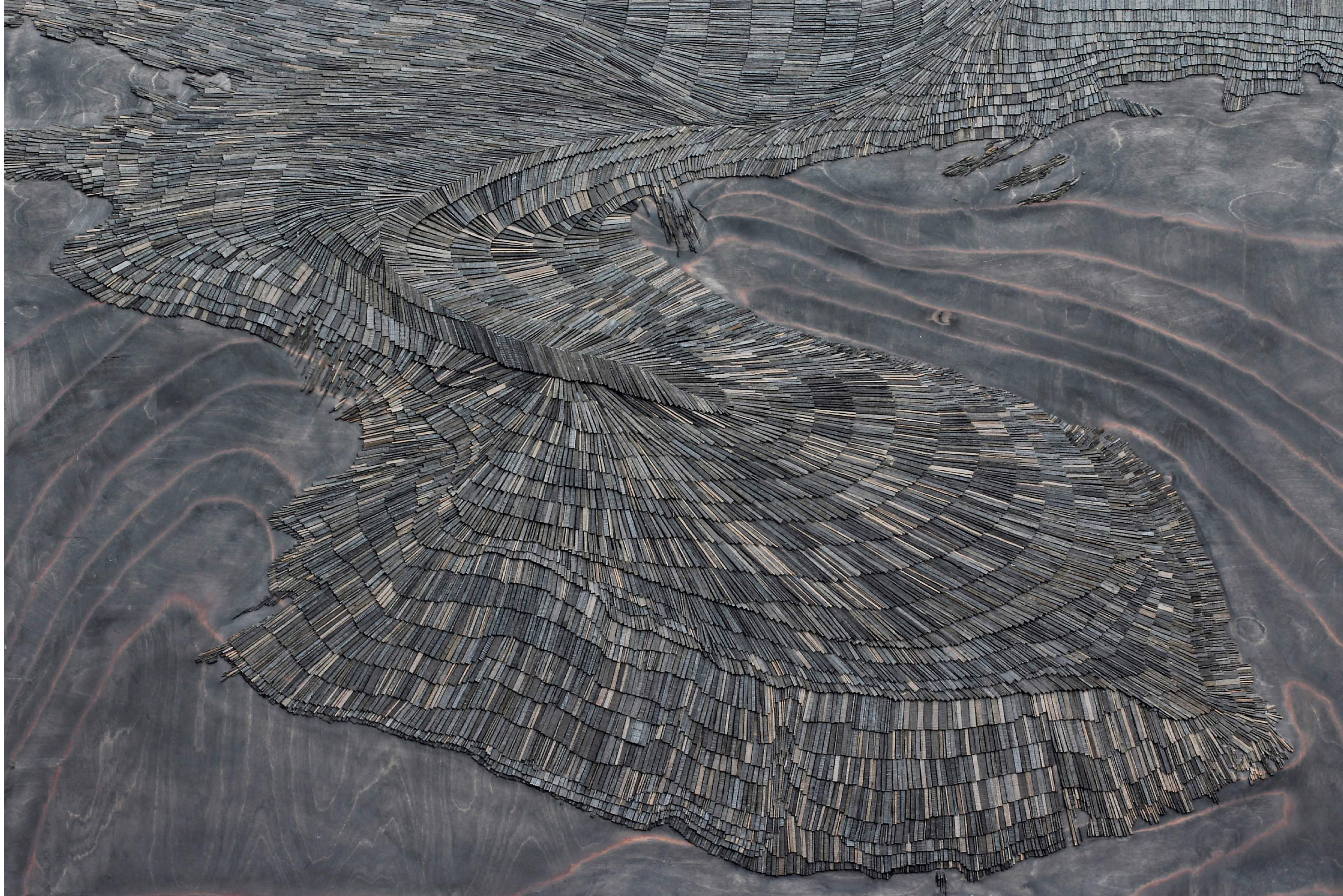
Holly bush and oak begin as small and delicate saplings and slowly grow into trees that are sculpted in and through their landscapes; seasons come and go and alter their inner forms as concentric rings of grain multiply with the passing of time. Textural imperfections and gnarled branches stand as physical manifestations of incident and place.





Gayles Farm 5, 2020
Discarded oak fencing on cotton hung on 3 section
hinged European oak frame
210 H x 210 W cm
£30,800 inc. s/s VAT





Hundred Foot Drain 9, 2020
Excavated bog oak
100 H x 150 W cm
£16,500 inc. s/s VAT



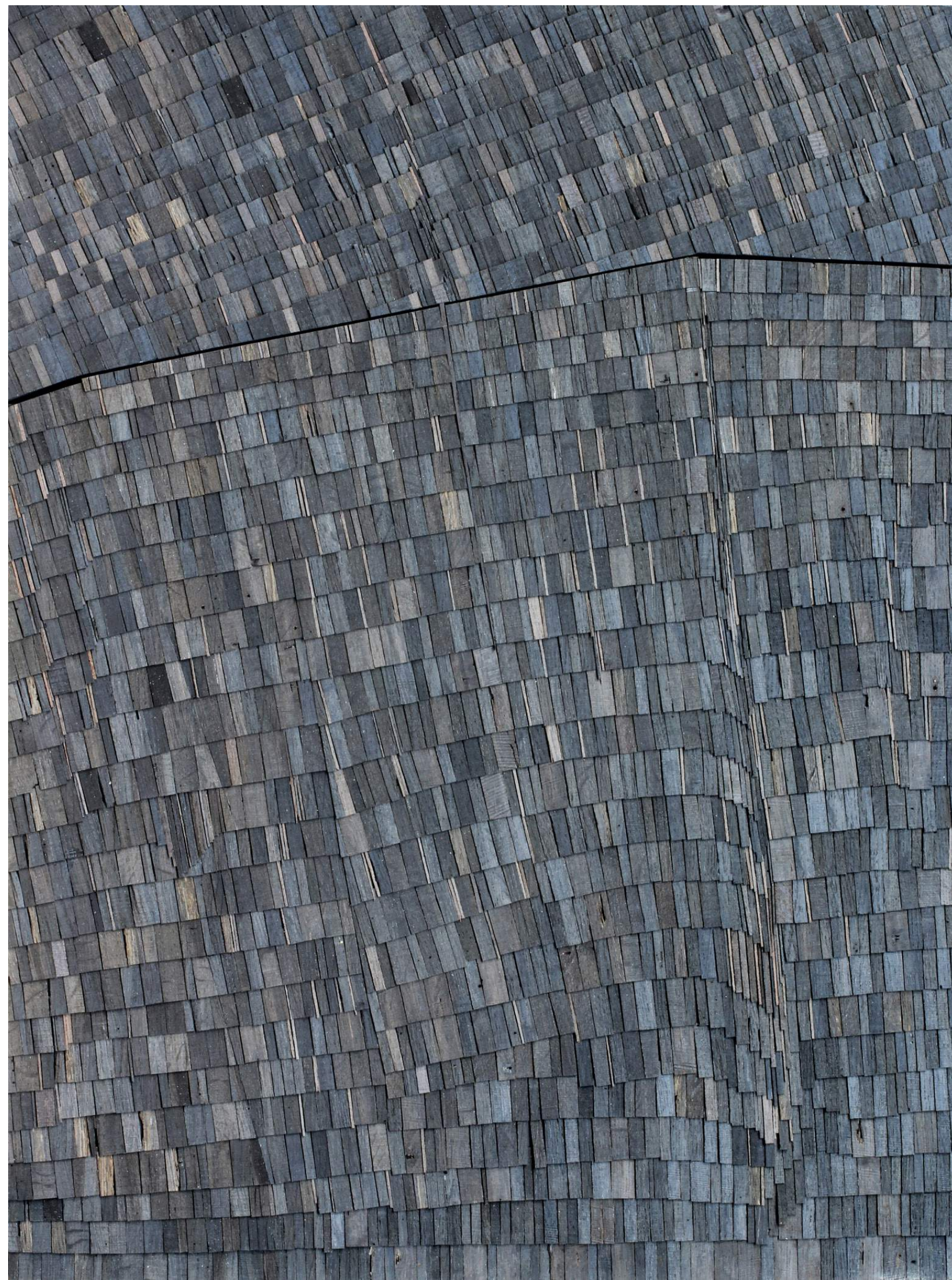
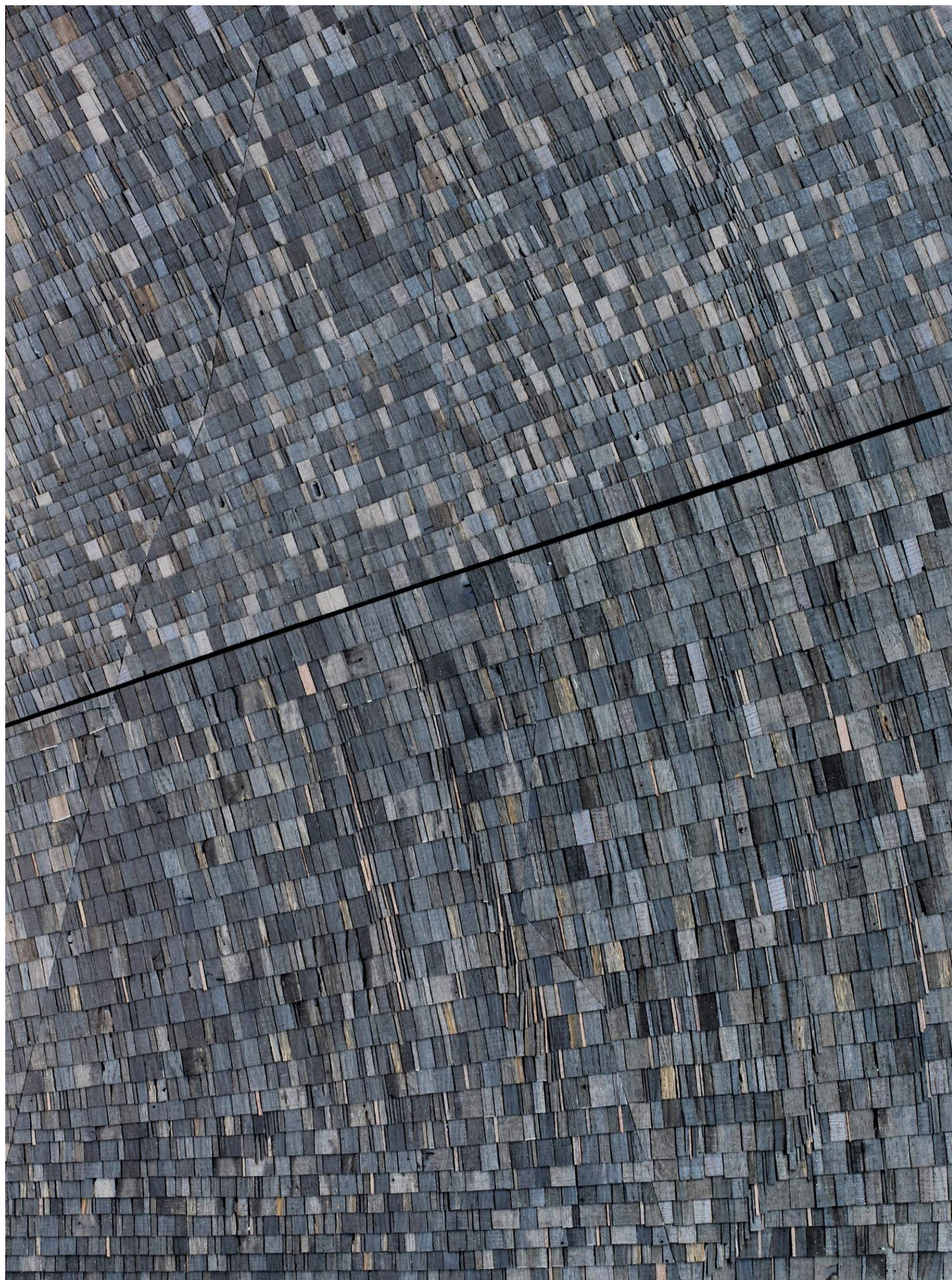


Hundred Foot Drain 10, 2020
Excavated Bog Oak
150 H x 150 W cm
£14,900 inc. s/s VAT



The Rodd, 2020
Discarded oak barn cladding
127 H x 79 W cm
£8,800 inc. s/s VAT





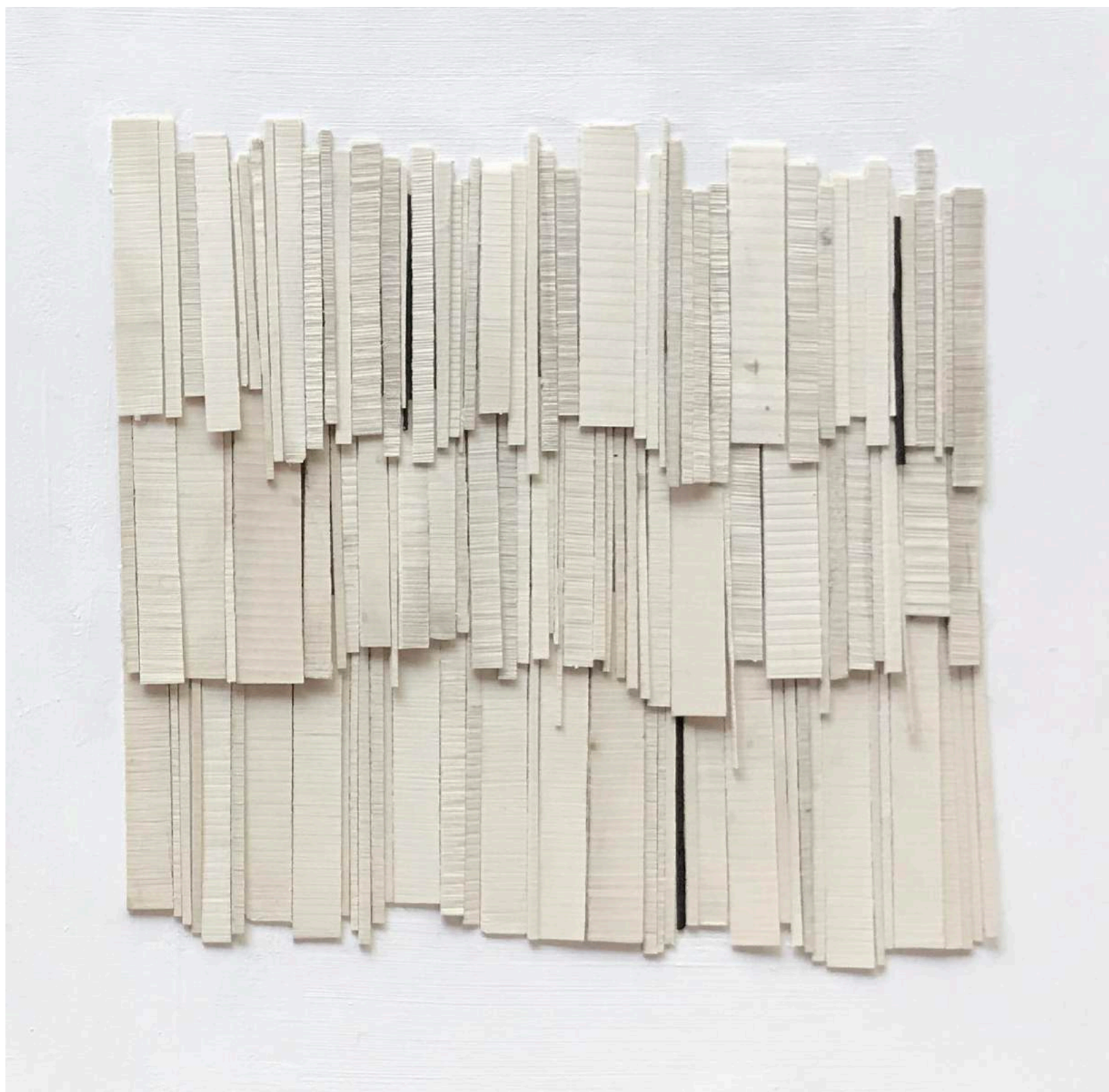
Hundred Foot Drain 7 (triptych), 2019
Excavated bog oak
80 H x 180 W x 2.5 D cm
£15,400 inc. s/s VAT

Newburn Street, 2020
Discarded pallets, London SE15
120 H X 120 W cm
£6,600 inc. s/s VAT





The Rodd 2, 2020
Discarded barn cladding on linen
80 H x 40 cm
£4,400 inc. s/s VAT



Hundred Foot Drain 4, 2020
Excavated Bog Oak
Framed: 40 H x 40 W cm
£880 inc. s/s VAT



Annie's Wood 5, 2020
Felled common holly
Marden, Kent
Framed: 40 H x 40 W cm
£880 inc. s/s VAT



WYCLIFFE STUTCHBURY

Born in 1965 in London, Stutchbury studied at the London College of Furniture and subsequently worked for 25 years as a furniture maker. He then later graduated from University Brighton with a BA Hons in 3D Craft in 2003 and co-founded the Blue Monkey Studio, a collective of Eastbourne based artists, in the same year.

The artist has exhibited extensively in the UK and in the US and has works in international collections. He has received several notable awards, including from the Crafts Council UK for his work featured in "Origin 2009" at the Somerset House London and a gold medal from the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers. In 2018, Stutchbury was shortlisted for the Loewe Craft Prize.

SARAH MYERSCOUGH

Sarah Myerscough founded her eponymous gallery in 1998. Myerscough is a leading specialist dealer in contemporary wood craft and design. The gallery promotes formal and aesthetic innovations within the contemporary visual arts by breaking down boundaries between fine art, craft, and design. With a particular fascination for traditional processes revitalised in innovative new ways, the gallery supports and promotes quality of practice across disciplines. The gallery represents emerging and established international artists and designers exhibiting in major galleries and museums, while it continues to establish its presence at art fairs around the world, PAD London, Design Miami/Basel, Design Miami, SALON New York, FOG San Francisco, Design Days Dubai and Craft Trend Seoul.