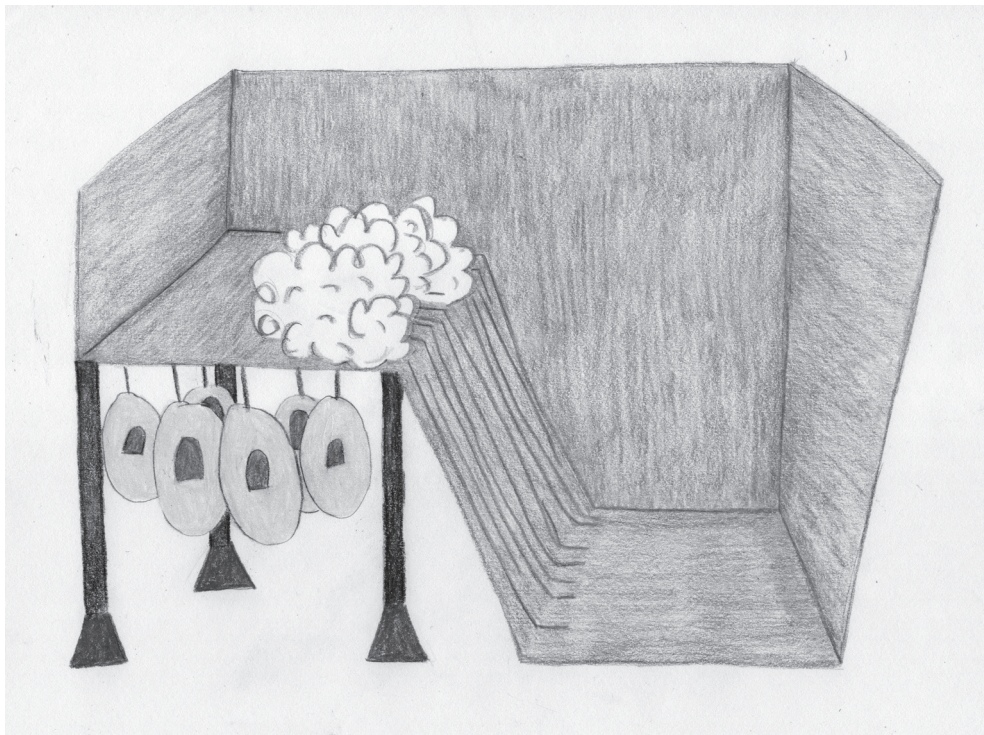
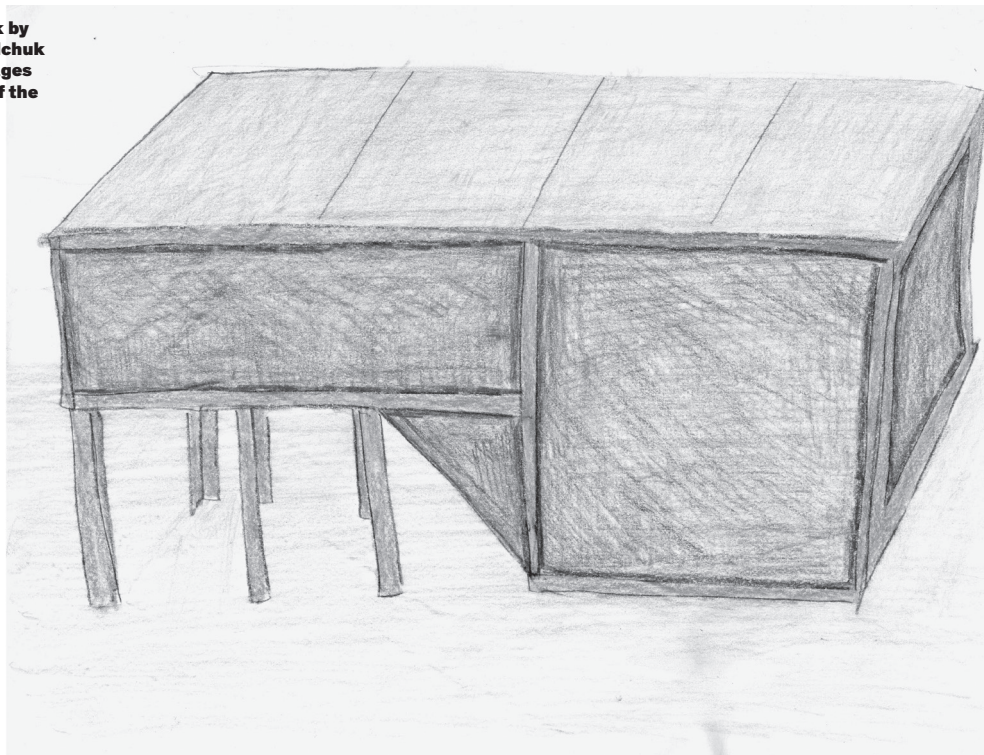


All artwork by
Sherry Walchuk
and all images
courtesy of the
artist.



Sherry Walchuk

DESIRE IN THE RV-POOL

Sherry Walchuk

[A] space must be maintained or desire ends.

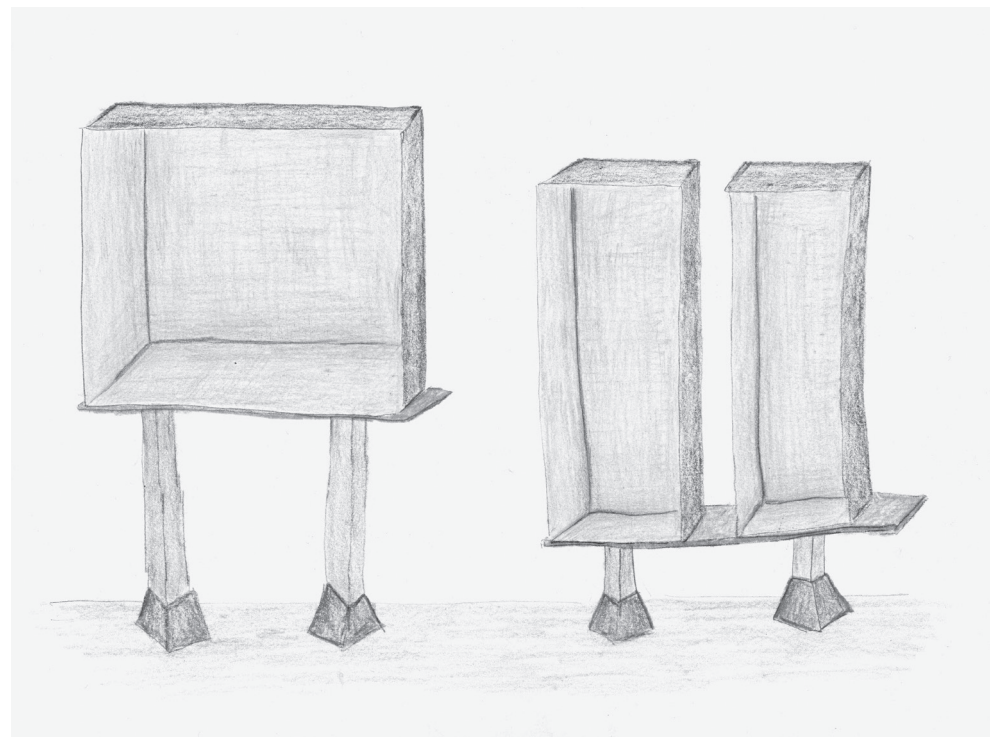
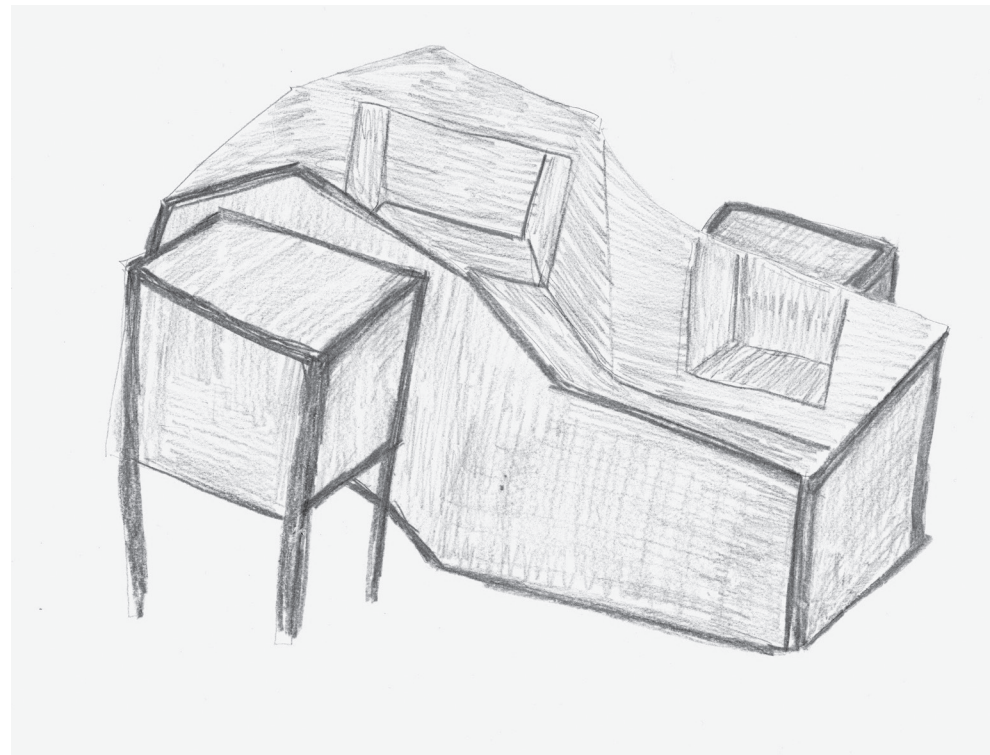
Anne Carson, from *Eros the Bittersweet*

I dug up an underground swimming pool, so now it exists above ground. Because it would have been too heavy to lift if it were full of water, I first had to empty it. Crutch-like external supports keep the shallow end elevated to create a new space for leisure activities or storage. What remains is a hole in the ground in the exact shape of the pool. This is the pool's shadow or coffin space, or it could act as a mold to cast a new pool.

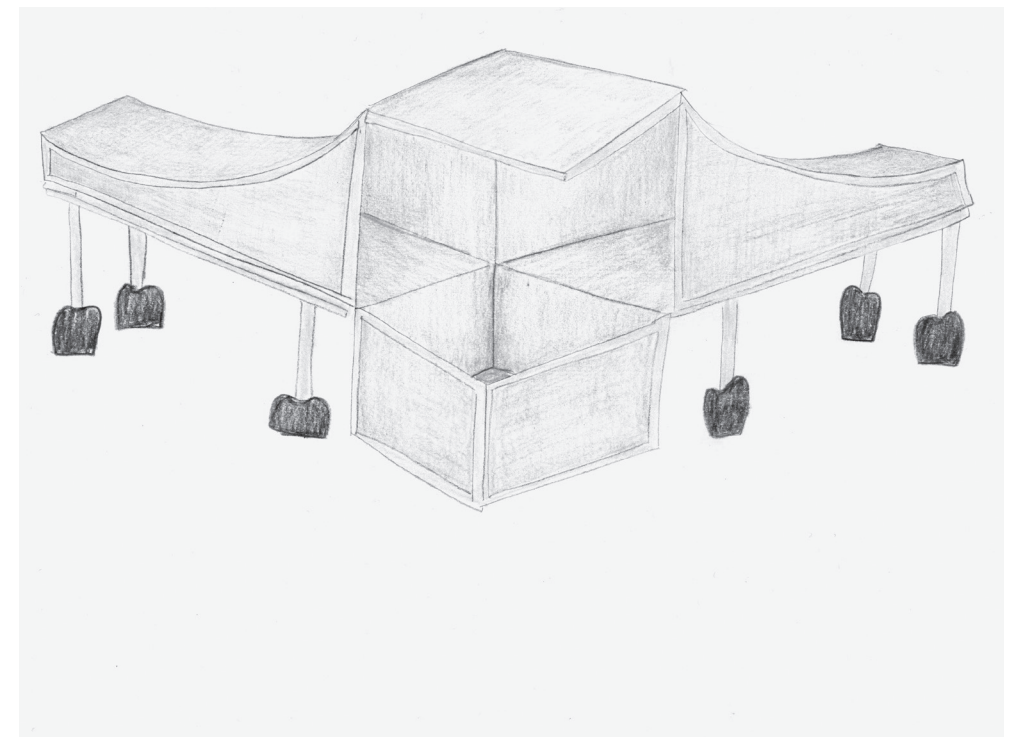
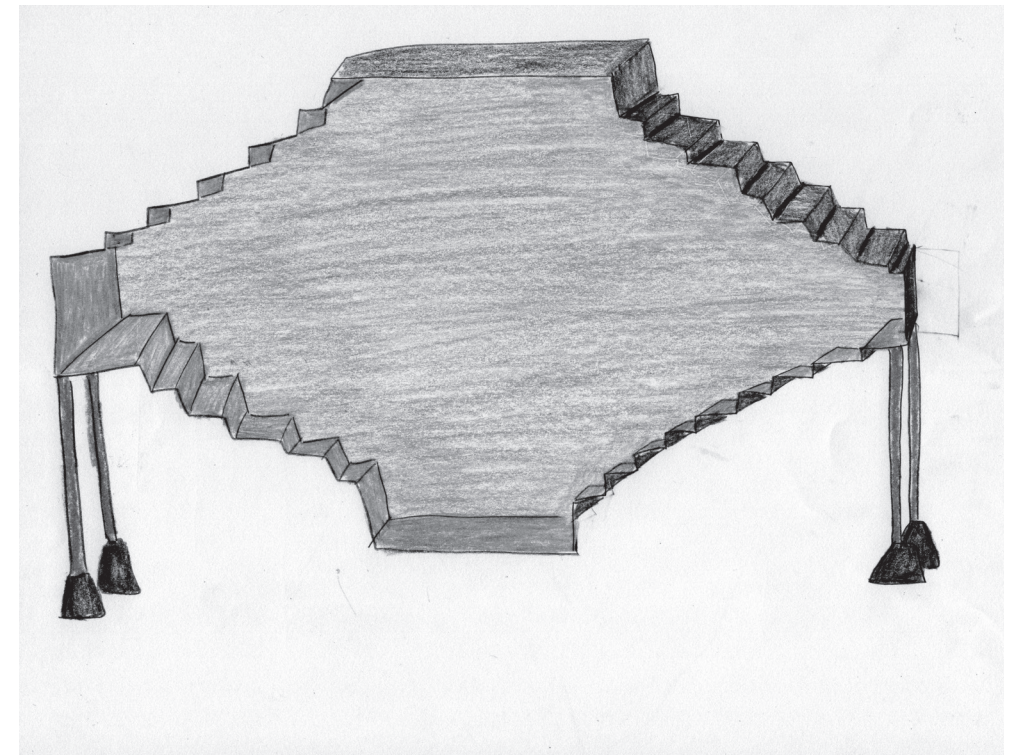
Pool is a large-scale underground pool built above ground out of cardboard, wood, and tape. The inside of the structure is painted blue to mimic water or a pool liner and covered with a blue tarp which acts as sky, water, and a pool cover. Entering the deep end through a nine-foot-high door the width of a ladder, one finds oneself looking up the precarious slant into the far blue wall of the inaccessible shallow end. Within sight but out of reach, the shallow end begins at head-height to create thought-space for one to project desire into.

Once dug up, *Pool's* outer shape suggests a camper that fits on the bed of a truck. Besides the fact that pools and recreational vehicles are both sites of conspicuous leisure activity, they share distinct formal qualities. Firstly, they both have pop-outs as luxury features. Pop-outs are small extensions of space that "pop out" of a primary shape. For example, a pool pop-out would be a stair-case built off of the primary pool shape, perhaps in the shallow end, and a recreational vehicle pop-out would be a section of space that extends out of the main body shape to enlarge a particular section, such as a living room or kitchen. Unlike the fixed pool pop-out, the RV extension is moveable and only protrudes when the vehicle is stationed. Secondly, when stripped of function and reduced to their simplest forms, each becomes a shell or a space that can *contain*.

The process of amalgamating the pool with the RV developed out of imagining the possibilities of what they could each contain, and a place where the amalgamation could happen: where emptied pools (a dead pool lot) and out-dated RVs (a dead RV lot) would go. Here the *RV-Pool* becomes a coffin itself with pop-out coffin appendages. Now the *RV-Pool* becomes the ultimate retirement site as a live-in, leisure and (pre-)death space all in one.



Sherry Walchuk



SCAPEGOAT 9