

the shed and the key

for Stephan
owner of the shed

the shed and the key

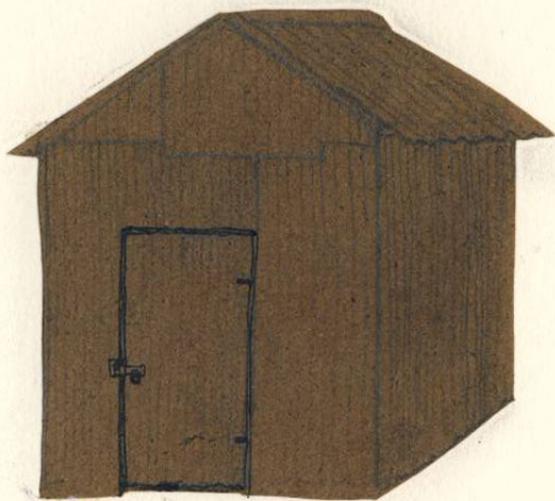
W.Washington St. Marfa TX Feb-April 2012

© Patrik Qvist 2012

there is a shed at the garden's edge
it's locked and I don't know where the key is at

I wonder what's in there
he won't tell me

Let me get this straight: The difference between a shed and a shack has to do with placement (siting), general appearance and level of maintenance. The size is more or less identical in the two, although sheds tend to be smaller. This particular building is in good condition. Few or no holes in walls and ceilings; bearing witness of if not tender, so at least occasional care. And sheds tend to have a lock; shacks don't.



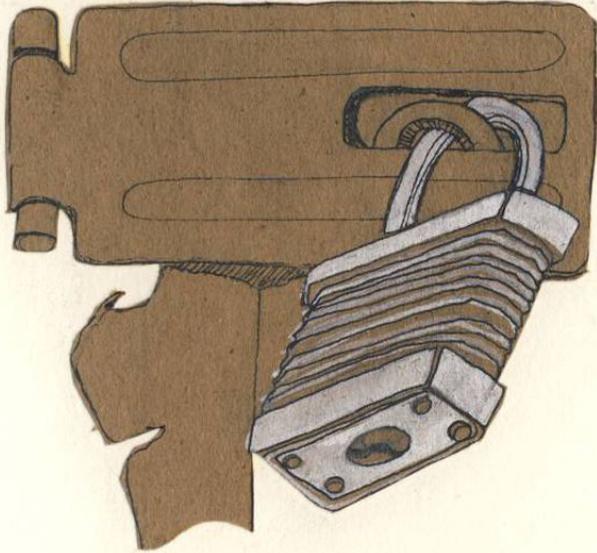
The wood and the tree

the lock says Made in China
this here is Texas

small town; two hardware stores
one is always closed with a sign that says Open

Padlocks are portable locks used to defend against theft, vandalism, sabotage, unauthorized use, and even harm. They are designed to protect against some degree of forced and surreptitious entry. The first padlocks were "convenient" locks so they could be carried and used where necessary. The earliest positive evidence of padlocks comes from the Roman Era, 500 BC–300 AD.

On the relative size of places: Texas is 268,820 sq miles (696,241 km²)
Sweden, my home, is 173,732 sq miles (449,964 km²) and China, where the lock was made is 3,705,842 sq miles (9,598,086 km²) So, if Sweden is 1 then Texas is 1.5 and China is 21.3. China wins.

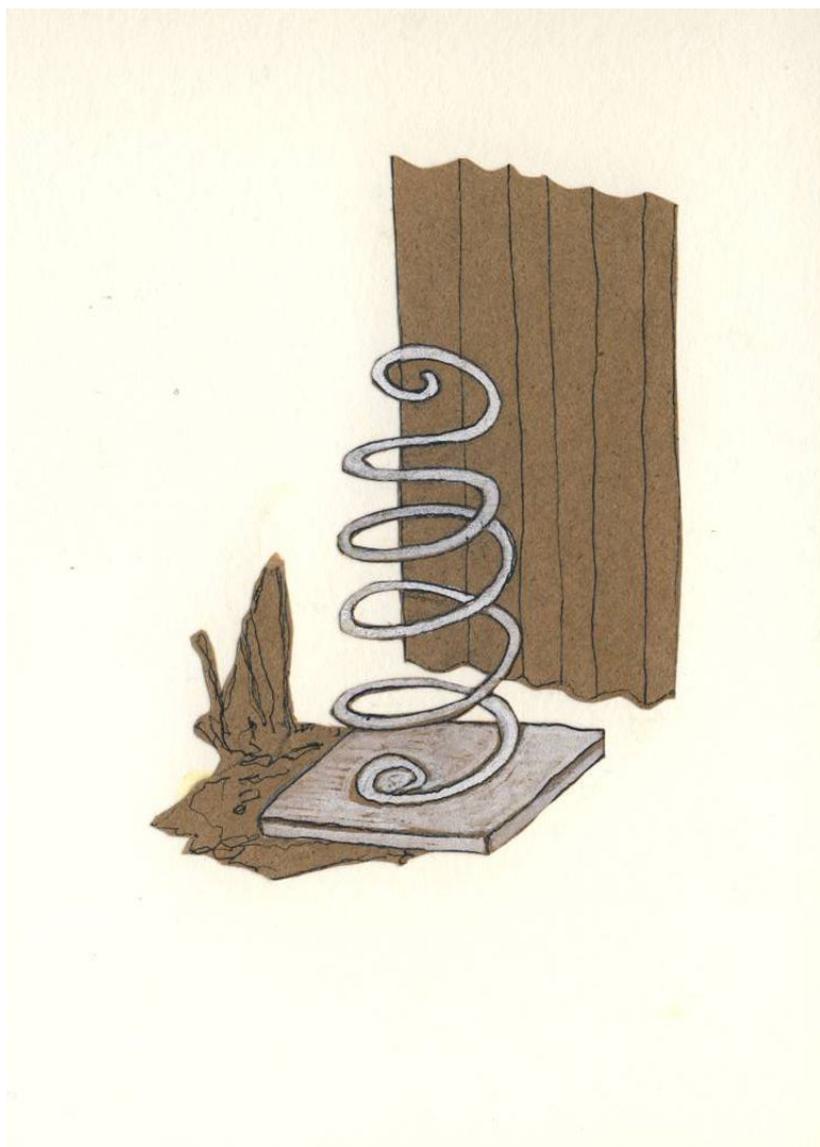


I look around
the most obvious place would be here:

lodged under an old shock welded to a plate
but no, not there

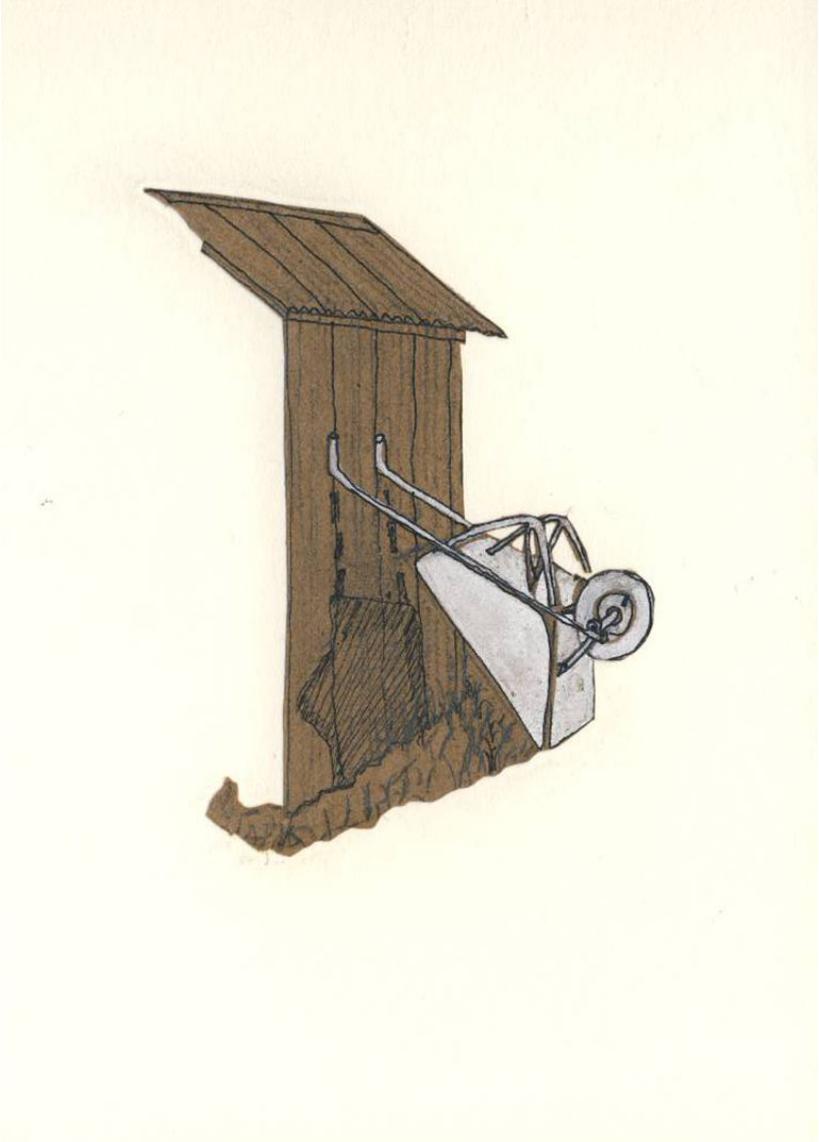
Possible contents of shed:
A shovel, a rake, a ladder
pair of pliers
gloves
buckets- one rusty, one new

*Two songs come to mind: The Rake and Short Circuit from the 1967 album
The Inner Sounds Of The Id. Written by acclaimed session player Jerry Cole
who played with just about everybody:
Elvis, Nancy Sinatra, The Byrds, Them, Beach Boys, Steely Dan etc...
From what I remember, the lyrics go something like this: " Do the Rake now,
do the rake now, do the rake now, do the rake now, do the rake now...." Great
song.*



The west wall of the shed
it's just leaning there

I once estimated the number of trips one would have to take with a wheelbarrow full of dirt to make up the pre-Viking burial mounds at Gamla Uppsala in Sweden. It came to something like 100 men working for 100 days at each mound, or 80.000 man-hours, provided that they worked 8-hour days (unlikely). The burial mounds are dwarfed in size by the pyramids of Egypt; yet they are of a scale that qualifies as monumental. I am sometimes overcome by a sense of vertigo and sadness when I stand before a city: The endless rows of bricks laid upon one another; mute tribute to our ceaseless toil and ambition.



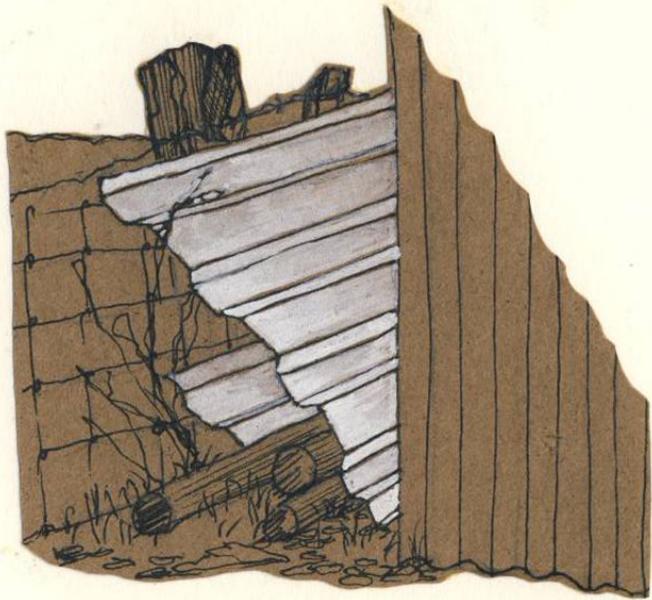
I would hide a key here
under sheets of corrugated metal
stick in an open pipe

nail it to a fencepost
in a small plastic container

wedge it under where sheet metal
meets the ground
lodge the key in an old sardine can

Corrugated galvanised iron (colloquially corrugated iron or pailing commonly abbreviated CGI) is a building material composed of sheets of hot-dip galvanised mild steel, cold-rolled to produce a linear corrugated pattern in them. The corrugations increase the bending strength of the sheet in the direction perpendicular to the corrugations, but not parallel to them. Normally each sheet is manufactured longer in its strong direction.

CGI is lightweight and easily transported. It was and still is widely used especially in rural and military buildings such as sheds and water tanks. Its unique properties were used in the development of countries like Australia from the 1840s, and it is still helping developing countries today. CGI was invented in the 1820s in Britain by Henry Palmer, architect and engineer to the London Dock Company. It was originally made from wrought iron. It proved to be light, strong, corrosion-resistant, and easily transported, and particularly lent itself to prefabricated structures and improvisation by semi-skilled workers. It soon became a common construction material in rural areas in the United States, Chile, New Zealand and Australia.



the flamingo's
capacity
for compassion
is:
infinite
boundless
knows no limits

mago
mago coming
mago is coming

Pink flamingos get their color from plankton and algae that live in the alkaline lakes of Africa's Great Rift lakes, comes from carotenoid proteins in their diet of animal and plant plankton. These proteins are broken down into pigments by liver enzymes. [13] The source of this varies by species, and affects the saturation of color. Flamingos whose sole diet is blue-green algae are darker in color compared to those who get it second hand (e.g. from animals that have digested blue-green algae). Zoo-fed flamingos, who often lack the color enhancer in their diet, may be given food with the additive canthaxanthin.

Rift Valley soda lakes are at an elevation of 1754 m above sea level

Marfa is at 1428 m above sea level, making it a sustainable environment for the garden variety of the Pink Flamingo. The original plastic pink flamingo was created by Don Featherstone in 1957, and thrives on lawns all over the US.



I empty a bucket of leftovers
and start digging a hole in the
designated compost area,
using my bare hands for shovels
clawing away at dirt and rocks

The empty bucket is left dreaming
of shade under the nearby mesquite

These are the items that I put into the ground for composting:

Coffee grounds, watermelon slices, grapefruit halves, oatmeal, raisins, almond milk, salad, collared greens, tortilla bread, black beans, apple cores, banana peel, pecan shells, avocado, onions, garlic, teabags, grapes, more coffee grounds, potatoes, beets, chard, broccoli, cilantro, parsley, milk, apple juice, carrots, rye sourdough bread, peanut butter, rosemary, salt, olive oil, sesame seeds, flax, tahini, cous cous, bulgur, toasted bagels, rice, spinach and water.



I seek counsel from a local goathead

Tribulus terrestris is a flowering plant in the family Zygophyllaceae, native to warm temperate and tropical regions of the Old World in southern Europe, southern Asia, throughout Africa, and Australia.

It can thrive even in desert climates and poor soil. Like many weedy species, this plant has many common names, including bindii, bullhead, burra gokharu, caltrop, cat's head, devil's eyelashes, devil's thorn, devil's weed, goathead, puncturevine, and tackweed.

***T. terrestris* has been shown to enhance sexual behavior in an animal model. It appears to do so by stimulating androgen receptors in the brain. *T. terrestris* is now being promoted as a booster for the purpose of increasing sex drive. Its use for this purpose originated from a Bulgarian study conducted in the 1970s, which found effects on free testosterone and luteinizing hormone in men belonging to infertile couples.**



prevailing wind in West Texas:

W

W by NW

NW

N by NW

N

N by NE

NE

E by NE

E

E by SE

SE

S by SE

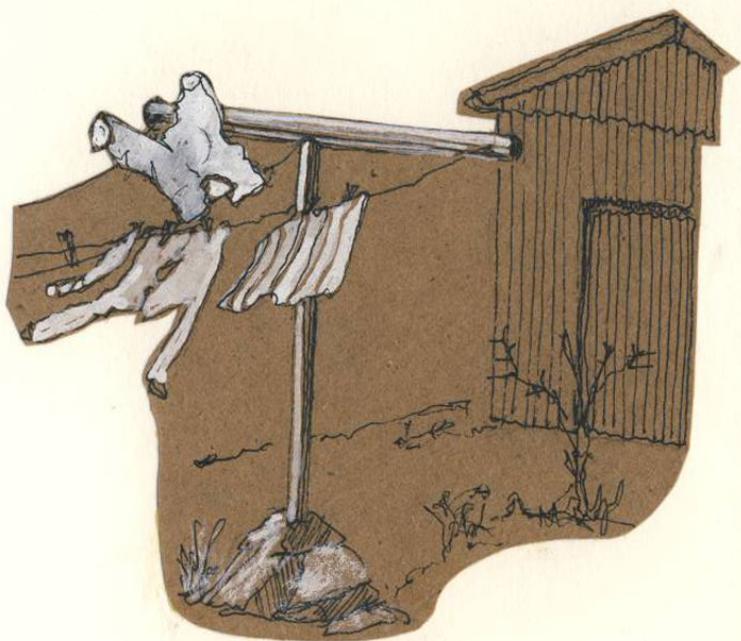
S

S by SW

SW

W by SW

I hang the laundry out to dry in half storm, but no key falls out of damp pockets and creased shirts.



Sally the Stray
that's what we called her
like the girlfriend of a racing car
minus the stray

she came to eat, drink and rest
after a busy day about town
then she left

“faithless bitch” my wife said



That night,
an owl pretends to keep an eye
on trains that go by

Outhern Acific Line

Still. Stars. Sirius on the rise.
No key.

I'm not sure what kind of bird it was, but let's say it was Great Horned Owl. A somewhat menacing picture against the setting sun, were it not for those big tufty ears.

The owl was known as a harbinger of bad tidings and doom throughout Europe, and put in appearances as a symbol of death and destruction in a number of popular plays and poems. For instance,

*"Birds of omen dark and foul,
Night-crow, raven, bat, and owl,
Leave the sick man to his dream --
All night long he heard your scream."*

(Walter Scott)

"The owls are not what they seem"?

This is one of the most difficult questions to answer.

(from David Lynch's Twin Peaks)



text and images by Patrik Qvist, except notes that carry actual facts:
These all hail from www.wikipedia.org, and were accessed between March 1st
and April 23rd of 2012.

