

Red Shack in Yellow Field



Spirited Spaces

Beverly Buchanan explored this "shack" motif in her drawings and sculptures for nearly 40 years. Inspired by rural American homes often made by their owners, her work pays tribute to the hands that constructed and the souls that inhabited these spaces.



Red Shack in Yellow Field, 2004

Take a closer look

This seemingly simple composition is quite complex, much like the homemade structures that sparked the artist's creativity. Notice where **Beverly Buchanan (1940–2015)** energetically added, layered, and blended color and where the white paper peeks through. Find places where she colored inside the lines and where she strayed outside them.

Something to talk about

For Buchanan, who represented the dwellings of others, “[Home] means what I’ve established and where I am, wherever that is.” How do you define home?

In her own words

“I’m interested in their shapes and how they’re made and how they reflect the people who built them. I consider my shacks portraits. It’s the spirit that comes through the forms.”

Who knew?

Black and women gallerists exhibited Buchanan’s work when the larger art world centered white men. Cinque Gallery, founded by Black artists Romare Bearden, Ernest Crichlow, and Norman Lewis, and the Betty Parsons Gallery championed Buchanan.

Beverly Buchanan, *Red Shack in Yellow Field*, 2004; Oil pastel on paper, 9 x 12 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Anna Stapleton Henson; © The Estate of Beverly Buchanan and Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York; Photo by Lee Stalworth

