

# DEDICATION

BY MARK di SUVERO



Bob Tannen is a great spirit — grand in his human love, many branched in his societal, structural, and sculptural explorations.

Imagine a lonely after-windstorm-swept New York ocean beach, a tall wind-tufted-hair, handsome man talking in hand-waving gestures (as if tossing seagulls or racing gray clouds) surrounded by the driftwood which had reared itself into transitory compositions, from flotsam into sculpture if however briefly to become again driftwood. This romantic young man struggling against the pillars of orthodoxy and convention was Bob Tannen in 1960. He inspired young sculptors in Brooklyn with his messianic drive – the betterment of the world, our fellow humans, thru art and architecture – he was tossed like some splume-blown sea-bird, tempest-tost first north to Boston where for years he worked in that shining myth of art, computers, and high-tech and then to New Orleans. Like wild palms, threshing their sea-storms, his life has always bordered sea-level ports, and if in imagination he has lofted geodesic domes, new and incredible bridges and art, he returns again and again to sea-level for such is that vast energy source which cradled our human origins that it is never enfeebled, exhausted, that mighty source; the sea.

However material a work is, the force of its symbol-signal (in art) is determined by the spirit and intensity, the vision and poetry of its maker. Bob Tannen is one of the brilliant artists of our age and I am better for having known him.

May this exhibition do justice to the scope of his art.

LEFT:  
*Driftwood Pile and Beach,*  
Hudson River Delta  
at Coney Island, New York  
1957

NEXT PAGE:  
*Driftwood Pile and Levee,*  
Mississippi River  
near St. Francisville, Louisiana  
1988

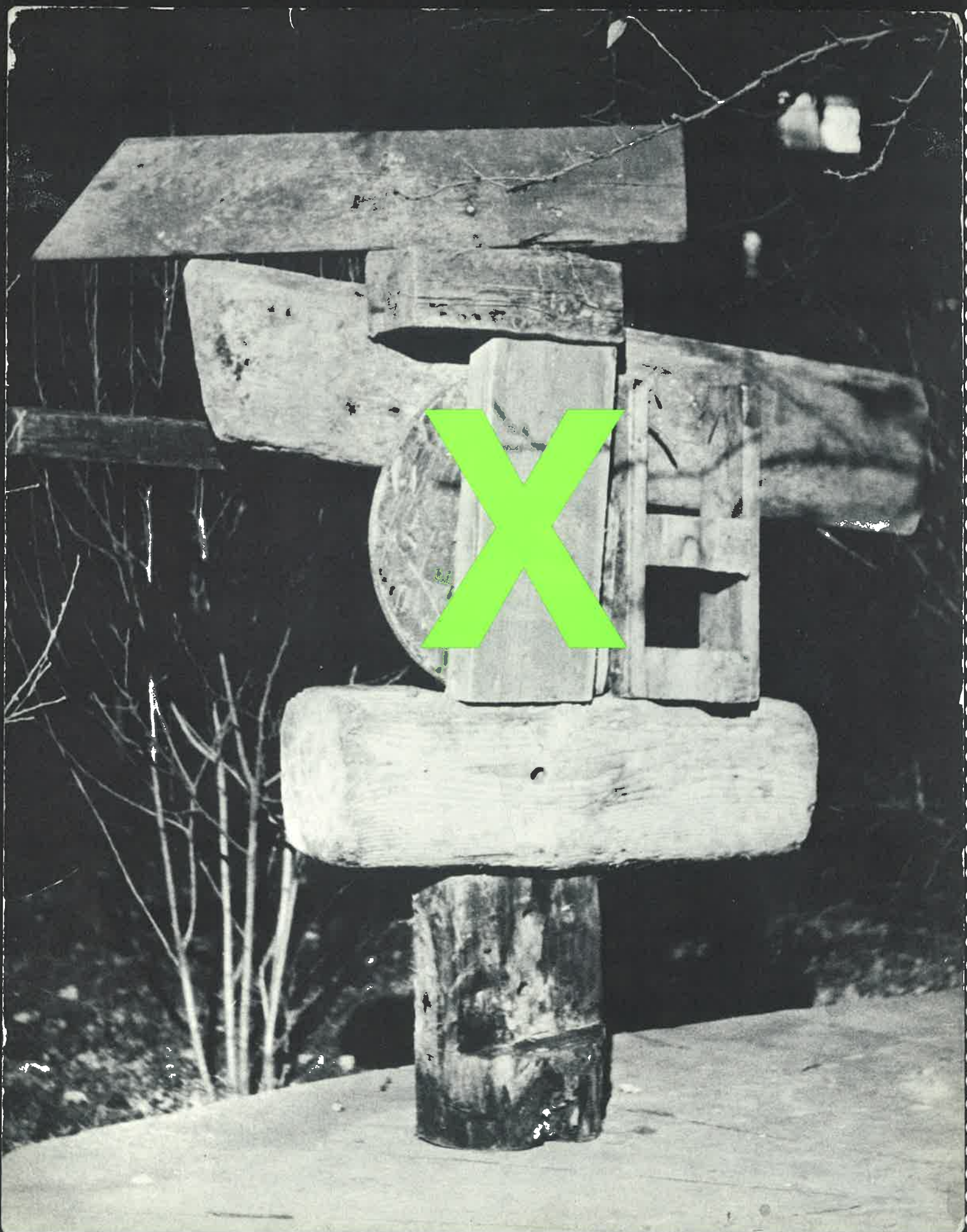
RIGHT:  
*Robert Tannen and Driftwood*  
Pass Christian, Mississippi  
1984

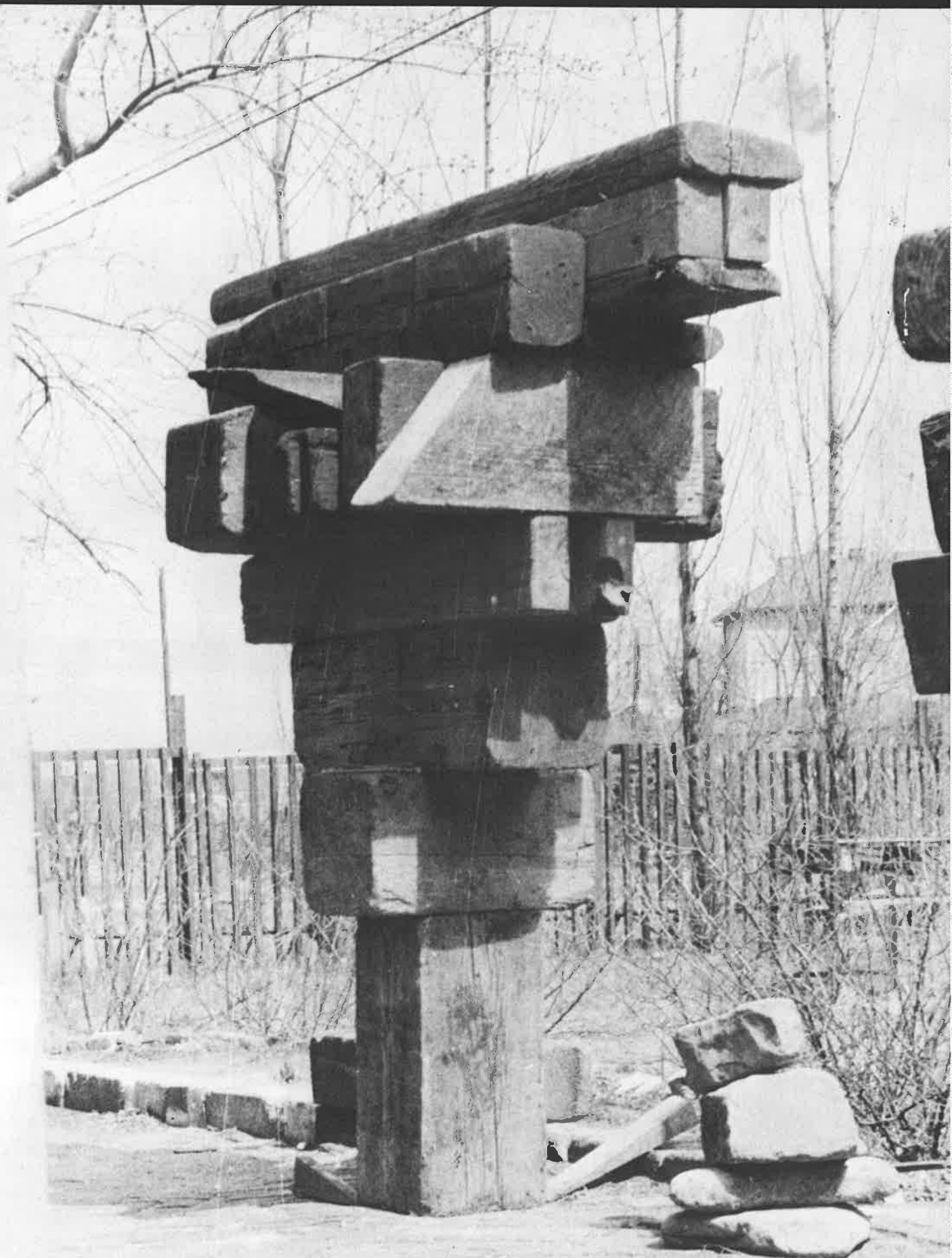






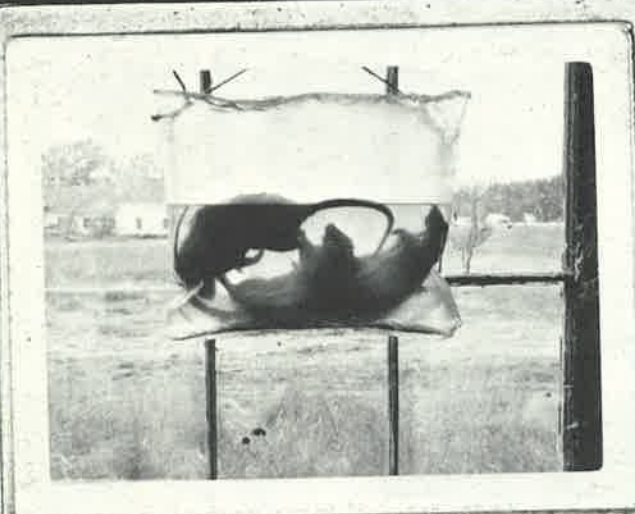




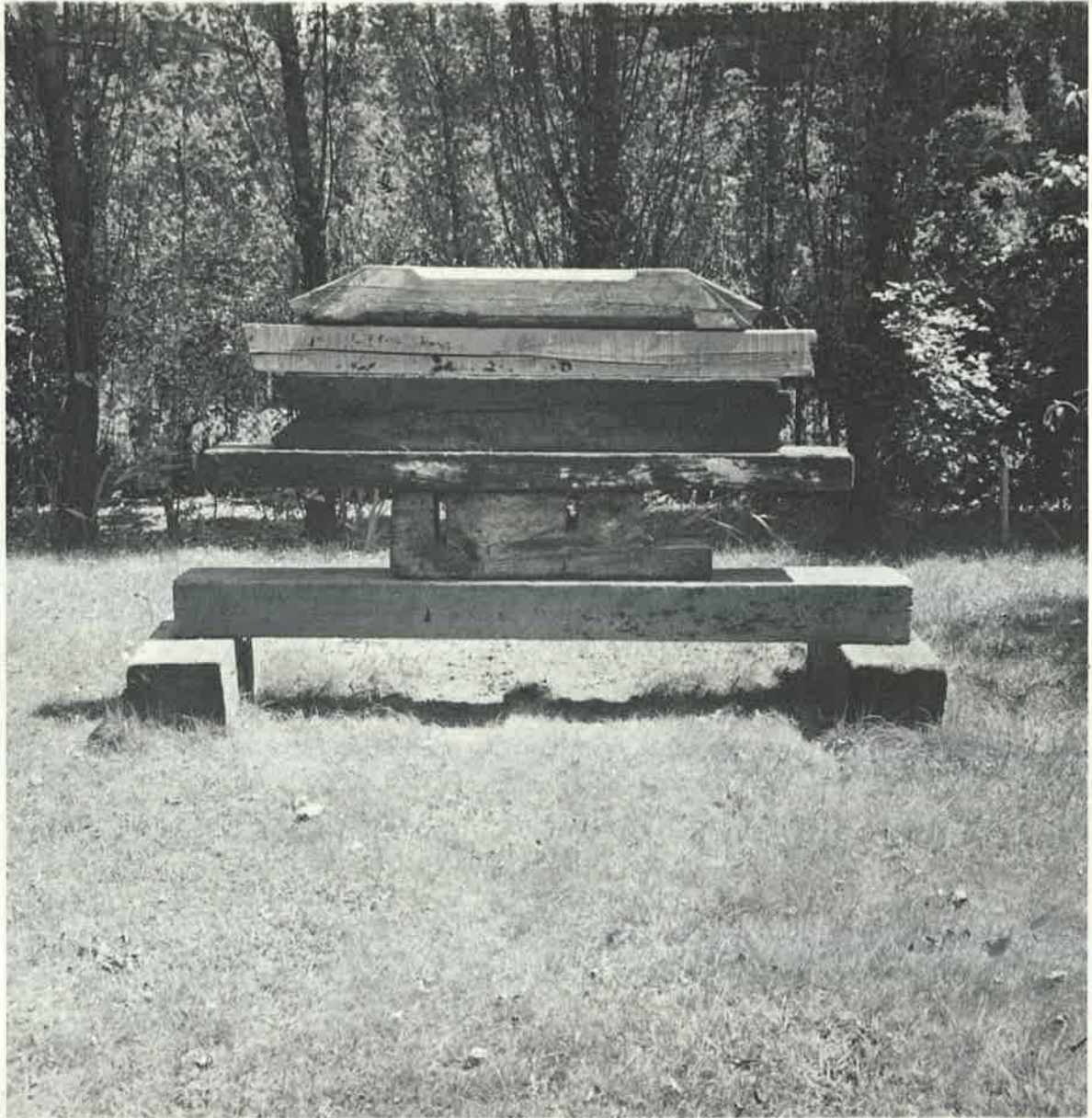


(UNFASTENED)  
STACKED WOOD, CONRY ISLAND 1959









1959

**SCRAPBOOK**

1. & 2. *Woodpiles, Coney Island, 1958-1960*
3. & 4. *Shot Rats in Plastic Bags, Franconia, New Hampshire, 1963-64*
5. *Plaster over Refrigerator Box, Coney Island, 1960*
6. *Dipped and Tied Dinette Set and Executive Desk, New York, 1963*
7. *Tied and Inflated Tractor Inner Tubes, New Hampshire, 1964*
8. *Inner Tubes on a Barn Door, New Hampshire, 1963*

**ABOVE:**

*Wood Pile, Coney Island, 1959*

**NEXT PAGE:**

*Inflated Tractor Inner Tubes, New Hampshire, 1964*

