



On the
White
Wall

Brooks Jensen
Brooks Jensen

On the White Wall

There is an old joke that asks:

Is a zebra a white horse with black stripes, or a black horse with white stripes?

Answer: It is, of course, an invisible horse with both black stripes *and* white stripes; how else could we see it?

Every white wall starts as a coat of clean, pristine paint — and the hopes of its painter that the purity will last. But as every photographer knows, a perfectly pure-white object is a blank spot. (Not coincidentally, the word blank is from the Late Latin *blancus*, related to the Spanish *blanco*, Italian *bianco*, and French *blanc* meaning *white*.) How would one photograph an entirely blank, white wall? Without some break in the purity, without some flaw in the surface or some texture in the blank, a white wall is perfectly invisible, perfectly featureless, without character, without life.

At its essence, a wall of white is a *tabula rasa* where a history is written with the character of age. Just as one drop of ink taints the entire bucket of pure water, so the smallest mark makes the white wall visible; the speck of mud, the crack in the plaster, the weather that peels, the sun that scorches, the pen that mars — and the white wall is suddenly *alive* with a history, each mark a tale like a wrinkle in an elder's face. We often muse, "If these walls could talk..." — oh, but they do! The question is, are we listening?





View Final Image View Original Digital Capture

[Close this PDF](#)

BROOKS JENSEN ARTS ❖ **On The White Wall**

[Full Screen On/Off](#) [View Pages](#) [View Bookmarks](#)







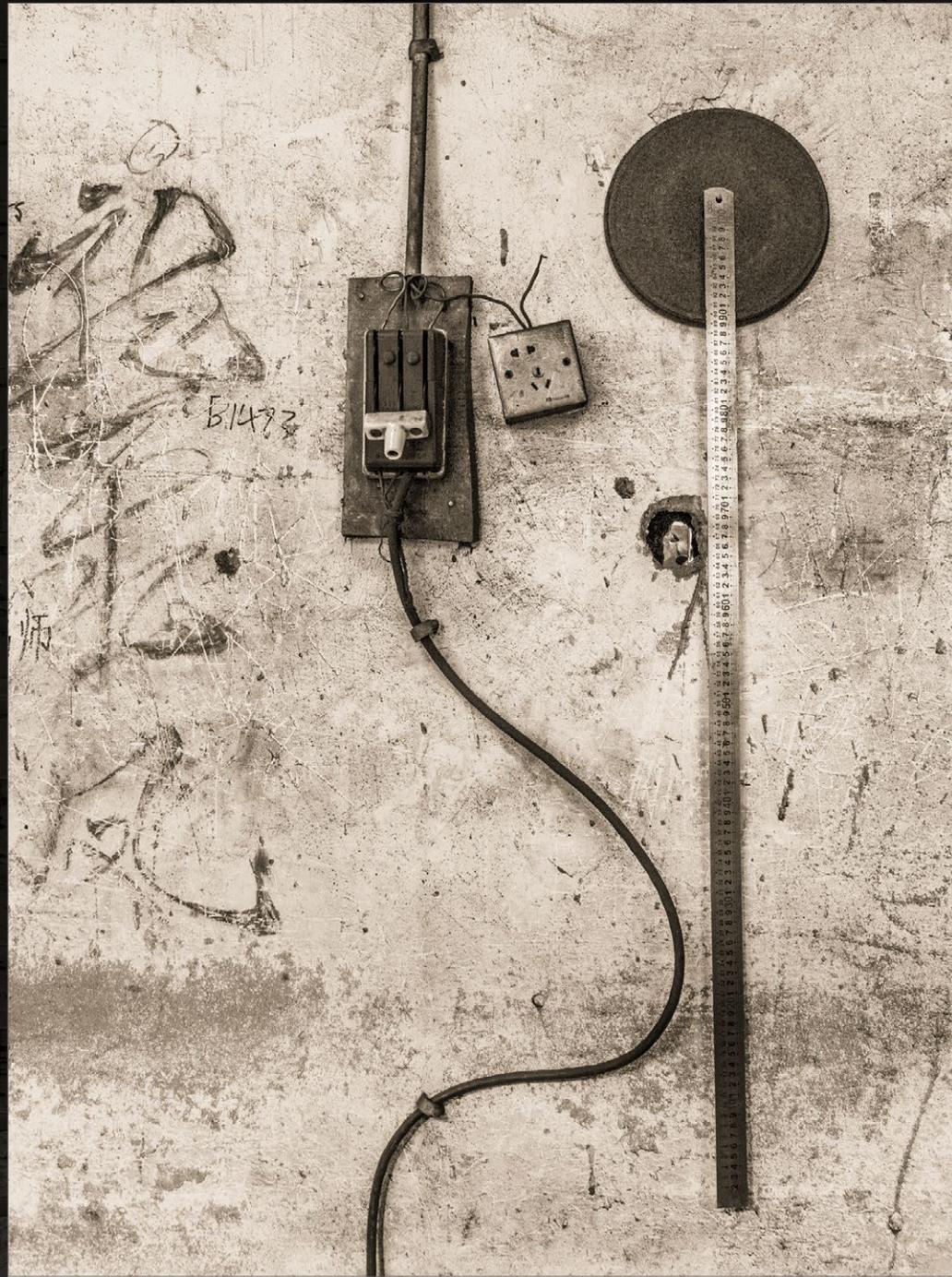




电话 65461102

文村 陈明忠

















Sketches

An ePublication Series
by
Brooks Jensen

On the White Wall
First Edition, August 2013

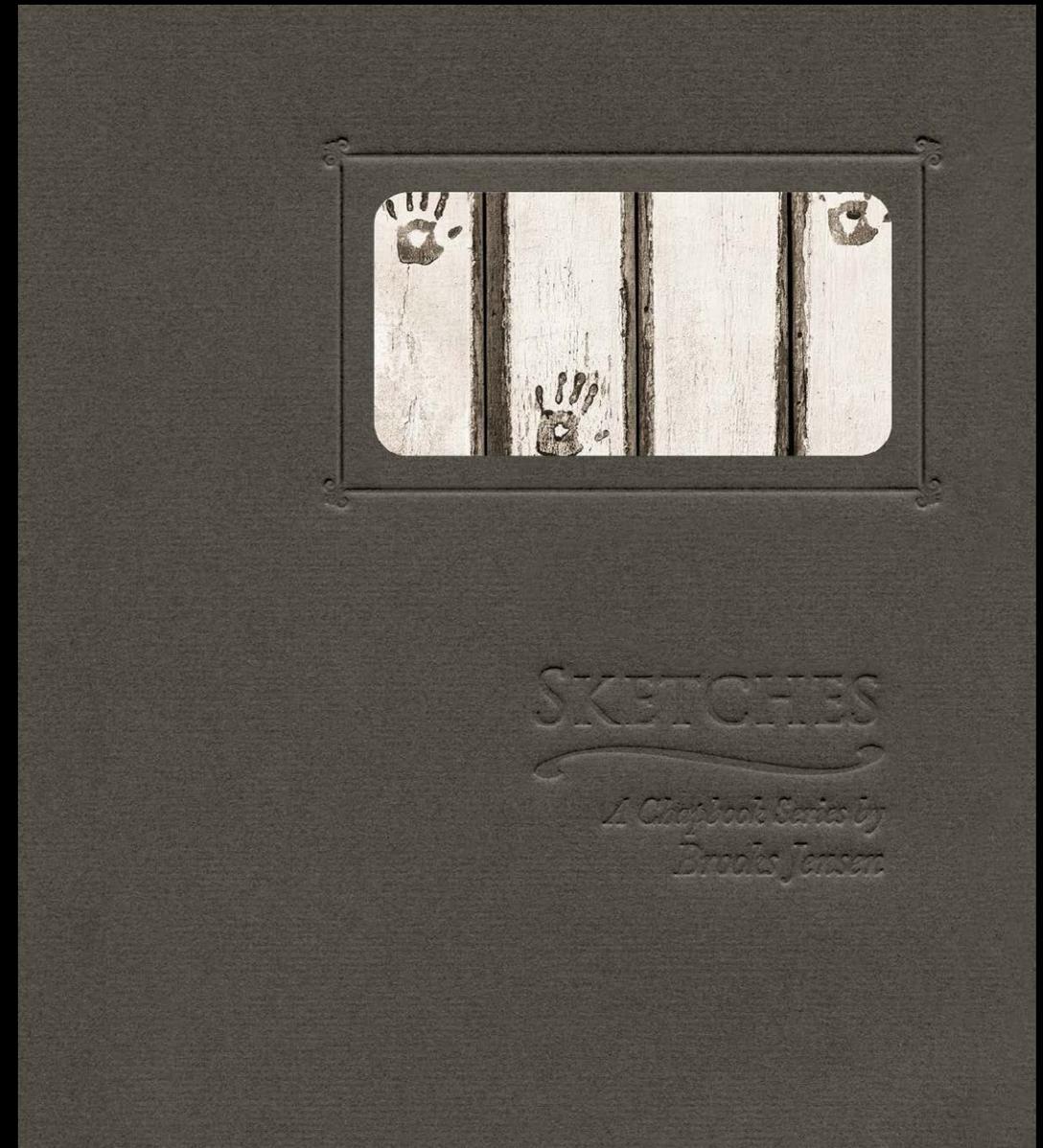
All images and text © 2013 Brooks Jensen
www.brooksensenarts.com

Published and produced by
Brooks Jensen
Anacortes, Washington, USA



For more information, visit www.brooksensenarts.com

Layout and design completed during August 2013.



A printed, handmade and sewn artist's chapbook
of *On the White Wall* is also available for purchase at
www.brooksensenarts.com.