

Sunday, 28 June 2015 00:00

The Orderliness of Chaos



After spending four hours in one of James Roberts' flue-cured tobacco barns, I was ill-prepared to encounter the rest of his wonderful farm in Madison County, North Carolina; but the tack room, just inside his main stock barn, was the epitome of expression of what it means to be a thoughtful agricultural steward. It was as if order had taken the chaos of a thousand things and transformed it into the simplicity of a well-kept room. I saw my task as simply re-expressing what Mr. Roberts had so thoughtfully constructed; so I knelt in the middle of the opening in order to be at eye-level with the primary shapes. This allowed me to tilt up so that part of the ceiling - the joists and flooring of the floor above - could be included. The sun was directly overhead and it was a mostly sunny day, so I let the outside ambient light become essentially featureless in order to give the earth-toned objects in the room a warm, golden tonality. I considered HDR, but decided to go with a single image. A **27mm** focal length allowed me to reach from wall to wall so that all of the contents could be included. An aperture of **f/20** gave depth of field and a shutter speed of **8.0 seconds** at **ISO 100** gave me an overall somewhat lighter than medium exposure.