

NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Walden

S.B. Walker

Photographs by S.B. Walker
Essay by Alan Trachtenberg

Designed by S.B. Walker
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A contemporary photographic survey of Henry David Thoreau's fabled Walden Pond

What has become of the fabled Walden Pond? In his debut title, S. B. Walker surveys the symbolically charged landscape of literary giant Henry David Thoreau.

Deeply rooted in the American collective conscious, it is a mythical place perceived as wild and often considered to be the birthplace of the modern environmental movement. Contemporary Walden, however, is perhaps best characterized as a glorified suburban park, nestled amongst the sprawl of metropolitan Boston. As our awareness of the place is largely borne out of Thoreau's diligent description some 150 years ago – writings in which he often drew connections to the Arcadian landscape of Virgil – the current state of affairs portrayed in Walker's images reveals a thought provoking paradox.

The book is published to coincide with Henry David Thoreau Bicentennial: 1817–2017.

Recent articles in the press have addressed how Walden Pond is becoming increasingly polluted at the hands of man and that the ice on the pond is melting earlier due to global warming. This book will not only revive interest in the transcendental writings of Thoreau, but also contribute to the dialogue about the need to mitigate climate change and protect our planet's delicate ecological balance.

My intent is not to rob Walden of its mystical attraction or beauty, but to portray it as any place should be, in all of its glorious complexity. Whereas many visitors try to make images that uphold the myth of the Arcadian landscape, or pay homage to Thoreau as a nature god, I have endeavored to pay tribute to Thoreau as both social critic and observer of the infinite.

– S.B. Walker

S. B. Walker is an artist based in New England. His works have been exhibited internationally and are in many collections, e.g. the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Smith Museum of Art, the David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University, and the Prentice and Paul Sack Photographic Trust. He is represented by Janet Borden Inc., Brooklyn, New York.
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Alan Trachtenberg is the Neil Gray Jr. Professor Emeritus of English and American studies at Yale University, where he taught for thirty-five years. His books include *Shades of Hiawatha* (H&W, 2004) and *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (Hill & Wang, 2007).

Exhibition

Janet Borden Inc., Brooklyn, New York
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Press images



1. Mike, birdwatching, July 2011
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2. The Milky Way, October 2010
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3. Trout, pond stocked by the state, July 2011
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5. Massachusetts State Trooper under water recovery training, February 2014
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6. The Fitchburg railroad, 40 ft. from ponds edge, onlookers, August 2012
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10. Phone, Football, Smoke, July 2010
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11. Puddle, November 2011
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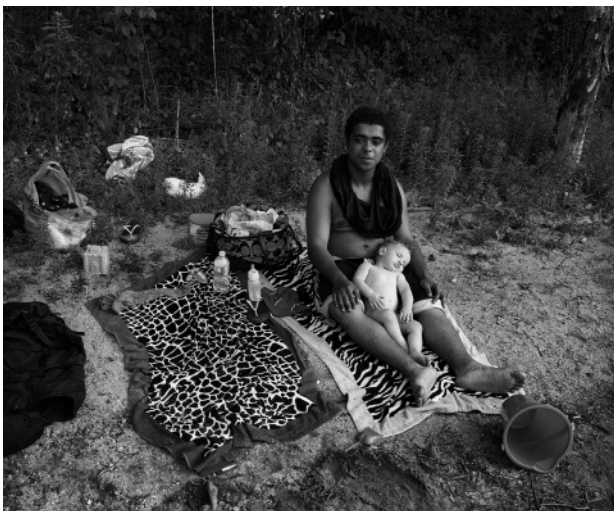
12. Whats your diagnosis?, August 2010
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13. Mary, August 2011
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14. Astro turf, Concord landfill, October 2011
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15. Black man, white baby, July 2013
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