

Wave Hill Glyndor Gallery

June 7 – August 26, 2007



THOREAU  
*reconsidered*

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While Henry David Thoreau's (1817-1864) writings about Nature seem a likely subject for Wave Hill to explore, it is challenging to locate him within the highly cultivated gardens and Georgian Revival Glyndor House. It seems that he would be more interested in exploring Riverdale Park that runs between the Metro-North train tracks, Palisade Avenue and the estate properties, or perhaps the woods of Van Cortlandt Park. Eleven artists have summoned Thoreau's ideas, and often contradictory notions, to our doorstep, informed by fresh readings of

*Walden*, "Civil Disobedience," other essays, speeches and journal entries. Thoreau's declarations concerning the relationship of the individual to society, his habitual activities and astute observations of nature, have particular resonance in relation to the strife and impending climate change that face the world today. His spirit of invention and powers of observation are celebrated here. Many of the artworks were created specifically for this exhibition.

We extend our grateful appreciation to each artist for (re)considering the writings of Henry David Thoreau in relationship to Wave Hill, and to other lenders to the exhibition: Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, NY; Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY; Mixed Greens, New York, NY; and Postmasters Gallery, New York, NY.

*Thoreau Reconsidered* is the second of three exhibitions that explore 19th-century American writing about nature through the lens of contemporary art. *Emily Dickinson Rendered* included works by 10 artists this spring. Poe and Twain Projects opens on September 8 as Simon Leung and Amy Yoes respond to Edgar Allan Poe, and Allison Smith's project is inspired by Mark Twain.

—JENNIFER MCGREGOR, Director of Arts & Senior Curator

RICHARD BOSMAN

ELLEN DRISCOLL

SPENCER FINCH

DAN GOTTSEGEN

STEFAN HAGEN

ELLEN HARVEY

ANNE LINDBERG

ALAN MICHELSON

JON RAPPLEYE

MARY TEMPLE

RICHARD TORCHIA

## DAN GOTTSEGEN

Born 1958, New York, NY  
Lives in Woodstock, VT

*A Winter Walk*, 2007  
oil on canvas  
36" x 48"  
Courtesy of the artist

*A Walking Life*, 2007  
oil on canvas  
54" x 60"  
Courtesy of the artist



*What is it that makes it so hard sometimes to determine whether we will walk? I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright. It is not indifferent to us which way we walk. There is a right way; but we are very liable from heedlessness and stupidity to take the wrong one.* <sup>4</sup>

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU, “Walking”

Dan Gottsegen has been influenced by a series of writers who trace their lineage to Thoreau, including Wendell Berry, Aldo Leopold and most notably the work of Gary Snyder who has had a profound effect on this artist. Thoreau’s commitment to walking as articulated in the essay “Walking” connects to the artist’s own lifelong practice. An avid hiker and naturalist his paintings weave together images from still photography and video. The images in the larger painting link his experiences exploring the landscapes of Northern California and New England. *A Winter Walk* slips together views that recall Thoreau’s descriptions of his winter explorations. Gottsegen develops a composition that allows for combining and compressing different moments, in the way that the mind wanders when walking in the woods.

Dan Gottsegen focuses on landscape and nature based on his own experience of diverse landscapes. For instance his expertise handling raptors led to a series of paintings about hawk migration while he was affiliated with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory in California's Marin Headlands. Recent solo exhibitions have been presented at The Feick Art Center, Green Mountain College, Poultney, VT; Karpeles Museum, Santa Barbara, CA; Sylvia Perkins Gallery, Striar Jewish Community Center, Stoughton, MA; and the Parker Gallery, Whistler House Museum of Art, Lowell, MA. He was recently commissioned for the South Burlington, VT Art in City Center's Gateway Public Art Project. He is a recipient of a University Teaching Excellence Award, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA; and a Faculty Development Grant from the California College of Arts and Crafts. Gottsegen earned his BA from Brown University, Providence, RI and his MFA from California College of the Arts, Oakland & San Francisco, CA.

