

Contact: Martha Gellens at 718.549.3200 x232 / pressroom@wavehill.org

THOREAU RECONSIDERED Wave Hill Continues Exhibition Series on 19th-Century Writers

June 7–August 26, 2007 Glyndor Gallery and Wave Hill grounds Reception: June 10, 1–4pm
Sunset Gallery Tours, Wednesdays in July and August at 7:15pm

Richard Bosman, Ellen Driscoll, Spencer Finch, Dan Gottsegen, Stefan Hagen, Ellen Harvey, Anne Lindberg, Alan Michelson, Jon Rappleye, Mary Temple, Richard Torchia



Dan Gottsegen
I Can Not Stop The Romance, 2006



Richard Torchia
A Key to the Garden, 2002-2005. Camera obscura pavilion showing live panoramic projection of Butcher Sculpture Garden, Morris Arboretum at University of Pennsylvania

Bronx, NY, April 5, 2007 – *Thoreau Reconsidered* is the second in Wave Hill’s trio of exhibitions, curated by Jennifer McGregor, that explore 19th-century American writing about nature through the lens of contemporary art. Henry David Thoreau’s observations about light, his time at Walden and his intense sense of individuality continue to inspire artists and environmentalists. Vermont artist **Dan Gottsegen** presents new paintings based on Thoreau’s essay “Walking”, which celebrates the writer’s daily strolls, a practice that informs Gottsegen’s own regimen. **Richard Bosman**’s painting of Thoreau’s cabin is part of the painter’s series the workplaces of 19th-century writers. Kansas City artist **Anne Lindberg**’s plumbago drawings recall the Thoreau family’s enterprise, which manufactured wooden pencils. Recognizing Thoreau’s disdain for ornament, **Ellen Harvey**’s installation of mirrored surfaces turns the outdoors in, each surface hand-engraved with drawings of the view from the sunporch windows.

Thoreau’s observations during his time at Walden Pond inspired three projects in the exhibition. **Spencer Finch**’s wall piece is based on the varied color of the pond’s water surface, while **Stefan Hagen** exhibits *The Last Day at Walden*, a series of long-exposure images from sixteen walks around the pond. In the Abrons Woodland, Philadelphia artist **Richard Torchia**’s cabin structure includes a camera obscura device that projects images of Wave Hill’s woodlands on the inside walls.

Ellen Driscoll and **Alan Michelson** each address issues of interdependence and resistance, inspired by Thoreau's essay on "Civil Disobedience". Driscoll's room-sized landscape of puppet-like figures is made exclusively from recyclable plastic, harvested from water, milk and cider jugs. Michelson's installation, which includes sound, is based on Thoreau's night in jail. **Mary Temple** exhibits a video and collaborates with **Jon Rappleye** on a window installation that draws on "Civil Disobedience".

Thoreau Reconsidered is the second in a series of exhibitions conceived in response to Wave Hill's 19th-century roots and to provide an opportunity for contemporary artists to interpret writings of Dickinson; Thoreau; and Edgar Allen Poe and Mark Twain with projects by Simon Leung, Allison Smith and Amy Yoes (September 8-December 2, 2007). For details, visit www.wavehill.org/arts/.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS - SUMMER 2007 Free with admission to grounds, unless noted.

SUN, JUNE 10, 1-4pm

EXHIBITION RECEPTION

Meet the artists and curators of *Thoreau Reconsidered*, an exhibition inspired by the life and writings of Henry David Thoreau.

SUN, JUNE 17, 9:30am–12:30pm

ART WORKSHOP

Drawing from the Landscape: Following in Thoreau's footsteps, exhibiting artist **Dan Gottsegen** leads a journey of quiet observation to find "personal spots" from which to work. Draw from the landscape in traditional and non-traditional ways to create compositions. Children ages 8+ welcome. Fathers are FREE. \$25/\$20 Member. Registration required; call 718.549.3200 x305.

SUN, JUNE 24, 1-4pm

ART WORKSHOP

Camera Obscura: Using his cabin-sized camera obscura in Wave Hill's woodland as a point of departure, *Thoreau Reconsidered* artist **Richard Torchia** relates the principles of pinhole and lens-based projection to the depiction of natural subjects. Participants construct a cardboard camera obscura and walk through the woodlands, guided by a sequence of living pictures. \$25/\$20 Member. Registration required; call 718.549.3200 x305.

SAT, JUNE 30 & THU, JULY 5, 2pm

GARDEN WALK

Contemplative Corners and Small Wonders: Explore the quiet spots in Wave Hill's gardens, places that would have satisfied Thoreau and others of his ilk. Horticultural Interpreter **Charles Day** leads a walk to visit a few of his favorite garden sanctuaries, taking in overlooked gems of the plant world along the way.

SAT, JUNE 30 & SUN, JULY 1, 1-4pm

FAMILY ART PROJECT

Projection Magic/Mágica Proyección: Explore images made of light. Enter artist **Richard Torchia's** room-sized camera obscura and see the woods appear — upside down! — on its walls. Make a take-home sized version of your own.

WED, JULY & AUG

SUNSET WEDNESDAYS

Enjoy Gallery Tours, Garden Walks, Sunset Suppers at the Café and the Wave Hill Shop. **Gallery closes at 8:30pm.**
Garden Walks 6:30–7pm, Wed, July 11-August 29. **Gallery Tours 7:15–7:45pm**, Wed, July 11-August 22.

SAT, SUN, JULY 7, 8, 1-4pm

FAMILY ART PROJECT

A World of Bottles/Un mundo hecho de botellas: Use recycled materials to build a miniature landscape peopled with plastic puppets. Then, survey the lay of the land at Wave Hill for inspiration and create a recycled landscape of your own. Artist **Ellen Driscoll** shares her *Thoreau Reconsidered* installation made of recycled gallon jugs.

SUN, JULY 15, 2pm

EXHIBITION TOUR with artists and Senior Curator Jennifer McGregor

Wave Hill West 249th Street and Independence Avenue, Bronx, New York 10471

Tel: 718.549.3200

Online at www.wavehill.org

GALLERY HOURS

Tues-Sun, 10am – 4:30pm. Open until 8:30pm on Wednesdays in July and August.

ADMISSION

Free to Members and children under 6. Tuesdays—Free all day. Saturday mornings—Free 9am to noon
Wednesday—Sunday and Saturday afternoons:
Through 6/30, \$4 adult, \$2 students, seniors 65+ and children 6+.
Starting 7/1, \$6 adult, \$3 students and seniors 65+, \$2 children 6+.

Support for the Visual Arts Program is provided by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the Greenwall Foundation, the Hess & Helyn Kline Foundation, Target, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency.



The Arts at Wave Hill are sponsored by

