

Deep in the Quiet Wood

October 7 - November 12 . 2017

In part, this exhibition – Deep in the Quiet Wood – honors the two-hundredth anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth (b.1817) who in his book *Walden or, Life in the Woods* wrote "We need the tonic of wildness. At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature."

To this point, the exhibition focuses on a place we call 'the wood' – where we amble among growing trees, marvel at their majesty, walk paths strewn with their fallen leaves, touch their bark and examine the clinging lichen, enjoy the comfort of their shade, seek solitude.

The works in this show are a tribute to these features: beauty, majesty, mystery. Artists living and working on Cape Ann include Gabrielle Barzaghi, Adin Murray, Esther Pullman and George Wingate; included also is British artist Michael Porter who in 2004 was artist-in-resident in Gloucester and whose work is in the permanent collection of the Cape Ann Museum.

*Philosophers, artists, and scientists have been asking why we are drawn to trees since before the time of Plato. ... In their stillness, trees are the most elusive of beings. In their silence, trees have given voice to poets from Homer to Heaney. And in their patience, trees do not wait to be understood. They may live for thousands of years, but they die mysterious.*

– Roger Conover

*excerpted from the introduction to Trees: National Champions* by Barbara Bosworth