



**Media only:** Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494

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## Fact Sheet “John Gossage: The Pond”

### Exhibition

“John Gossage: The Pond”

Aug. 27 – Jan. 17, 2011

### Location

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets N.W.

Graphic Arts galleries, second floor

### Description

“John Gossage: The Pond” celebrates the recent gift to the museum of this remarkable photographic series and the re-issue of one of the most influential photography books of the past three decades. John Gossage (b. 1946) photographed a small, unnamed pond between Washington, D.C., and Queenstown, Md., from 1981 to 1985. The title recalls Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden*, but Gossage advocated a more all-embracing view of the landscape, exploring the less idealized spaces that border America’s cities and suburbs. Although many of the images in “The Pond” appear unruly or uncared for, Gossage found moments of grace and elegance in even the most mundane of places.

The complete portfolio of “The Pond” was acquired by the museum in 2007. This exhibition marks the first time the complete series of 52 gelatin silver prints has been on public display. Gossage lives and works in the Kalorama neighborhood in Washington, D.C. Toby Jurovics, curator of photography, is the curator of the installation.

### Free Public Program

A conversation between Gossage and Jurovics is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. in the museum’s McEvoy Auditorium.

### Publication

*The Pond*, originally published in 1985, is being reissued by Aperture (September 2010). The new edition includes an introduction by Jurovics and an essay by photo historian Gerry Badger. It will be available in the museum’s store (\$65 hardcover).

The Smithsonian American Art Museum, located above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station, is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free. Museum information: (202) 633-7970.

Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Web site: [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu).

### Credit

The Bernie Stadiem Endowment Fund provided support for the exhibition.

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