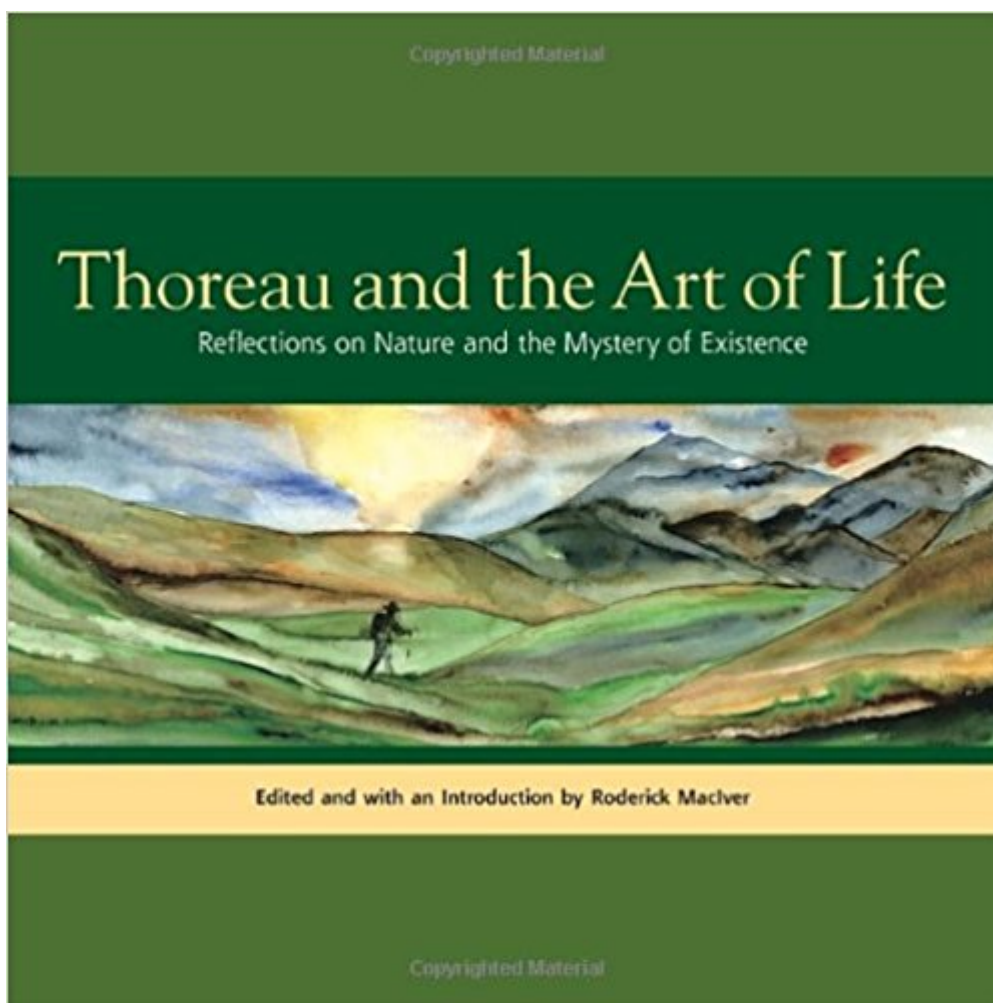


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# Thoreau And The Art Of Life: Reflections On Nature And The Mystery Of Existence



## Synopsis

Featuring nearly 100 luminous watercolor illustrations, *Thoreau and the Art of Life* collects eloquent passages from the writings of the seminal author and philosopher. Drawn mainly from his journals, the short excerpts provide fascinating insight into his thought processes by presenting his raw, unedited feelings about the things that meant the most to him. The book reflects Thoreau's deep beliefs and ideas about nature, relationships, creativity, spirituality, aging, simplicity, and wisdom. By eloquently expressing his thoughts about life and what gives it value, he leads the reader to a closer examination of life. Thoreau's work asks us to live our own truths with joy and discipline and to recognize that we live in a universe of extraordinary beauty, mystery, and wonder. An avid reader of Thoreau, editor and illustrator Roderick MacIver organized the passages by themes: love and friendship; art, creativity, and writing; aging, disease, and death; human society and culture; nature and the human connection to the natural world; and wisdom, truth, solitude, and simplicity. The book includes a chronology and brief biography. Thoreau's words of wisdom combined with MacIver's vivid illustrations of the American landscape will resonate with nature enthusiasts and a broad range of readers interested in art, environmentalism, literature, and philosophy. It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful, but it is more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts. Every man is tasked to make his life, even in its details, worthy of the contemplation of his most elevated and critical hour. —Henry David Thoreau

## Book Information

Paperback: 116 pages

Publisher: North Atlantic Books (March 16, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1556438834

ISBN-13: 978-1556438837

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #245,417 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #115 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Painting > Landscape #198 in Books > Reference > Quotations #362 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Nature Writing & Essays

## Customer Reviews

“Thoreau and the Art of Life is a work of intrinsic beauty and calmness. The confluence of Roderick MacIver’s art and Thoreau’s text is so natural it is hard to say whether the art illustrates the words or the words depict the art.” Jeffrey S. Cramer, Curator of Collections, the Walden Woods Project/Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods, Lincoln, Massachusetts

Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862) is best known for his book *Walden* and his essay *Civil Disobedience*. Roderick MacIver’s artwork appears in collections worldwide. The founder of Heron Dance, an organization celebrating the human connection to nature through art, he lives in New York’s Adirondack Mountains.

It is imperative to know about Thoreau if one is to understand an old American way of life. To be exposed to the paintings Rod came up with, did not make me an expert, but made me part of the tableau. I recommend this book to lovers of art and literature.

This book is a beautiful combination of watercolor paintings and prose. It’s one of my “go to” books when I’m looking for inspiration, peace, and beauty.

Beautiful excerpts and quotes next to paintings. Really nice bedside table or coffee table reader.

Thoreau with beautiful watercolors. Enough said! Recommended dealer!

Beautiful. A great gift for myself and others!!

Thoreau’s writing and MacIver’s painting make this the very best book to give as a gift to family and friends.

Lovely book. Gorgeous art combined with thoughtful excerpts.

I can’t wait to get it with the courier. I don’t stop to read and watch the gorgeous paintings....I want to get much more.....but step by step

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