

Saint Sebastian and the Garden

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*Gary Dwyer staring at the San Andreas Fault in 1983
Elkhorn Plain, California*

Those who have made a picnic of looking are left to record it.

Paula Bohince

It may take you a long time to understand the title of this book.

What I view as a relatively direct route may seem convoluted and obscure to others. Perhaps this book is not about gardens after all and even less about Saint Sebastian.

There is an outside chance that this book is about Rousseau, but

I'm not convinced. *Thinking about the world*

might be the real topic. Claude Monet made me do it.

Day BEFORE anything else.

“Everything looks perfect from far away.”

Iron and Wine - Garden State Soundtrack

I have spent far too much time thinking about gardens. I am going to stop thinking about gardens pretty soon, but I have a few things I want to say first.

Anyone who reads this book will come to these words **flip ping through the book from back to front**. We do this because we can't wait, and because we don't like being told what to do. I spent a great deal of time putting this book together in a specific order and if the reader is something other than a cavalier nitwit and actually wants to know what I have come up with after thinking about gardens, they are going to read this damn thing and then the answer as to why I did the pages in sequence might become clear. Words in sentences are sequential. So are the pages in this book. At least they are in my puny little brain. If you can't see the logic, well, too bad.

For a very long time, I have avoided the topic of *Gardens*,

and I think it is because I don't understand them, but as you will soon see, I have an awful lot of ideas about them. Perhaps the real reason behind this book is to understand them better. Perhaps it is a really sleazy way to get the reader to look at more of my photographs. Right now, it's a toss-up.

Even though it has been happening for decades, I have never been comfortable being associated with gardens.

I planted some bushes for my parents in their front yard, but that doesn't qualify. I don't have any great affinity for things botanic. I worked for the U.S. Forest service and I later I was forced to learn a lot of Latin names of plants, but so what? The idea of a garden confused me so, along the years, I tried to understand it better, and my thoughts ended up here:

- 1** What is a Garden
- 2** What is Nature and how do I see it
- 3** A Garden has Borders
- 4** Water in the Garden
- 5** Plants and what we do to them
- 6** I am Temporarily Able-Bodied
- 7** Saint Sebastian.

