

**Magnetic North** produces new work and runs an innovative artist development programme. We give artists from a range of disciplines and backgrounds the nourishment, focused support and production opportunities needed to continue developing and creating great work throughout their careers.

Recent productions include *Lost in Music* by Kim Moore and Nicholas Bone (Scottish tour), *Aberdeen* by David Fennessy (Spitalfields Festival and Sound Festival 2021), *The Dream Train* by Tom McGrath (online production 2020), *Getting Close* by Kathy McKean (online production, co-produced with National Theatre of Scotland 2020), *Our Fathers* by Rob Drummond and Nicholas Bone (co-production with the Traverse Theatre 2017); *Erewhon* by Arthur Meek and Eva Prowse, co-produced with Christchurch Arts Festival, New Zealand (2017); and *A Walk at the Edge of the World*, an award winning collaboration with environmental artists Sans façon co-produced with Mull Theatre. We have run 13 iterations of our *Rough Mix* creative lab, the most recent being in January 2022, in association with Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling.

**Nicholas Bone** Artistic Director

**Anna Hodgart** Producer

**James Coutts** Marketing Manager

**Ellen Renton** Artistic Administrator

**Aditi Jenhangir, Lesley Anne Rose,**

**Iain Ross, Paula Van Hagen, Mark Saunders,**

**Nicholas Bone, Jinling Wu** Board of Directors

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Magnetic North is a registered charity SC029351.



# Walden

## Magnetic North

29.03.23–31.03.23, 7pm, 01.04.23, 3pm and 7pm

# Harvey Dimond

**SO MANY KEEN AND SUBTLE MASTERS**

29.03.23–01.04.23, 11am–6pm

Two works in dialogue responding to Henry David Thoreau's original text.



A new version of Magnetic North's seminal adaptation of Henry David Thoreau's account of his 'experiment in simple living' in the Massachusetts woods in the 1840s. On 4th July 1845, shortly before his 27th birthday, Henry David Thoreau began to live in a hut he had built in Walden Woods, on the outskirts of Concord, Massachusetts. For the next two years and two months he attempted to live entirely by his own resources.

This adaptation of *Walden* was originally made in collaboration with environmental arts practice Sans façon. It premiered in 2008 as a site-responsive performance at Stills in Edinburgh. The bench you are sitting on, made from American pine, was built the following year for a Scottish tour.

We are delighted by the opportunity to bring *Walden* back again in Fruitmarket's beautiful Warehouse. In coming back to *Walden*, we want both to celebrate Thoreau's legacy – his radicalism and influence – but also to explore his paradoxes. In the book, he acknowledges the history of the land he occupied, writing of 'disturbing the ashes of unchronicled nations who lived under these heavens long before we did' when he digs the soil, but, despite being an active abolitionist, says little about the community of around 15 formerly-enslaved people who had lived in the same woods within living memory.

*so many keen and subtle masters* is a direct response to this. The installation created by Harvey Dimond takes its title from Thoreau's description of slavery, and explores the subject of Black Ecologies in relation to *Walden*. The audio work for the exhibition was produced in collaboration with the Johannesburg-based artist and writer Lisa Asivile Mpoposhe, who provided voice and translation in isiXhosa. It follows a river from its mountain source to its final destination in the ocean,

both South Africa and Massachusetts. The photographic textile works were produced in the Outeniqua Mountains in the Western Cape region of South Africa. Printed large-scale on taffeta, they make reference to the ways in which Thoreau writes about water in *Walden*, as well as how water was used as a method of colonisation and control but British and Dutch settlers.

### **Credits**

*so many keen and subtle masters*

**Harvey Dimond** Artist

*Walden*

**Shakara Rose Carter**

Performer

**Nicholas Bone**

Writer and Director

**Sans façon** Designers

**Ian Kettles** Bench Builder

**Aimee Whyte** Costume Maker

With thanks to **Topher Dagg**

**Greg Sinclair**

Artistic Assistant

**Andrea Cabrera Luna**

Artistic Assistant

**Anna Hodgart** Producer

**James Coutts** Marketing

**Owen O'Leary** Press

With thanks to the Fruitmarket team: **Fiona Bradley, Iain Morrison, Louise Warmington, Calum Thom, Matt Peet, Susan Gladwin** and **Davide Minuti**

*Walden and so many keen and subtle masters* were both commissioned by Magnetic North.

*Walden* was first performed on 01.02.08 at Stills, *so many keen and subtle masters* opened on 24.03.23 at Fruitmarket.