

# Look Inside SB Walker | Nor'East



## GRADE LEVEL

6 - 8

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Explore each of the photographs independently and as a larger story. Either by randomly assigning a clip of a photograph or have students choose a work to dissect, alter the image to change the context.

## GOALS

Students will understand:

- How close observation is a tool for learning and discovery
- Process of creating a work of art that is an extension of another's work
- Storytelling through drawing and photography

## ARTIST

SB Walker | Rockland, ME  
Photographer and storyteller, Sam Walker captures digital and analogue images who's content juxtaposes the landscapes that they are a part of. His work has been shown internationally and collected by a wide variety of art institutions.

## INTRODUCTION

For six years beginning in early 2014, photographer S.B. (Sam) Walker traveled more than 100,000 miles throughout Maine, a well-marked gazetteer at his side, in an attempt to render a truly nuanced visual record of the state.

On the face of it, a project such as this appears to be a rational, census-like undertaking akin to the vast photographic surveys conducted in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In reality though, it was an odyssey determined by intuition, serendipity, and strange happenings. As Edward Earle, former Curator of Collections at the International Center of Photography notes, "In this exhibition, Walker offers a fresh approach to the lyric documentary tradition. He eschews a narrative structure or the study of one subject, his images create a collective interpretation of Maine's social landscape.

## LESSON

Experience the Center for Maine Contemporary Arts exhibit by SB Walker. Explore each of the photographs independently and as a larger story. Either by randomly assigning a clip of a photograph or have students choose a work to dissect, alter the image to change the context.

## CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Explain the importance of viewing, what is the job of the artist versus the job of the viewer? Engage your students in a conversation through observation of the work. Where are these photographs captured? Who are the people in these images? What type of relationship do you think the artist has with these photographs? What is the photographer saying with this image? (choose one)

## CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Share out your art making experience whether it be with family, classmates, or us at the CMCA. Experience more of our virtual tour and visit us!

## VOCABULARY

Social landscape

photography: Portrays the effects of human beings on the earth; it is photography of the human-built or human-altered landscape.

Fragment: a smaller piece from something, pictorial or metaphorical

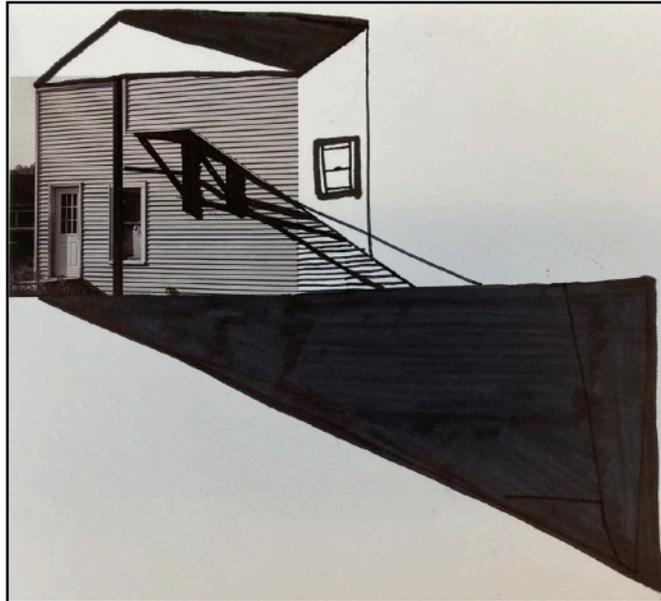
Blend: technique of smudging and mixing of multiple colors to form a softer appearance

Composition: combination of elements of art to create a complete and whole visual

Landscape: depiction of natural scenery

## MATERIALS

- 11 X 18 white paper
- Handful of SB Walker photographs printed
- Sharpies or markers
- Glue
- Scissors (optional)



## INSTRUCTIONS

### STEP 1

Select a photograph that you plan to alter. Cut out a fragment of the photograph. Optionally, precut these images and assign to students randomly.

### STEP 2

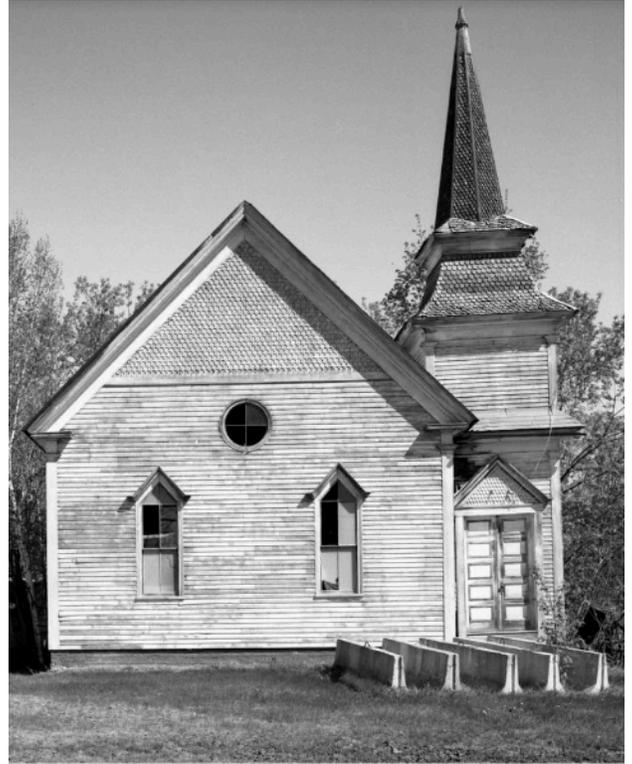
Attach to a separate sheet of paper, playing with the orientation and placement.

### STEP 3

Using your drawing tool; build an extension of this image blending the lines and shapes to match the photograph.

### STEP 4

Compare and contrast you images with SB Walker's or try to match your assigned section to the SB photograph.



SB Walker

Clockwise: *Clarry Hill, Union 2014, Benton 2015, Family Dollar, Guilford 2017*