

The Boston Globe

Snapshot of New England forest



By **Nina MacLaughlin** GLOBE CORRESPONDENT | FEBRUARY 09, 2018

The story in the trees

New England is losing 65 acres of forest a day to development, according to a recent Harvard study. A new book of photographs captures a moment in time at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, 3,750 acres of living laboratory. It's "a place where time's passage is more consciously studied than almost anywhere on the planet," as Boston photographer John Hirsch puts it in the opening to his subtle, lovely new collection of photographs "[And Again: Photographs from the Harvard Forest](#)" (Harvard Forest).

Ferns, birch, dirt, a heap of moose scat that looks like moldy chocolate truffles, the images show woodscapes familiar to anyone who's tromped trails in New England. And Hirsch also shows the science taking place: tubing dangles from a hemlock tree like bright vines; a blue cooler perches on a rock by brook; a yellow hardhat almost blends into the landscape. Essays by David Foster, Clarisse Hart, and Margot Anne Kelley ground the work and explore the intersection of art and science.

Hirsch's images ask us to reckon with time: How have our economic, consumer, and cultural activities, our choices, changed the earth? And how has the earth changed us? These sober photographs, rich with detail, of the speckles on pitcher plants, of pollen on water, whisper at the pleasure and the consequence of paying attention.

From: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2018/02/08/snapshot-new-england-forest-america-unnecessary-boundaries/9pM7UWjZIM7QtEkp3OvkwM/story.html>