

## ***THIS EVER NEW SELF*** **THOREAU AND HIS JOURNAL**

**A Joint Exhibition  
of The Morgan Library & Museum, New York  
and The Concord Museum, Massachusetts**



*The first major exhibition devoted to the life of one of America's most influential citizens, this presentation unites some one hundred evocative items—journals, manuscripts, personal correspondence, rare books, botanicals, and unique personal artifacts—from the world's two most important Thoreau collections. THOREAU AND HIS JOURNAL will bring contemporary audiences face to face with a man whose life continues to yield great riches.*



Every private journal tells the story of a self, and Henry David Thoreau kept one of the most faithful, thoughtful, and provocative journals in American history. For his entire adult life, he filled notebook after notebook with observations and reflections. The journal was his everyday companion, an essential tool for mindful living, and grist for one of the world's most influential books—*Walden, or Life in the Woods*. Two hundred years after Thoreau's birth, his thoughts on the value of introspection, simple living, and self-sufficiency continue to challenge and inspire us.

But what does the journal reveal of the man and his ideas? How did he spend his days, and by what principles did he live his life? *THOREAU AND HIS JOURNAL* takes the direct encounter with the original manuscript as the starting point to introduce the many sides of one extraordinary American. Discrete sections in the exhibition will explore Thoreau as



a student, reader, writer, observer of nature, worker, thinker, and Concord neighbor. The installation will create an environment of discovery, allowing each visitor to draw personal connections with Thoreau and his ideas, and to spark reflection and discussion about the fundamental questions of how we choose to live our lives. Planned public programs include gallery talks by artists, writers, and naturalists; Web-based educational resources for students and teachers; and lectures by academic scientists who are using Thoreau's botanical data to study climate change. By spending time with the physical artifacts of his life, work, writing, and reflection, visitors will come away with a fresh impression of Thoreau as a keen observer of the inner and outer world, and as a man whose principles are worthy of rediscovery two centuries later.

The exhibition is jointly organized by Christine Nelson, Drue Heinz Curator of Literary and Historical Manuscripts, the Morgan Library & Museum, New York, and David F. Wood, Curator, the Concord Museum, Concord, Massachusetts. Founded in 1886, the Concord Museum houses one of the oldest collections of American historical, literary, and decorative arts treasures in the country. Its Henry David Thoreau Collection, the world's largest group of objects related to Concord's native son, numbers some 250 artifacts, including furniture, ceramics, glass, metalwork, books, photographs, manuscripts, and textiles. The Morgan Library & Museum was founded in 1906 by Pierpont Morgan, one of America's greatest cultural benefactors. An internationally recognized museum of drawings, manuscripts, rare books, and ancient works of art, the Morgan is home to Thoreau's manuscript journal—including the wooden box in which he stored the many volumes—as well as personal letters, manuscripts, and related printed books.

The exhibition will be on view at the Morgan from June 2 – September 10, 2017, and subsequently travel to the Concord Museum for exhibition from September 29, 2017- January 21, 2018.