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Imagining Eden: Connecting Landscapes (Hardback)

By Lyle Gomes

University of Virginia Press, United States, 2005. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. What did Eden look like? In Imagining Eden the photographer Lyle Gomes observes landscapes that represent the idea of locus amoenus - the pleasant place. The tradition of locus amoenus goes back to the idyllic descriptions of fictional locations, often called Arcadia, in the writings of Sappho, Apollonius, and Virgil, in the imagined period of the Golden Age. We also recognize this concept in Eden, of course, where it suggests a loss that still haunts our imaginations. It is an idea distinctly different from that of wilderness, for we feel protected in these places - even provided for, though there is no sign of toil. The chance that this Eden might somehow be regained gives the concept its consolatory power. For fifteen years, Gomes has traveled across America and Europe to find examples of this enduring ideal of place in parks, English gardens, even golf courses. Gomes s search took him to Mount Auburn cemetery, Central Park, Monticello, the San Francisco Presidio, villa gardens near Italy s Lake Como, Melbourne Hall in Derbyshire, and private gardens such as Biltmore and Dumbarton Oaks. Imagining Eden...



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