



MELANIE WALKER | Artist Statement

House Stories

We dream of wandering, and we dream of home.

Refuge, Refugee

Longing, Belonging, Belongings

Longing to belong . . .

Dreams are in the realm of wandering. The word wanderlust designates a strong desire and impulse to wander—yet not all wanderings are equal. Some rise from desire, others from necessity, like human migration.

Shelter is a basic instinct of all living things, be it a human or a seed that plants itself where it will find nurture and thrive. The word house traces back to the stone age . . . dwelling, shelter, refuge, house. Houses have stories of their own and hold ours as well.

We feel safest when we wander inside our minds through our dreams, memories, and imaginings: seeking shelter, a place where we belong—perhaps the only place. There is freedom when we realize that we belong to no single place but to every place. Wanderings through memory, mind, and world are synchronized into a rhythm of thought, like a chord. Connected by metaphor, place and association, we weave disparate images and life experiences into whole cloth in our dreams.

My work is an invitation to impart your own stories onto these places of refuge.