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Lenses on the World

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By RICHARD B. WOODWARD



Despite a murderous year for the publishing industry, artful books of photographs continued to roll off the presses in impressive numbers. Electronic devices simply can't match (so far) the substantial pleasure of looking at—and owning—pictures on a paper page. Here are some highlights.

"We English" by Simon Roberts (Chris Boot, 56 pages, \$60). Most of us experience nature along pathways and shorelines trodden for decades, if not centuries. This rueful truth is known in the bones of the English, who have pieced and parceled their half of an island since the Bronze Age. Simon Roberts gently mocks his compatriots as they search for weekend inspiration in these well-groomed landscapes, even as he reminds us why such lovely places were, and still could be, wellsprings for poetry.

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