Someone Else’s World  
Digital Photography  
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This photograph is meant to explore the theme of “borders” with respect to the division between humankind and the natural world. Standing in front of the fish pond (depicted), I wondered what the world looked like from the fish’s point of view, and how the surface of the water divided space into two separate universes that we couldn’t survive in if we crossed. In that sense, the natural environment had fundamentally divided us— we had different abilities, different interests, different understandings of how to survive; we were different species. And yet, the separation between man and nature is not that clear. As my shadow dissolved and got lost in the reflections on the water, the fish appeared to swim in and around me; likewise the lily pads in the bright sunlight were only visible where my shadow fell, as if they were inside me. It served as a kind of visual metaphor for the truth that all living things are part of the same dynamic system that is the biosphere. Man is made from and shaped by nature, and cannot claim complete separation. Just as I stood at the edge of the pond, literally straddling a border between two ecosystems and spaces, humankind struggles to find a balance of identity between human as person and human as animal— a struggle that finds increasing relevance as the environmental crises of our century come to light. The viewer is free to examine the image, imagine that it is their shadow cast on the water, and consider where their identity lies.