WILDLING MUSEUM & ABSTRACT ART COLLECTIVE PRESENT NATURE IMAGINED
On display, October 3rd through February 4th, 2019

(Solvang, CA, September 19, 2018) – The Wildling Museum in Solvang is collaborating with the Santa Barbara based Abstract Art Collective to produce Nature Abstracted. The Wildling’s Executive Director Stacey Otte-Demangate and Westmont College’s Nathan Huff juried the submissions from the members of the Abstract Art Collective for this exhibit. Awards will include 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, Juror’s Choice and People’s Choice. Over 25 artworks will be for sale, with 30% of the proceeds supporting the museum. Nature Abstracted will be on display in the Barbara Goodall Education Center from October 3rd through February 4th, 2019. The opening reception will be on October 20th from 3-5pm at the Wildling Museum. RSVP to mitra@wildlingmuseum.org or 805.686.8315.
**About the Judges**

NATHAN HUFF is an artist. He earned an MFA in Drawing and Painting from California State University Long Beach, a BA in art education from Azusa Pacific University, and has also studied art in Italy, France, the UK, and Spain. Actively exhibiting in Los Angeles and abroad, Huff’s installations have been featured in solo exhibitions at UCR Culver and Sweeney Galleries (Riverside), Los Angeles at D.E.N. Contemporary (West Hollywood), Minthorne Gallery, (Oregon), Gallerie View (Salambo, Tunisa), group exhibitions at JK Gallery (Culver City), Lotus Land (Santa Barbara), Westmont Ridely Tree Museum of Art (Santa Barbara), Angels Gate Cultural Center (San Pedro, CA), and at Concrete Walls gallery in (Los Angeles). In 2011 he was invited by the state department as a guest Curator with Art in Embassies for the US Ambassador in New Zealand to curate an exhibition "Encountering Place." Nathan has taught classes with art students at CSU Long Beach, LA Southwest College, Biola University, and Azusa Pacific University as an adjunct lecturer. Currently he teaches as an assistant professor of art at Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

STACEY OTTE-DEMANGATE is the executive director of the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature. Stacey Otte-Demangate has been the executive director of the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature for the past 8 years, curating many of the exhibitions and has judged several competitions as well. She has an MA in Museum Studies from Cooperstown Graduate Program and a BA in Anthropology from Arizona State University. Before coming to the Santa Ynez Valley, she was the director of the Catalina Island Museum where she helped to grow their exhibitions, improve their collections management, helped them buy property for a future expansion and forged a strong relation with a local plein air painters group. While not an artist herself, she has always loved the arts and greatly enjoys working with artists and helping to promote their works in concert with supporting the mission of the Wildling Museum—to raise awareness of the need to preserve open spaces through programs and exhibitions featuring inspired art.

**About the Abstract Art Collective**

The Abstract Art Collective (AAC) is a Santa Barbara community-based group of artists who organized in 2011 to exhibit their work in an all-abstract environment. The co-founders, JT Turner and Thore Edgren are continuing members while the AAC now has 80-plus members.

The AAC has 4 exhibitions per year at various local venues including Channing Peake Gallery, Faulkner Gallery, The Karpeles Museum, the Bronfman Family Jewish Community Center, Bacara Resort, Cabrillo Pavilion, UCSB Faculty Club, the Meisel Gallery, TVSB Media Center, and the SB College of Law.

Several AAC exhibitions support the non-profit venues with donations from a percentage of art sales. Special benefit events have raised funds for the Waldorf School and the SMHS Performing Arts Department, and SEE International (Surgical Eye Expeditions). See more at: abstractartcollective.com

**About the Wildling Museum**

The Wildling Museum of Art & Nature, where art and nature meet, offers visitors a unique perspective on the importance of preserving our natural heritage. Through the eyes of artists, and education and field experiences, guests can renew their relationship with the wilderness and understand its fragile nature – hopefully leaving more committed toward ensuring those spaces remain for future generations.
The Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed on Tuesdays). For more information, and to volunteer and/or join as a member to support this important local arts and nature institution, please visit www.wildlingmuseum.org.

IMAGES:
Invitation features
Mary Dee Thompson-Black Mountain
Nancy Freeman-The Waterfall
Lawrence Wallin- Ancient Tree Bones

###