Wildling Museum Presents *Celebrating the National Lands of California*

**Opening reception:** Saturday, July 20, 2019, 3 - 5 p.m.

**Location:** Wildling Museum, Main Gallery, 1511-B Mission Drive, Solvang, CA 93463

**Cash prizes:** First, second, and third place winners to be announced at the opening reception

**Exhibition on view:** July 20, 2019 - January 20, 2020

(SOLVANG, CA, June 20, 2019) – The Wildling Museum is proud to present a juried exhibition showcasing the National Lands of California this summer. *Celebrating the National Lands of California* will feature 57 artists and 63 selected artworks juried from a pool of 316 entries submitted by artists across the U.S., vying for $4,000 in awards.

Featured locations include Carrizo Plain National Monument, Channel Islands National Park, Death Valley National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Joshua Tree National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Point Reyes National Preserve, Redwoods National Park, San Jacinto National Monument, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park, among others.

The exhibition presents a range of diverse techniques and mediums, from acrylic, oil, and watercolor paintings, to block printing and photography, as well as mixed media works spanning from neon installation to a painted hubcap found on a Yosemite roadside.
“The diversity of the entries is inspiring,” says competition judge George Rose. “As a native Californian who has spent a lifetime walking these parks, monuments, and preserves, judging these entries has reminded me how fortunate we are to have these lands protected for all to appreciate, and to remind us that we all play a part in preserving them for future generations.”

*Celebrating the National Lands of California* highlights works showcasing idyllic vistas, while others challenge viewers to reflect upon the environmental impact that tens of thousands of visitors can have on sensitive regions, with subjects ranging from endangered species to the dangerous effects of California wildfires.

Featured artist Mariah Reading notes that, “The hubcap (featured in ‘El (Hub)Capitan II’) was found in Yosemite National Park through Facelift, an annual week-long cleanup effort put on by the park. With the combination of iconic features and high visitation, leaving no trace is of the utmost importance,” says Reading. “I am most concerned about depicting environmental changes humans have caused and what steps must be taken to preserve the planet.”

The Wildling Museum is grateful to Nathan Huff, assistant professor of art at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, and George Rose, professional photographer and board member of the Wilding Museum, for judging the impressive diversity of entries, along with executive director and curator Stacey Otte-Demangate. Works featured in the exhibition are available for sale with 40 percent of proceeds benefitting the Wildling Museum.

The opening reception will be held on **Saturday, July 20, 2019 from 3 - 5 p.m.** and will feature an award ceremony for the top three works. Please call the Wildling at 805.686.8315 or email julie@wildlingmuseum.org to RSVP.

Generous support for *Celebrating the National Lands of California* provided by the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, Pete and Becky Adams, Tierra Alta Vineyards, and Donors to the Patti Jacquemain Exhibition Fund.

**Featured Artists**


**About the Judges**

**Nathan Huff**

Artist Nathan Huff 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 U.K., and Spain. Huff actively exhibits in Los Angeles and abroad, and has been featured in solo exhibitions at the University of California, Riverside Culver and Sweeney Galleries (Riverside, CA), D.E.N. Contemporary (West Hollywood, CA), Minthorne Gallery (Newberg, OR), Gallerie View (Salambo, Tunisia), and group exhibitions at JK Gallery (Culver City, CA), Ganna Walska Lotusland (Santa Barbara, CA), Westmont Ridely Tree Museum of Art (Santa Barbara, CA), Angels Gate Cultural Center (San Pedro, CA), and others.
CA), and Concrete Walls Gallery (Los Angeles, CA). In 2011, Huff was invited by the state department as a guest Curator with Art in Embassies for the U.S. Ambassador in New Zealand to curate an exhibition, "Encountering Place." Nathan has taught classes with art students at California State University, Long Beach; Los Angeles Southwest College; Biola University; and Azusa Pacific University as an adjunct lecturer. He currently teaches as an assistant professor of art at Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

**George Rose**

George Rose has worked as a photographer for more than 40 years, capturing subjects in popular music, film, news, politics, and sports, eventually leading him to California’s Wine Country. During his prolific years as a Los Angeles-based photojournalist, Rose developed a remarkable and historic body of photographic work focused on popular culture and also served as a staff photographer for the *Los Angeles Times*. His independent assignments, focused primarily on the entertainment industry, have been published in *USA Today*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Rolling Stone*. Over 40 vintage prints of his are in the permanent collection of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Rose photographed the San Francisco 49ers and Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders football games as a photographer for the National Football League from 1982 to 1996. Thousands of these images have been published in officially sanctioned NFL books, calendars, trading cards and game programs. For the past 25 years, Rose worked as a wine industry executive communications director at four successful wine companies: Fetzer Vineyards, Allied Domecq Wines USA, Kendall-Jackson, and J Vineyards & Winery. During this time, he continued to pursue his passion of photography. His vineyard photos have been used in numerous publications and calendars throughout the world of wine. In 2015, Rose moved to Santa Barbara County’s Santa Ynez Valley. Much of his time is devoted to documenting the natural environment of the county, as well as vineyard estates up and down the coast of California. He is also a contributing photographer with Getty Images.

**Stacey Otte-Demangate**

Stacey Otte-Demangate has been the executive director of the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature for the past 9 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 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](http://www.wildlingmuseum.org).

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