



Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Theodore Payne Gallery To Host An Exhibition of Oil Paintings by Mary-Austin Klein

"The Native Edge: human encroachment on native plant environments"

October 12—December 28, 2013

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 12, 2013; Artist Talk: 3:00 p.m.

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, located in Sun Valley, is proud to present an exhibition of oil paintings by Mary-Austin Klein. A Southern California native and Theodore Payne Foundation's fourth Artist-in-Residence, Mary-Austin is known for her exquisite small-scale paintings of the California desert that capture the light conditions unique to California. In her current exhibition, the artist addresses human encroachment on native plant environments and desert landscapes.

During her residency, the artist made numerous field trips to select Central and Southern California locations to gather material for a series of oil paintings interpreting the infringement of man on the California landscape. Her camping trips to the desert regions included: Anza Borrego Desert State Park, Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks; the Mojave National Preserve and the Eastern Sierras. She hiked across the surface of the desert, capturing images of culture infringing on nature that were made into paintings for her exhibition at Theodore Payne Gallery.

In Klein's own words:

The ability to contain vast and deep landscapes into small, flat paintings makes me feel like a wrangler of space. The power to capture the magic of the California desert and contain it within a frame is enthralling. It lets me transport the desert to others, sharing the beauty and promoting preservation of these vistas for future generations. Desert flora especially inspires me because of their toughness, resiliency and resourcefulness, when it comes to surviving the extreme conditions they call home.

As part of her Artist-in-Residency at the Foundation, Mary-Austin will be teaching a class at the Foundation titled "Oil Pastel Painting Workshop with Mary-Austin Klein." Saturday, November 2, 2013, 1:30pm – 3:30pm.

The native Los Angeles artist has exhibited her work in galleries in Los Angeles, Pasadena, Laguna Beach, Santa Barbara and Joshua Tree. Her artwork and her advocacy efforts have been featured in "The Guide to the Wild Mojave," a publication sponsored by the California Wilderness Coalition, as well as in *The Desert Trail* and *LA Architect* magazines. <http://maryaustinklein.com/>

Images attached to email.

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