

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2015

THEODORE PAYNE GALLERY TO HOST ONE-PERSON EXHIBITION BY MARA LONNER

Mara Lonner: *So much, nothing*

March 21 - June 27, 2015

Sun Valley, CA – The California oak and Western meadowlark are the focus of this exhibition, which includes textile drawings created by Mara Lonner in black velvet with the pile removed and leaving the backing, as well as monoprints and a wrap-around wall painting created specifically for the show.

The work began with a conversation between Lonner and Kimball Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, who said the most critical threat to native birds in this region is the loss and fragmentation of natural habitat.

The riparian and coastal tidal wetlands, oak savannahs and grasslands that once constituted the local landscape have been mostly destroyed by development. Resident species of native birds, once abundant in these habitats, have declined in population and/or left the area. Although migratory birds may fly through Los Angeles County on their way to other environments to nest and flourish, this region has become "negative space" for these animals.

The pieces in Lonner's exhibition correlate the missing birds and native habitat.

The artist will be teaching a class, Sketching from Nature Workshop for Beginners, at the Theodore Payne Foundation (TPF) on Saturday, May 30. Details at theodorepayne.org.

Mara Lonner is a contemporary artist who exhibits her work in national and international galleries. She was the 2014 Theodore Payne Foundation Artist-in-Residence and the fifth person to hold that position. Her exhibition at the Foundation was postponed last year due to construction on the new educational facilities.

A lecturer at UC Irvine and former instructor at CalArts and Long Beach City College, she received a California Arts Council Grant and was twice awarded a Durfee Foundation ARC Grant.

Hi-res Images attached by e-mail:

Extinction Burnout (Martha), 2013

process on silk/rayon velvet and mixed media

92" x 84.5" x 1"

The Illusionists (detail) 2013

latex paint, ink on wall with framed reduction print

96" x 212" x 2"

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About the Foundation The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, established 1960, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation, appreciation and use of California native plants. The Foundation's retail nursery, seed and bookstore, and education center are open to the public year round. More information about the Foundation and gardening with native plants at theodorepayne.org.

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants

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