



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

## **Theodore Payne Gallery To Host A One-Person Exhibition By Jessica Rath**

### ***Buzz Pollinate: Slits, Pores, and Valves***

March 29 - June 14, 2014

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 29, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Artist Talk: 3:00 p.m.

Contemporary artist Jessica Rath is fascinated with buzz pollination, a co-adaptation between certain bees and specific angiosperms which require sonication, or vibratory resonance to release pollen from their anthers.\*

Over evolutionary time, the shape of these anthers has become a closed tube-like vessel with a limited opening pore or slit. These incredible shapes and the vibrations that open them are the subject of Rath's show in the Theodore Payne Gallery.

Consulting with bee specialist Dr. Anne Leonard from University of Nevada, Reno, and buzz pollination specialist Dr. Stephen Buchmann from University of Arizona, Tucson, Rath has immersed herself in the scientific resonances around this fascinating phenomenon. Some 5% to 6% of all the world's angiosperms require buzz pollination, including commercial greenhouse tomatoes and some native manzanitas.

Jessica's exhibition will include wax sculptures for cast bronze based on bee anthers, a series of watercolors, and a "buzz" sound work alluding to buzz pollination tonal values created in collaboration with experimental music composer Robert Hoehn.

\*Angiosperms: plants that have flowers and produce seeds enclosed within a carpel, the female reproductive organ of a flower.

Anthers: the part of a stamen that contains the pollen.

Images attached by email:

Jessica Rath, 2014, *Purple Nightshade (Solanum xanti) #1*, watercolor

Dr. Stephen Buchmann, *Manzanita Anthers*, photograph

Exhibition contacts:

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