

Artist's Statement

Donnett Vanek: *California Wildflowers and Pollinators*

In the Theodore Payne Gallery, January 18-April 25, 2020

I think of my renderings of California wildflowers and pollinators as portraits. My art is a way to put down on paper what I have observed and depicts the never-ending and intriguing variations of color, shape, texture, and size of plants and insects in the natural world. When I observe these plants in their native habitats, I'm interested in where they grow, how they grow, how large they grow, and the unique relationships they have with pollinators.

Through my work, I hope to encourage people to consider the important role that native plants play in the ecology of our California landscape. Look more closely before pulling what you consider to be a weed. It might be the humble Spearleaf Mountain Dandelion. Though, at first glance, a dandelion may not seem as intriguing as the brightly colored and thorny Thistle Sage, it's no less important to pollinators and the world of native plants. Go out and enjoy nature, look closely, look down; you just might be stepping on a tiny beautiful flower that you have never seen before.

Bio

2013-present Dishragstudio

Botanical artist working in the mediums of watercolor, graphite, and linoleum block prints Kitchen Linens. I hand-carve linoleum blocks with my botanical and insect artwork, which I then use to hand-print unique kitchen linens. Dishragstudio's line of hand-printed kitchen linens are carried at Up Front Gallery in Studios on the Park, Paso Robles, CA; and Nature's Home Organics, Frazier Park, CA.

1996-2013 Commercial textile designer; in-house and freelance

2005 Group show at the Boone Gallery, Huntington Library, San Marino, to celebrate opening of the Rose Hills Foundation Conservancy