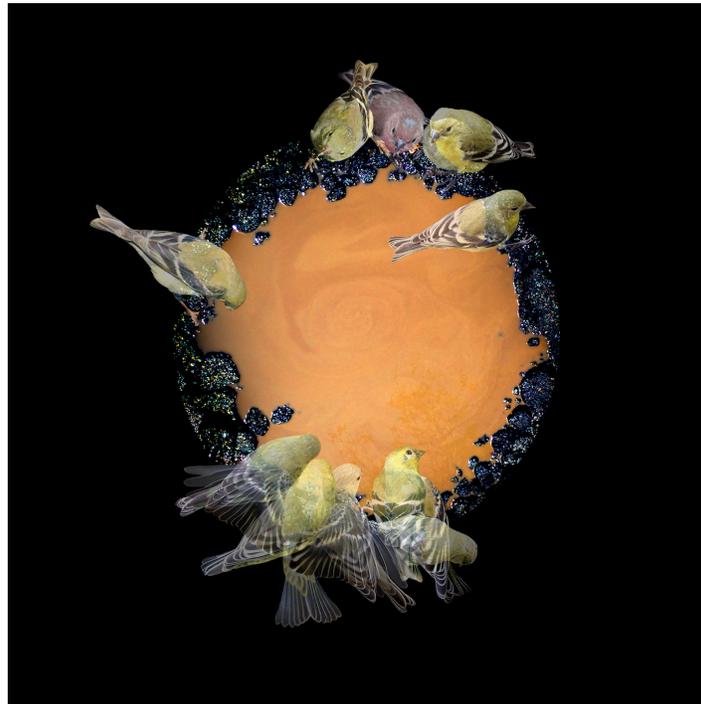


Mother Nature AS A MUSE

Naida Osline turns to the world around us all for her latest exhibit, 'Florescence'



For "Birdbath" (2016), images of birds are combined to suggest the existence of alternate realities that overlap within the same space, and as an expression of time.

Written by Amy Bentley

NATURE'S BOUNTY and beauty has inspired many artists, including Naida Osline, whose fanciful and exotic photographs of flowers, plants and birds will be on display at the Riverside Art Museum through the summer.

Osline's exhibit is much more than a group of simple photos. She employs imaginative wizardry and clever photo manipulation techniques, such as time-lapse photography, collages and layering to transform her subjects and give them an ethereal, fantastical quality.

"I like that they kind of look believable,"

said the **artist**, who splits her time between homes in Riverside and Huntington Beach.

Her exhibit features selections from three bodies of work:

- Florescence highlights plants, animals, insects and synthetic products;
- Visionary Plants focuses on plants that humans interact with in everyday life, such as tobacco, coca, coffee, cannabis, opium and others, all of which have influenced facets of life including laws, violence, addiction, the economy,



"Sacred Datura," 2010

heightened spirituality and raised consciousness;

- Birds turns to local birds by layering photographic images and giving them a fantastical quality.

"Birds fascinate me," she explains on her website, naidaosline.com. "They are the echoes of dinosaurs, representing a confluence of eons of adaptation and evolution. As inhabitants of the air, birds transcend gravity, representing freedom to those of us who are restricted to the earth yet dream of the skies."

With nature as a subject, Oslin first worked with plants.

"I started to really think about what plants had this deep relationship with humans," she said. "For those, I was inspired by early botanical drawings. I was inspired by the more fantastical versions of that."

A native of Canada, Oslin spent most of her childhood growing up



"Tobacco No. 1," 2010

working-class in Orange County. She is the daughter of Swedish immigrants who didn't do much in the way of introducing her art. She majored in art at Cal State Fullerton and served as the first director of the Huntington Beach Art Center.

Oslin has enjoyed artist residencies in the Joshua Tree and Petrified Forest national parks; she also spent several

months in Colombia between 2012 and 2015, living on a friend's farm while working and exhibiting her art.

When she moved to Riverside eight years ago, Oslin felt the time was right to focus on creating and exhibiting her works, so she gave up a secure, full-time job.

"That's the life I feel I needed to lead," she said. "Time is the only thing you can't get back."

**Naida Oslin:
Florescence**

Where: Riverside Art Museum, 3425 Mission Inn Ave.

When: Through Sept. 13

Meet the artist: Gallery talk and tour with Naida Oslin, Aug. 5 at 1 p.m.

Free with paid admission or membership. Also, during First Thursday events in downtown Riverside.

Information: 951-684-7111, www.riversideartmuseum.org

