

LOCAL EXTRA

OSLINE CAPTURES BEAUTY OF NATURE

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THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Photographer Naida Osline is one of the lucky individuals to have participated in the Artist in Residence Program at Joshua Tree National Park. Her photographs are a revelation that takes the viewer far beyond perceived limits of the medium.

"Taking photographs of nature reduces what we are feeling with all our senses

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT NAIDA OSLINE



to a confined, two-dimensional space. This limitation is a challenge to anyone attempting to communicate an experi-

ence of nature through photography, whether that intent is a memory captured as a tourist, or an artist attempting to expand on a concept," states Osline. Her work clearly expands beyond the limitation.

Her photos in the series entitled Photo-Synthetic Arrangements, that was exhibited at the Joshua Tree Visitor Center in the fall of 2011, span park visits over several years. SEE ARTIST/C5

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eral weeks in November 2010 and a return in the spring of 2011. The photographs capture two distinct seasons and help create a better understanding of the beauty and discoveries within the environment. They also present a unique perspective by integrating the contrasting seasons together in the final photographs.

Osline's digitally constructed photographs are a unique compilation of desert images and contemporary aspects that result in works vaguely reminiscent of 17th century Dutch still-life painting and fantasy botanical illustrations of that period. In pursuit of her goal, Osline spent the majority of her time walking the trails and collecting approximately 4,000 images to work with including images of the insect, lizard and snake specimens housed at the Cottonwood Visitor's Center at the south park entrance.

"On first glance, the landscape looked deserted when I arrived in the fall. Initially, it appeared to me as if there had been a huge plant party and I had just missed it. Everything seemed dried, brittle

and left over; even what were once flowers appeared to be bones. However, as I spent more time on the trails, I also noticed that there was a vibrant energy to the late fall season. Some of the plants were lush and green. A few were even blooming. It was their season. Later, on my second visit, spring was moving in and spreading out. Spring is all about awakening and reproduction, which is an active time for all plants and animals," states Osline.

In addition to the digitally constructed works, Osline completed a series of 24 shrub portraits, a dozen per season, to honor the backbone of the Joshua Tree landscape. Shrubs may not be as instantly appealing as flowers or cacti, but they are the rugged survivalists that live through the extremes of the desert.

"The more closely one looks at Naida's photographs, the more delightful details one discovers. Her work contains many layers of wry observation and commentary — wilderness is, af-



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ter all, a human concept," states Caryn Davidson, park liaison for the Artist in Residence Program and park ranger for the education program at Joshua Tree National Park.

"It would be possible to spend years exploring the complex and unique character of Joshua Tree National

Park. These images are in response to my brief time here. I hope that in some way they convey the interconnectedness of life in this fragile, extreme and awe-inspiring wonder of nature," states Osline.

Osline has participated in other art-related park residency programs. Following the Joshua Tree project, she also spent a residency in the Petrified Forest working on a body of work featuring clouds.

From November of 2011 until January of 2012 Osline served as artist-in-residence at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana. She also displayed two solo shows during this time period — one in the Main Gallery at Grand Central Art Center and the other at the Riverside Art Museum.

Osline has also been published recently with art on the cover of the June/July issue of Artillery Art Magazine, and several reviews of her work were published, including one by Susan Geer in ArtScene and another at Huffington Post by Peter Frank.

To see the artist's newest work and read the reviews, visit the artist's website at <http://naidaosline.com>