



NEWS RELEASE

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WHO: The Wildling Museum of Art & Nature and the Santa Barbara Zoo

WHAT: *Wildling Museum Takes Student Art to the Zoo*

WHERE: Santa Barbara Zoo

WHEN: Now through March 2019

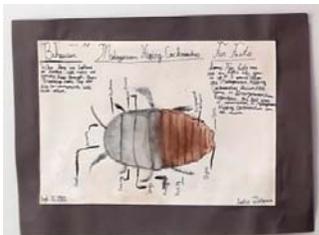
Wildling Museum Takes Student Art to the Zoo in “Creative Critters: A Mixed Media Art Show” on View through March 2019

Solvang, CA, November 27, 2018 ~ Thanks to a continuing collaboration between the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature and the Santa Barbara Zoo, the creative animal art of 78 students from Solvang School can be found this fall and winter at the Volentine Family Gallery in the Discovery Pavilion at the Zoo through March 2019. The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature coordinated with two teachers at Solvang Schools to bring exciting student art to the Santa Barbara Zoo for the second time, following a student show in 2017. This year’s show, titled “Creative Critters: A Mixed Media Art Show,” features 80 artworks employing a wide variety of art techniques from seven different art classes ranging from 4th to 8th-grade, taught by two different teachers.

Solvang Schools Art teacher Devon Espejo enjoyed starting the school year with having her students draw and paint animals. She said, "The true excitement was knowing that their artwork could be selected to appear in an authentic art exhibition at the Santa Barbara Zoo. Many of these students have grown up going to the zoo and will proudly take their families to see their amazing artwork on display. Partnering with both the Wildling Museum and the Santa Barbara Zoo is a great example for our students about the importance of being involved in their community and the vitality that the arts can bring."



Erin Dunkle is teaching a new elective that combines art and science and began the school year with a visit to the Wildling to begin to learn about nature journaling where executive director Stacey Otte-Demangate and artist John Iwerks shared background and insights. Back in the classroom her students care for a small colony of Madagascar hissing cockroaches and have been studying different styles and eras of nature journaling.



“Creating art for the Santa Barbara Zoo was a perfect way for my Art and Science class to tie together two topics we studied in class. For the Zoo project, students were asked to create a journal page from the notebook of an explorer new to the island of Madagascar who observes the behavior and anatomy of these interesting creatures.” said Dunkle who felt the Zoo exhibition was very motivating to her students.

Wildling Museum executive director Stacey Otte-Demangate said, “The Wildling is grateful for the continued collaboration with the Zoo and excited for Solvang school students to be able to share their fun and creative art with thousands of zoo visitors this winter.”

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*The **Santa Barbara Zoo** is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to nearly 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care. A private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, the Zoo depends on community support, not tax dollars, for operations and improvements.*

*The **Wildling Museum**, where art and nature meet, offers visitors a unique perspective on the importance of preserving our natural heritage. Through the eyes of artists, education and field experiences, guests can renew their relationship with the wilderness and understand its fragile nature – hopefully leaving more committed toward ensuring those spaces remain for future generations.*