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2020 VISION VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

*COMMUNITY-SOURCED PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY
FOR RESIDENTS TO REFLECT ON THE NATURAL EVENTS THAT SHAPED
AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR*

SANTA CRUZ, CA — JANUARY 4, 2021 — The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History’s community-sourced virtual photography exhibit, “[2020 Vision](#),” opened online on January 2 featuring nearly 100 images taken in Santa Cruz County during the year 2020, provided by 62 Santa Cruz County residents.

Extraordinary natural phenomena were on view this past year in Santa Cruz County, including the comet Neowise, bioluminescent waves, and lightning that ignited fires that turned the sky orange. Rare outings outside during Shelter-in-Place orders also shifted perspectives, and nature provided a space to exercise, recharge, and rest our minds in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The images featured in this exhibit, and their stories, explore how our community has captured and reflected upon this unique year.

“Upon entering a new year, it is natural to reflect on the one that we have left behind,” said Executive Director Felicia Van Stolk. “Photographs are records of moments in time, often taken without the perspective that hindsight provides. As we recall the natural events that shaped our community this past year, we also find new meaning for moments that passed us by, but were captured by a photograph. From the extraordinary to the everyday, nature always has a story to tell — if you pay attention.”

Over a quarter of the images selected for the exhibit were taken by youth photographers, on exhibit with professionals and adult amateurs. Photojournalist Shmuel Thaler and nature photographer Seraphina Landgrebe juried over 200 submissions along with staff at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. Of the 98 images selected, 20 have been selected for an outdoor physical exhibit that will be announced once Stay at Home orders are lifted.

“2020 Vision” can be explored at <https://www.santacruzmuseum.org/2020-vision/>.

A Selection of Images and Stories Featured in the Exhibit



“As if COVID wasn’t enough, the Lightning Complex Fire turned thousands of lives upside down in Santa Cruz County. The fire came within a mile of my house, thankfully sparing it from immolation. However, on returning home from evacuation, I found hundreds of scorched and parched leaves scattered throughout my meadow. Tan oak, live oak, madrone, Bay laurel, redwood and Douglas fir. Some of these leaves were blistered by heat, others simply blackened to a char. Still others just browned like normal dried leaves. Yet all had flown on the wind, advancing miles in front of the fire, like messengers from another realm.” -Jodi Frediani, *Fire Messengers*



“My housemate had gotten Covid, and while I was worried for him, my refuge was nature every day. I would walk by the ocean alone, thinking, worrying, and hoping. One day I felt really tired of it all and... that's when it rained, on the horizon. It felt like nature was asking me to keep my hope.” -Morteza Behrooz, *Rain on the Horizon*



“Life seems busy, even now when a lot of us have to stay home. 2020 was my first year living in Santa Cruz, and I felt the need to break my routine more than ever. This picture was taken on a Monday evening after a walk along the beach, which is highly contrary to a usual Monday evening spent catching up on studying or emails. That sunset, we had the beach all to ourselves, and for just that one moment, life seemed simple. Don't forget to take a moment, breathe, and absorb the beauty that we live in everyday.” -Levi Matsushima, *Moment of a Sunset*

Photographers featured in “2020 Vision” are Sriharsha Annadore, **Paul Babb (WINNER, BEST AMATEUR)**, Katherine Bare, Morteza Behrooz, Ferd Bergholz, Will Bortin, Christian Buse, Wylie Buzzard, Mary Anne Carson, Liz Celeste, **Johnny Chien (WINNER, BEST PROFESSIONAL)**, Anthony Collins, Brad Davies, Suzanne Ellmore, Jackie Fogerty, Jodi

Frediani, Laurie Gabriel, Alison Gamel, **Connor Garde (WINNER, BEST YOUTH)**, Stella Gerlach, Angelica Glass, Nolan Glavis, Marisa Gomez, Tara Gooden, Kathy Griffith, Tonette Higgins, Matt Hofman, Linda Huffman, Ariel Hunter, Michelle Kiba, Nina Koocher, Janet Kornblum, Giselle Laiduc, Josie Lester, Addie Lorber, Levi Matsushima, James Maughn, Amy Medina, Jeff Meyer, Janis O'Driscoll, Kevin Painchaud, **Amy Patten (WINNER, BEST STORYTELLING)**, Cassidy Perry, Jenni Peters, Irene Reti, Natalie Rhein, Olivia Rocha-Schimke, Christina Salinas, John Scanlon, Carol Schimke, Katelyn Sheehan, Geoffrey Shipton, Chuck Smith, Rica Smith, Parker Sousa, Tara Thomas, Keith Trawick, Reilly Turner, Jonathan Vaccaro, Elizabeth Van Dyke, Richard Van Stolk, Sara Willcox.

Sponsors for "2020 Vision" are Museum members The Hyatt Family and Harry and Mary Blanchard, as well as Dr. Elizabeth Quinn, Santa Cruz County Bank, and Windy Oaks Estate.

About The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History is a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting people with nature and science to inspire stewardship of the natural world. Founded on the collection of naturalist Laura Hecox, it is the oldest public museum in Santa Cruz dating back to the early 1900s. In addition to interactive and educational exhibits, the Museum also hosts a slew of online resources through [The Museum at Your Side](#). The Museum's life-size gray whale model, created in 1982 and commonly adorned with playing children, has become a cherished landmark to local residents. Learn more about the Museum and at santacruzmuseum.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/SantaCruzMuseumOfNaturalHistory/ and Instagram at instagram.com/santacruzmuseum/.

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