

# Crystal Jean Baranyk Artist Statement

## ARTIST STATEMENT

2021 Made in California Show, Brea Gallery, Brea CA — Tidy Tips, Part of The California Pollinator Series - Laser cut wood, water based oil paint, pencils, lacquer, gold leaf. Made from recycled laser cut wood scraps, Tidy Tips repurposes the cut outs from an eight foot tall sculpture I created. The cut outs fit together in new and different ways and take elements from mutualistic symbiosis and add them to the trophic chain or cycle of life. This cycle consists of the very smallest living forms as the bottom building blocks with larger and more complex forms depending on those. In the trophic chain, balance exists between flora and fauna, or nothing survives. Tidy Tips is a flower endemic to California.

Here it is made from the scales of butterflies, antennae, parts of insects, wings, mandibles, random shapes, whole butterflies, and other pollinators. This flower is intentionally chaotic, asymmetrical, and full of imperfections. Insects make up the body of the design because they are an important part of the trophic chain. I wanted to highlight them as creatures to be loved and viewed as important, because without them, life would collapse. I have heard too many people complaining about harmless insects and bugs and I just want us all to stop and think about how they enable the flowers and birds, lizards and larger more charismatic creatures to survive. If we want to mitigate the current mass extinction, we need to start with microbes, fungi, and insects. This work is meant to remind us that nothing of beauty and consequence could exist without the balance. Also, insects are just cool.

## EXPERIENCE

Exhibited art at the Milwaukee Public Art Museum as a youth.

Published art in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Student Art Calendar (14 out of 900 entries were chosen).

Was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Award for photography at UCSD in 2003.

Artwork was featured at Viewpoints Gallery in Makawao for the East Maui Watershed show in 2005 and 2009.

Exhibited artwork with Maui Hands, Lahaina Art Society on Maui, The Kaukini Gallery on Maui, Jah Vintage in Boulder Colorado, Winter Street Studios in Houston Texas, and the old Jail Gallery on Maui.

Board member of Lahaina Arts Association from 2011-2012.

Taught for Lahaina Arts Association from 2013-2016 working with youth around Maui County.

Art displayed at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center in Kahului for Art Maui 2010

Artwork acquired by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Art in Public Spaces permanent collection. 2010.

In 2016 completed two mosaics for The Pacific Science Institute on Maui.

Created and collaborated on sculptures for the non-profit festival, Rites of Summer in 2018 and 2019.

Art shown at Art Share Los Angeles for the Annual 'Let's Hang' event in 2019.

Selected to be in the LA Metro Artist pool for the opportunity to create public artwork in 2019.

## Education

University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA — Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts, Magna Cum Laude

Graduated 2004 While at UCSD I had the honor of studying under great artists including Barbara Kruger, Faith Ringgold, Kim MacConnel, and more. Besides having a focus on studio art, I also took many art history courses.

## SKILLS

Oil, Pastel, Charcoal, Pencil, Watercolor, Mosaic, Sculpture, Egg Tempera, Casein, Pen and Ink, Airbrush, etc. Photography. Graphic design. Vintage Poster Restoration.

## AWARDS

Graduated Magna Cum Laude from UCSD in 2004.

Artwork in Rotation at The Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Permanent Public Collection, 2010.

Artwork commissioned and chosen for Rites of Summer Festival twice, 2018 and 2019.

National Endowment for the Arts Award in 2003.