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Integrating Art and Science: Photograph Series from the Gulf of California

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About the Author

Joshua Feingold, Ph.D. is an associate professor at Nova Southeastern University with a joint appointment to the Oceanographic Center and Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. He earned a B.S. in Biology and Philosophy at Trinity College, and then completed M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Marine Biology at the University of Miami Rosentstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. His research interests concern the distribution and abundance of free-living coral communities in the eastern tropical Pacific, and impacts associated with El Niño-Southern Oscillation on these and other coral communities. Underwater photography is utilized in much of this work to document benthic cover and species interactions, and becomes a creative outlet when the science is completed.

Integrating Art and Science: Photograph Series from the Gulf of California

by Joshua Feingold

It is particularly appropriate that I teach classes in the College of Arts *and* Sciences. Through my photography, I integrate art and science while capturing images from nature. Photography is a natural extension of my curiosity about nature, allowing me to document observations and preserve moments of beauty.

Raised by a mother who expressed herself through contemporary art, and a journalist father, I showed surprising aptitude in science from an early age. In college, I enjoyed art classes while completing a double-major in biology and philosophy. Through graduate school, I supported myself in part by selling images obtained during research activities on remote archipelagos in the Eastern Pacific. These voyages to exotic locations including the Galapagos Islands, Panama, Costa Rica and mainland Ecuador provided opportunities to express myself scientifically and artistically. I now use photography in the biology classroom to make visual connections with concepts and relationships discussed in class. This fall, I was able to capture images during research trips to the southwest Gulf of California while studying the distribution and abundance of fungiid corals at the northern edge of its range.

Enjoy the following images as reflections of our dual natures, the analytical and the artistic, and as expressions of the combination of art and science.



Elysia Sea Slug, Isla Catalana



Sea Lion and Barracuda, Los Islotes



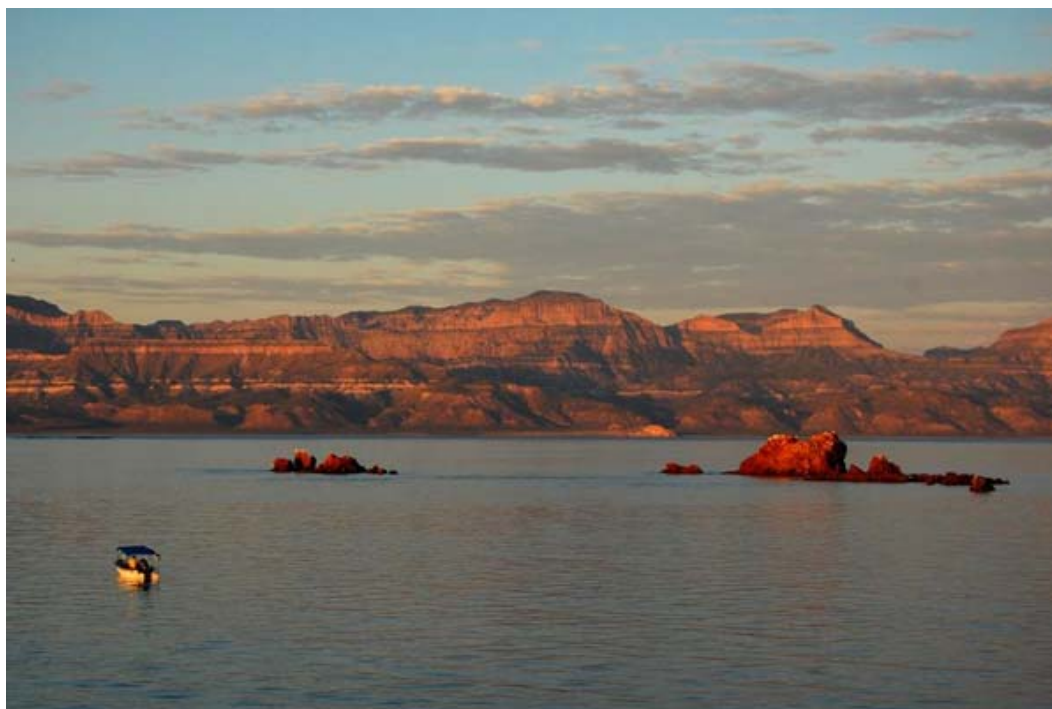
View from Puerto Escondido at Sunrise



Gull at Sunrise, El Pardito



Goby, South End of Isla Danzante



View from El Pardito at Sunrise



Two Stars , North End of Isla Danzante