



PHOTO: LUC EBEL-COSTRO

**ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Internationally acclaimed, award-winning photographers **Rob Badger** and **Nita Winter** have been life partners and creative collaborators for over three decades. In 1992, they discovered and fell in love with California's spectacular wildflower blooms in the Mojave Desert's Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve. This inspired their twenty-seven-year journey photographing wildflowers throughout the West, and, in 2011, their documentary art project, *Beauty and the Beast: Wildflowers and Climate Change*, a project sponsored by Blue Earth Alliance. In 2016, they created their first joint exhibit on California's wildflowers. This beautiful book is a companion to the traveling exhibit.

Rob's first conservation work was photographing the Owens Valley (California) Aquifer water project for Inyo County in 1980. He later focused on the devastating impact of logging and mining on our public lands. Rob has also photographed more than thirty projects, as far away as Siberia, for various land conservation groups. Nita discovered her talent for photographing people nearly forty years ago while documenting her work fighting wildfires in Northern California. In 1986, her first major exhibit, *The Children of the Tenderloin*, in San Francisco was followed by six noted public art projects celebrating diversity.

Nita and Rob's work has been featured in *Time*, *Mother Jones*, and *Sierra* magazines, and the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Los Angeles Times*. Their fine art prints and architectural installations have been commissioned by Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health, San Francisco Arts Commission, Alameda County Arts Commission, and the James Irvine Foundation. Learn more at [WWW.WINTERBADGER.COM](http://WWW.WINTERBADGER.COM).

**ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

If you want to save the world, start with plants. The native plants of your local ecosystems form the foundation of life—for pollinators, for birds, and for people. That's why, for more than fifty years, the nonprofit California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has been a leading voice in native plant science, conservation, and gardening. Today, CNPS is one of the foremost native plant organizations in the world, mentoring the next generation of plant scientists, influencing state and national law, and fighting plant extinction. CNPS is based in California's state capital, serving more than thirty-five chapters statewide and in Baja California. Learn how you can get involved at [WWW.CNPS.ORG](http://WWW.CNPS.ORG).



Our only long-term hope is to live in harmony with the natural world that sustains us. There simply is no other option. If the beauty and wisdom documented in this extraordinary book do not inspire us and guide us to find new ways to do this, nothing will!

DOUG TALLAMY, *professor of entomology, University of Delaware, and author of Bringing Nature Home*

Nita and Rob's portrait of California's wondrous plant diversity is gorgeous and eye opening. This book will encourage love for this planet's magnificent and diverse living species and a desire to fight to save life on Earth.

KIERAN SUCKLING, *executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity*

This book brings the beauty and awe of California's diverse natural landscapes into our homes and inspires us to play a role in caring for these magical places. Together, one step at a time, we can meet the pace and scale of the challenges of our changing environment. We can all have hope. We can all take action.

SHARON FARRELL, *executive vice president, projects, stewardship, and science, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy*



This exquisite book celebrates California's native wildflowers for what they are: works of art, honed over millennia, with the same right to exist as everything else. The first step toward conservation is education, and the respectful work presented here is a fine start. In the end, it boils down to this: how diminished our world would be without flowering plants, and how foolish we all would be to allow even a single one to slip away. After all, when we save other species, we're actually saving ourselves.

JOEL SARTORE, *National Geographic photographer and founder of the Photo Ark*

*Beauty and the Beast* arrives as potent medicine for our souls. Marrying art and science while lifting a chorus of diverse voices, this beautiful book will inspire and move you toward greater action on behalf of life itself. As we face climate and extinction crises, this book will buoy your heart and offer an updraft under your wings.

NINA SIMONS, *author and cofounder of Bioneers*



ROB  
BADGER  
NITA  
WINTER

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST  
*California Wildflowers and Climate Change*

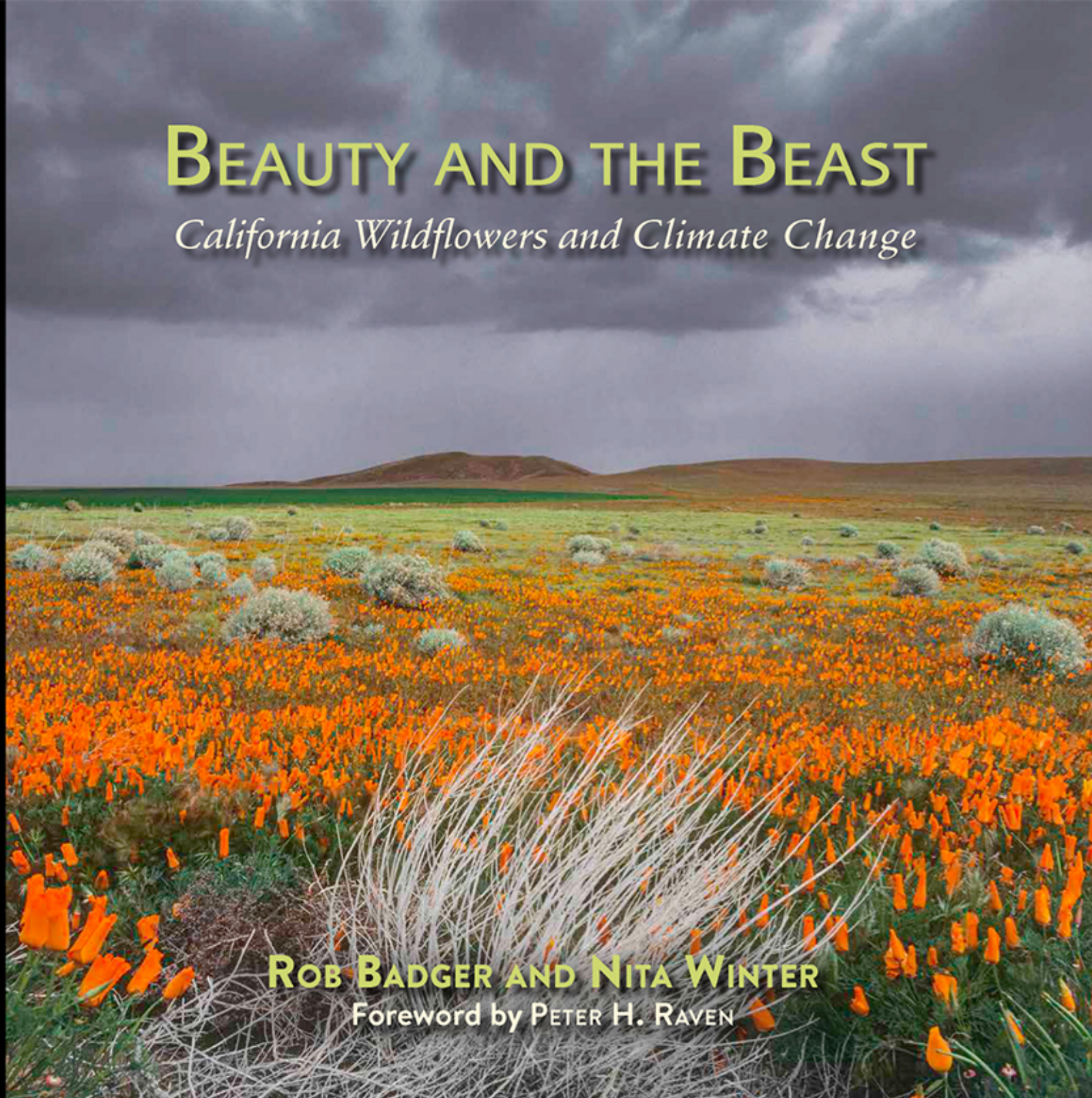


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# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

*California Wildflowers and Climate Change*



**ROB BADGER AND NITA WINTER**  
Foreword by **PETER H. RAVEN**

*Can a book of flowers change the world?  
You hold the answer in your hands.*

Some 150 years ago, Ralph Waldo Emerson proclaimed: "Earth laughs in flowers." Today, the flowers may no longer be laughing, but they still have something to say: "Look closer. We may not be here much longer. If you want to save us, take action."

That's exactly what photographers Rob Badger and Nita Winter have done in this gorgeous book, *Beauty and the Beast*. Here, every photo is a revelation, from the deep purple larkspur to the scarlet claret cup cactus to the iridescent petals of the candy flower. Featured are Rob's groundbreaking floral portrait techniques that go beyond any traditional approach: In the "Contact" series, the flowers actually touch the lens; in the "Wrapped" series, flowers are enfolded in black or white fabric to complement their geometric forms.

These are wildflowers as you've never seen them before. That's because, until now, no one has taken the time and trouble to photograph them in just this way. Rob and Nita have lugged their gear—all eighty-five pounds of what essentially is a portable photo studio—through rattlesnake-infested deserts, trugged up high mountain passes to 13,000 feet, eaten many a dinner of energy bars, witnessed the tragic aftermath of devastating wildfires, and endured the heat, biting bugs, and super bloom crowds to share these photos with you.

As the essays in the book attest, the climate is changing. Summers are getting hotter and drier. Winters range from drought to deluge. Habitat disappears in the face of development. The changes to the landscape play out before our eyes. And what we protect becomes a testament to what we value.

*Beauty and the Beast* is Rob and Nita's hopeful, passionate response. Through a new way of seeing, backed by eighteen essays from a diverse array of authors that blend citizen science, personal narrative, environmental education, and advocacy, *Beauty and the Beast* proves that the transformational power of beauty can be an inspirational call to action.



spouted coral root