

Petals and Pollinators

BECKY LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY



**EXHIBITION GUIDE
SEPTEMBER 2025**

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Thank You

Thank you to Cherry Hill Public Library

Thank you to Valerie Carita for answering all my questions

Thank you to my co-adventurer, James Lewis who provides endless technical support, who helps me execute my wild ideas, who let's me turn the house upside down, allows me to make messes, and never thinks my ideas are crazy. I love you.





About the Artist

Becky Lewis has dedicated her life to exploring and sharing the beauty of the natural world. With a background in zoology and a long career in science education, she has always sought to inspire curiosity about the delicate connections that sustain life. Photography became a natural extension of this work—another way to bring people closer to nature, revealing details that often go unnoticed.

Her images reflect the intersection of art and science. Through macro photography, Becky uncovers the fine textures and intricate structures hidden within a single bloom. With ultraviolet fluorescence, she reveals the secret signals flowers use to guide pollinators. And through creative techniques like underwater floral photography, she transforms familiar forms into ethereal, dreamlike visions.

“My work is a way to share the quiet beauty and hidden complexity of the natural world,” Becky says. “Every petal, wing, and pattern tells a story of connection and purpose. By blending art and science, I hope to invite viewers to slow down, look closer, and rediscover the wonder in what is often overlooked.”

You can explore more of Becky’s photography at www.captureitphotographs.com.

Becky Lewis

About the Exhibition

Petals and Pollinators



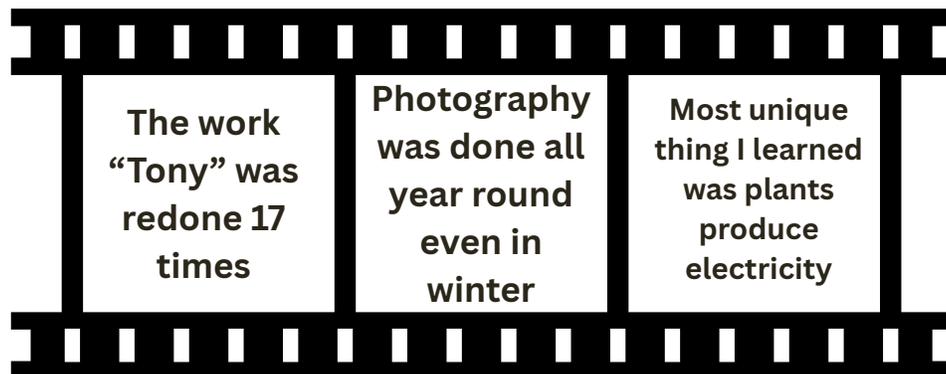
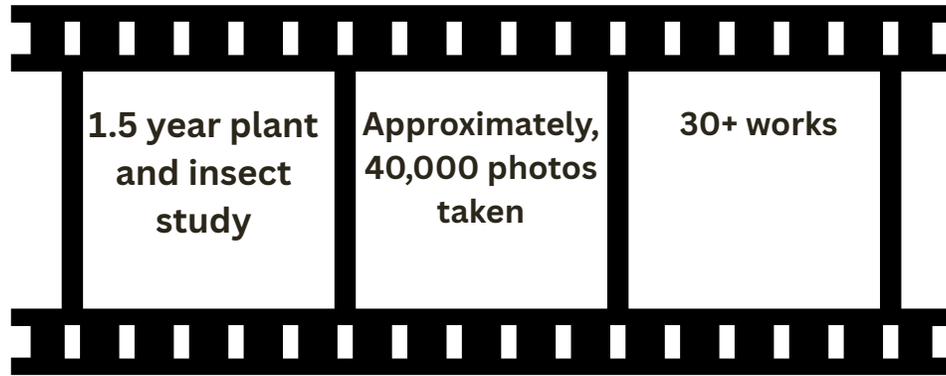
My lifelong study of science has always been about curiosity, wanting to understand how the world works and sharing that wonder with others. As a teenager, I began photographing animals, hoping to bring people closer to the beauty and complexity of the living world. Over time, that curiosity deepened, leading me to explore even smaller, more hidden realms—plants, flowers, and the insects that depend on them.

This body of work, *Petals & Pollinators*, represents a year and a half of study and discovery. I immersed myself in the techniques of extreme macro photography, learning to see the incredible textures and structures within a single petal. I became captivated by how fascinating plant life truly is, how it communicates, attracts, and sustains other life. I also grew to see insects not as creatures to fear, but as mesmerizing, intricate beings essential to the balance of our ecosystems.

Petals & Pollinators reveals the quiet dialogue between flowers and the insects that sustain them. Through macro portraits of flowers, detailed studies of pollinators, and ultraviolet fluorescence photography, the exhibition invites you to see what is normally invisible—the hidden patterns that guide bees and butterflies, the delicate anatomy of pollinators, and the overlooked beauty that exists in the smallest details.

Like any artist, my journey doesn't end here. This exhibition is a chapter in an ongoing exploration, and I will continue to dive deeper into these worlds, creating work that connects people with the beauty, mystery, and complexity of nature.

Show at a Glance



Insects in C Major



For *Petals and Pollinators*, the experience doesn't stop at what you see — it extends into what you hear. Composer Jim Lewis drawing inspiration from Robert Fripp's atmospheric soundscapes, has created an original ambient score titled *Insects in C Major*.

This music is woven from the hum, buzz, and rhythm of insect life, translated into a sonic landscape that mirrors the intricate worlds within the photographs. Layers of tone drift and shimmer like wings in sunlight, while subtle pulses mimic the patterns of nature's smallest musicians.

As you move through the exhibition, let this soundscape guide you a companion to the images that turns the gallery into a living, breathing habitat for both the eyes and ears.

Listen to Soundtrack



Scan me!

Botanical Portraiture

This portion of the exhibition features 17 distinct pieces, each offering an intimate look at the hidden beauty of flowers. It is presented in three sections, each exploring a different perspective on floral form and structure.

Petal Architecture

Nine works in this series focus on extreme macro photography, with magnifications ranging from 2x to 5x. At this scale, the delicate architecture of petals is revealed textures, veins, and edges invisible to the naked eye become intricate landscapes of detail.

Composed Blooms

Four pieces in this section feature 1:1 macro work, where the focus shifts from magnification to composition. These works highlight the natural elegance of flowers while honoring their fleeting nature.

Submerged Reverence

The final four pieces were created by photographing flowers underwater using artistic techniques with varying liquid viscosities.

Together, these three sections within Botanical Portraiture invite viewers to see flowers from multiple perspectives at their most intricate, their most composed, and their most otherworldly.

Petal Architecture

Petal Architecture is a series of nine works created with extreme macro photography, magnified from 2x to 5x to reveal the hidden structures of each bloom. At this scale, petals transform into sculptural landscapes, showcasing intricate textures, veins, and delicate edges that are invisible to the naked eye. Each final image required hundreds of individual photographs, combined through focus stacking to ensure that every detail every curve and structure remains in perfect focus.

Careful, controlled lighting was essential to highlight the natural contours of the petals while preserving their true color and softness. The process demanded both technical precision and patience, balancing science with artistry to achieve clarity and depth. Through this series, flowers are no longer fleeting forms of color but living architectures of design and resilience.



Composed Blooms

Composed Blooms features four pieces photographed at 1:1 macro magnification, where the focus shifts from extreme detail to the artistry of composition.

These works highlight the natural elegance and fleeting nature of flowers, including a Himalayan Poppy that blooms only once a year, a delicate study of magnified petals, and Botanical Reverie, which brings several blooms together in harmonious balance. Soft, intentional lighting enhances the form and depth of each composition, emphasizing the quiet beauty of each flower's natural posture.

This section invites viewers to see flowers not only as subjects of detail but as expressive forms within a larger visual story.



Submerged Reverence

Submerged Reverence reimagines flowers through underwater photography, using creative techniques with liquids of varying viscosities to create foggy, dreamlike effects. The murkiness softens and distorts the blooms, revealing their resilience and ethereal beauty even in surreal conditions.

Lighting plays a critical role, filtering through the water to create shifting highlights and shadows, giving each image a painterly quality. These works bridge reality and abstraction, transforming familiar blooms into otherworldly visions that feel both delicate and enduring



Submerged Reverence

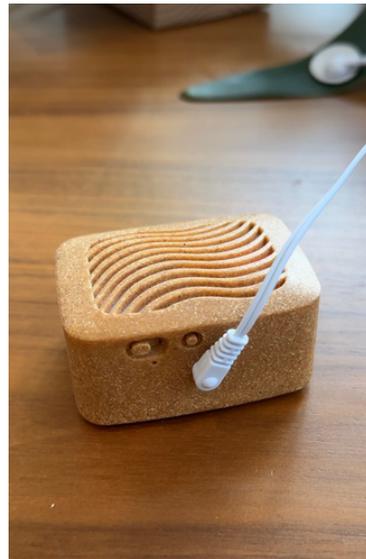
Scan the QR code below to learn more about the process of photographing flowers underwater



The Secret Music of Plants

Plants are not silent. Beneath their stillness, they produce subtle electrical impulses as they respond to changes in light, water, touch, and their environment. In this exhibition, these delicate signals have been captured and translated through a synthesizer to create music, allowing visitors to hear the rhythms of plant life in a way we normally cannot perceive.

Each note reflects the plant's own bioelectric activity—a hidden language of response and adaptation that connects it to the world around it. By transforming these invisible signals into sound, we are reminded that plants are living, sensing beings, participating in the quiet symphony of nature.



Listen to a sample plant using the QR code

Plant Music



Behind the Lens

Behind the Lens

Use the QR codes provided throughout the exhibition to explore short videos that take you behind the scenes of Botanical Portraiture. One video outlines the extreme macro photography process, showing how hundreds of images are stacked to create a single, fully focused piece.

Another reveals the creative underwater techniques used to photograph flowers in liquids of varying viscosities, producing the ethereal, dreamlike effects seen in Submerged Reverence. These videos offer a closer look at the artistic and technical methods that bring these hidden worlds to life.

Magnifying Flowers



Winged Studies

This section of the exhibition features seven works, divided into two categories that highlight the beauty and complexity of pollinators.

Pollinator's Gaze

The Pollinators' Gaze focuses on extreme magnification of bees and wasps, capturing their intricate facial morphology: compound eyes, delicate antennae, and the fine textures of their exoskeletons. Each final image is created from hundreds of stacked photographs, ensuring every microscopic detail is sharp and in focus. Carefully controlled lighting enhances these details, revealing an almost sculptural quality to these often-overlooked insects.

Wings of Symbiosis

Wings of Symbiosis shifts to butterflies, celebrating their morphology and the symbiotic relationship they share with flowers. Most works in this group are created with 1:1 macro photography, emphasizing the butterflies' natural form and their interaction with blooms. One piece, magnified at 5x, reveals the delicate scales of a butterfly's wing in extraordinary detail, showcasing the structure that creates their vibrant patterns. Together, these works invite you to see pollinators not just as functional creatures, but as intricate, vital participants in nature's design.

Ethical Insect Studies

The insect specimens featured in *Winged Studies* were sourced with great care from ecologically responsible outfitters, with deep awareness of the life cycles of pollinators and the critical times when they should never be harvested. Bees, wasps, and butterflies play essential roles in reproduction, migration, and pollination, and ethical practice means respecting those cycles, ensuring no living populations or habitats are disrupted.

All specimens used in this work were collected after their natural life cycle or obtained through sustainable, ecologically sound methods. The purpose of this study is to exhibit the beauty of insects in a way that encourages people to look more closely at them—not with fear, but with curiosity and appreciation. By adhering to these principles, I can reveal the intricate anatomy and hidden elegance of pollinators while honoring their vital role in sustaining biodiversity.

Pollinator's Gaze

The Pollinators' Gaze features extreme close-up portraits of bees and wasps, magnified far beyond what the human eye can see. At this level, their intricate anatomy is revealed in extraordinary detail—the facets of their compound eyes, the fine hairs that collect pollen, the delicate curves of their antennae, and the subtle textures of their exoskeletons. Each final image required hundreds of photographs, carefully stacked and composed to achieve perfect focus across the tiniest structures.

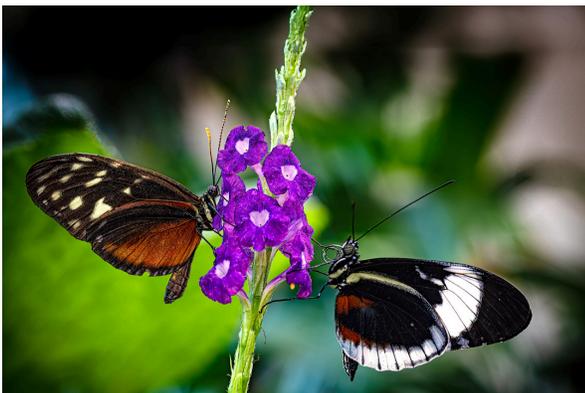
This series challenges us to see these often-feared insects differently—not as threats, but as vital and fascinating creatures, perfectly adapted for the work of pollination. By magnifying their faces and features, the images invite you into a moment of intimacy with the pollinators, encouraging closer observation and a greater appreciation for their beauty and purpose.



Wings of Symbiosis

Wings of Symbiosis focuses on butterflies, highlighting both their exquisite morphology and their essential relationship with flowers. Most works in this grouping are created using 1:1 macro photography, capturing the graceful form of butterflies as they rest on blooms or pause mid-pollination.

These photographs not only showcase the beauty of butterflies but also their symbiotic connection to plants, where both species depend on one another for survival. Soft, natural lighting emphasizes the subtle textures and iridescence of their wings while maintaining the intimacy of the moment between pollinator and bloom. This series invites viewers to see butterflies not only as symbols of fleeting beauty but as critical participants in the intricate web of pollination and renewal.



Hidden Spectrums

Hidden Spectrums reveals the world of flowers as seen through the eyes of pollinators. Using ultraviolet-induced fluorescence photography (UVIV), these works uncover the secret patterns and markings that guide bees, butterflies, and other insects to nectar—signals invisible to the human eye but essential for pollination. Under UV light, flowers transform into luminous beacons, displaying bold contrasts and glowing textures that communicate directly with their pollinators.

Creating these images requires a highly controlled process, balancing specialized UV lighting with careful exposure to preserve the natural fluorescence of each bloom. What appears soft and subtle in daylight becomes vibrant and otherworldly under this hidden spectrum of light. By revealing these invisible pathways and nectar guides, this series invites viewers to experience a flower from an entirely new perspective—one that speaks to the extraordinary coevolution between plants and the creatures that sustain them.

Seeing Plants as Pollinators

Use the QR codes provided in Hidden Spectrums to experience flowers as pollinators do. Each code reveals a short video showing the flower first in visible light, as we see it, followed by its transformation under ultraviolet fluorescence, where hidden nectar guides and bold contrasts appear. This side-by-side view highlights the dramatic difference between human and pollinator vision, revealing the secret signals that draw insects to the bloom.

Humans See



Pollinators See

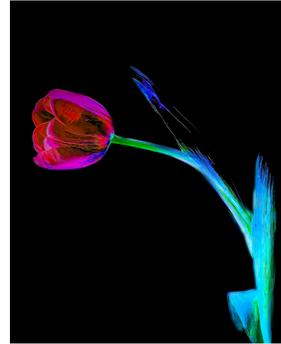


Seeing Plants as Pollinators

Humans See



Pollinators See



Final Reflection

As you leave *Petals & Pollinators*, I invite you to look closer at the world around you. Every petal, every wing, every hidden pattern is part of a quiet story of connection—a reminder that even the smallest moments in nature sustain something far greater. May these images inspire you to pause, observe, and rediscover the beauty that often goes unseen.



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Thank you for sharing this journey with me.