Pictorial Rambles on the John Muir Trail: Miniatures by Donna and Peter Thomas

Makers of artists’ books employing a wide range of techniques and book formats, artists and book makers Donna Thomas (b. 1957) and Peter Thomas (b. 1954) have been publishing books since the 1970s. Collaborating with celebrated writers and fellow artists and employing innovative book-making strategies, the Thomases have been awarded honors for papermaking and bookbinding. In a series of beautiful miniature books published in very small numbers, Donna and Peter Thomas document the natural world they encounter when hiking and camping in northern California. In these unusual travel books, Donna’s calligraphy and paintings of landscapes, wildflowers, and occasionally traveling companions are printed on paper handmade by Peter; the pages are expertly and sumptuously bound, including leather spines in some instances and miniature slipcases in others. Colophons for each book describe the artists’ process and sometimes thank fellow travelers for waiting while paintings of wildflowers, mountains, or waterfalls were completed. Part memento, part travel narrative, part field guide, the Thomas miniatures marry artistic practice and skilled paper- and bookmaking with natural observation and the traveler’s daily dairy.

Miniature books by Donna and Peter Thomas, 2001-2016

Colophon label – SEE FILE

Objects

Spring Wildflower ABC
Zm 72

Wildflowers of the John Muir Trail
Zm 71

Mineral King Kern Loop
Zm 70

Nature paints
Zm 68

Bathed in such beauty
Zm 73

Landscapers of the John Muir Trail
Zm 69

John Muir Trail:
Zm 67

Covering Ground
Zab T3623 2003C