

A NOTE FROM ARCADIA

Spring brings exciting new creative ventures, and I'm thrilled to share a few updates with you! Art, like the seasons, moves in cycles.

The wheel turns, and with it, the artist's journey unfolds. I stepped into a new chapter, joining Illuminations Gallery, —a space where light and creativity intertwine. Some of my old works and stories once told in my art found new eyes, while fresh creations emerged, breathing life into untold visions.

NEW PLACE TO SHOW

New Gallery, New Beginnings: Now Showing at Illuminations Gallery!

NEW STORY

My journey is featured in The RIV Magazine: Danuta's Artistic Alchemy

EVENTS

Book Talk & Benefit: Supporting the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation

Exciting New Exhibitions: "Wild!" and "Concerning Myself" LAAA

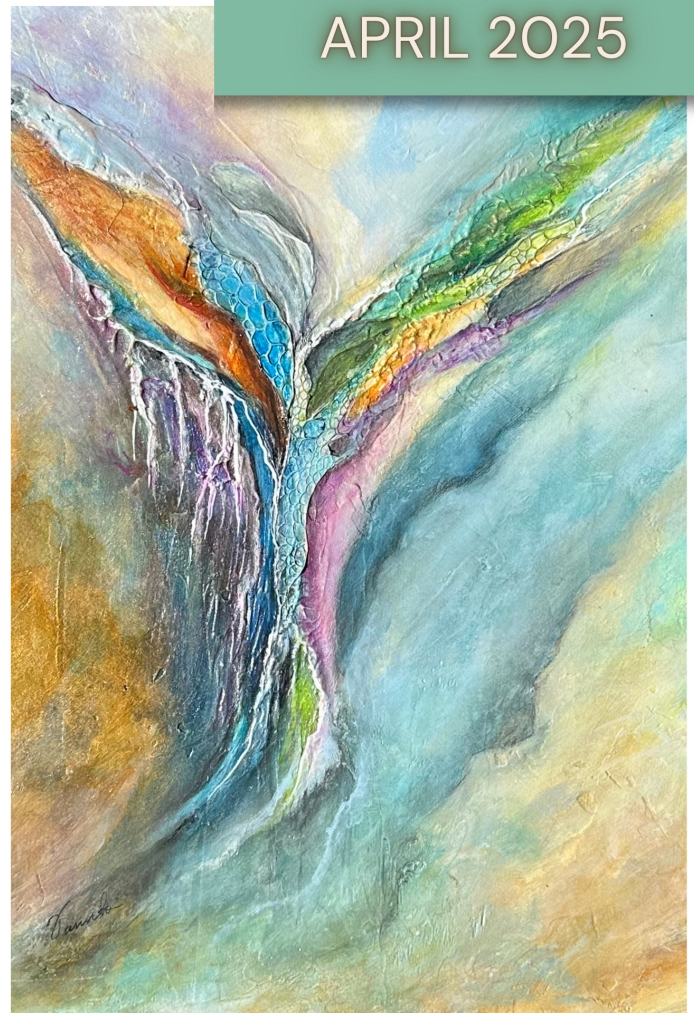
MEMORIES

Bridging Art & Psychology: Continuing My Teaching Journey

Danuta's Studio

NEWS

APRIL 2025



Dancer by Danuta Bennett (SOLD)

danutabennett.com

News

NEW GALLERY- NEW PLACE TO SHOW

I'm delighted to be showing my work at Illuminations Gallery in Santa Barbara, a space where diverse artistic voices converge, where change is not only welcomed but celebrated.

Illuminations Gallery is located in the heart of the Uptown SB Gallery District. Visit us to experience a diverse collection of art from around the world—featuring artists from Poland, Japan, France, Romania, and across the United States, from New York to LA.

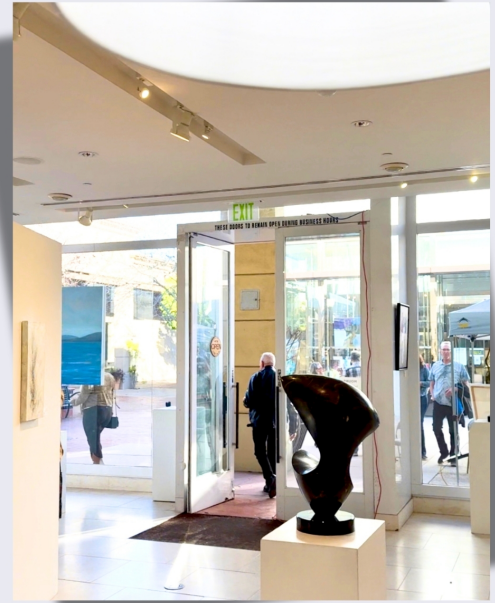
If you're in the area, I'd love for you to stop by and explore!

Open: Tuesday to Sunday 12-5 pm.

LCCCA

121 S. Hope Avenue

Santa Barbara, CA 93105



FEATURED IN THE RIV MAGAZINE

Art has always been a language of transformation for me. **The RIV Magazine** recently featured an article on my artistic journey, blending science, psychology, symbolism, and creativity.

You can find my story on page **178, Vol. 18 Issue**

<https://www.montecitojournal.net/the-riv-magazine/>

Story by: Christopher Matteo Connor

The Eastern European Origins of a Science-Minded Artist

Cyclotella indiana is the Latin name of the diatom Danuta Bennett helped discover as part of a team of scientists. Even during this period of her life, before she became a painter, she had an appreciation for the artistic beauty found in nature.

Some people get to discover a new species of algae, and other people become established visual artists. But when the stars align just right, as they did for Bennett, you get to do both.

Danuta grew up in Poland—then the Polish People's Republic under communist rule. For Bennett, her memories of Poland have just as much to do with the drab weather as they do with a general sense of hopelessness.

"I was doing all sorts of creative things just to feel inspired," says Bennett. "Even the clothes were pretty gray. I remember my father got this orange parka from weather balloons. I made clothes from that just to be different."

Bennett showed promise as an artist in her teenage years and even sold some paintings, including the moodily titled *Souppes of the Soul* (teenagers can be so dramatic), but her parents tried to sway her elsewhere.

"I wanted to go to art school," says Bennett, "but, you know, a pressure from family was like, 'I don't know about this, it's not the right time.' They meant art school isn't the best place under communist rule. Artistic freedom was limited and propaganda was in style."

Young Danuta eventually gave in and pursued science, studying biology and paleontology—reconstructing past ecosystems through the analysis of microfossils.

Reconstructing Climate and Life Itself

As the wife of a Peace Corps volunteer, Bennett left Poland in the late '90s to study, work, and live in the U.S., first in Virginia before circuitously making her way to California and Montecito. In the midst of publishing science journals and researching, her inclination towards art was always lurking beneath the surface.

"I remember being in the field with other scientists and researchers, being amazed by nature. I asked, 'Do you see the light through the trees?' And they would respond, 'Uh-huh...'"

Even if I was in the middle of doing my research, I always saw the beauty of what I was studying."

Danuta doesn't view science and art as opposing forces. "Science and art are basically two sides of the same coin," she



Danuta's Artistic Alchemy

Current Shows

WILD!

April 3- 25, 2025

Voice Gallery

110 S. Hope Avenue, unit H-124

Santa Barbara, California 93105

Reception: First Thursday, April 3rd, 5-8 pm

Showcased art - Butterfly Dream by Danuta Bennett



CONCERNING MYSELF

March 15 - April 14, 2025

LAAA- Los Angeles Art Association

See online:

<https://www.laaa.org/concerning-myself>

Save the Date



ART FOR A CAUSE: BOOK TALK & BENEFIT

April 22nd - 5 pm

Distinguished Speakers & Benefit -

Illustrator- Danuta Bennett & Author -Peter Martin,

University Club Santa Barbara Members

and their guests- \$35/Ticket

*All profits from book sales go to the Teddy Bear
Cancer Foundation.*



Written by Peter G. Martin
Illustrated by Danuta M. Bennett

[www. petergmartin.com](http://www.petergmartin.com)

APRIL 22nd



Memories



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION & TEACHING ABOUT SYMBOLS



I had the opportunity to join Dr James Broderick in teaching a History of Psychology course based on our recently published book, History of Psychology Through Symbols. The course was designed for PhD students at the Pacifica Graduate Institute.

My journey in exploring psychology through art continues with new teaching opportunities. Engaging with students about the symbolism in art and its deeper psychological meanings remains one of my greatest inspirations.

Past Shows

- **Off the Wall** CAW Santa Barbara 2024
- **Aurora** - LAAA Los Angeles, December 2024
- **SBAA Group Show** - Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara, December 2024

Selected Recent Sales



DRAWINGS

Santa Barbara Courthouse.

These are always appreciated. Only few left from this series.



ABSTRACT





Artful Insights – Symbol in Focus: Wuji

Wuji represents the state of boundless potential, the formless void from which all things emerge. In Daoist philosophy, it is the infinite stillness that precedes movement, giving rise to the dynamic interplay of **yin and yang**—the dual forces of existence. As Wuji shifts into **Taiji**, the balance of opposites begins: yin, the receptive and dark, and yang, the active and light, continuously transform and flow into one another. This eternal cycle of creation, dissolution, and rebirth reflects the fundamental rhythm of nature and the universe.

Creative Visualization: Imagine yourself floating in a vast, infinite space—completely empty, yet full of potential. There are no boundaries, no time, no form. You are in **Wuji**, the primordial void, a state of pure stillness and limitless energy. Breathe deeply, feeling the spaciousness around you.

Hot Off the Easel



THE VISITOR

My new painting, *The Visitor*, features a raven against an abstract architectural backdrop, referencing Poe's *The Raven*.

This painting evolved through several reinventions, transforming from a highly realistic architectural image to various stages of deconstruction, ultimately arriving at its current form.

Thank you for being part of this creative journey! I'd love to hear from you—what creative projects or inspirations are shaping your spring?

[instagram.com/danutaArt](https://www.instagram.com/danutaArt)



Until Our Next Creative Journey Together, Stay Inspired!

Danuta