

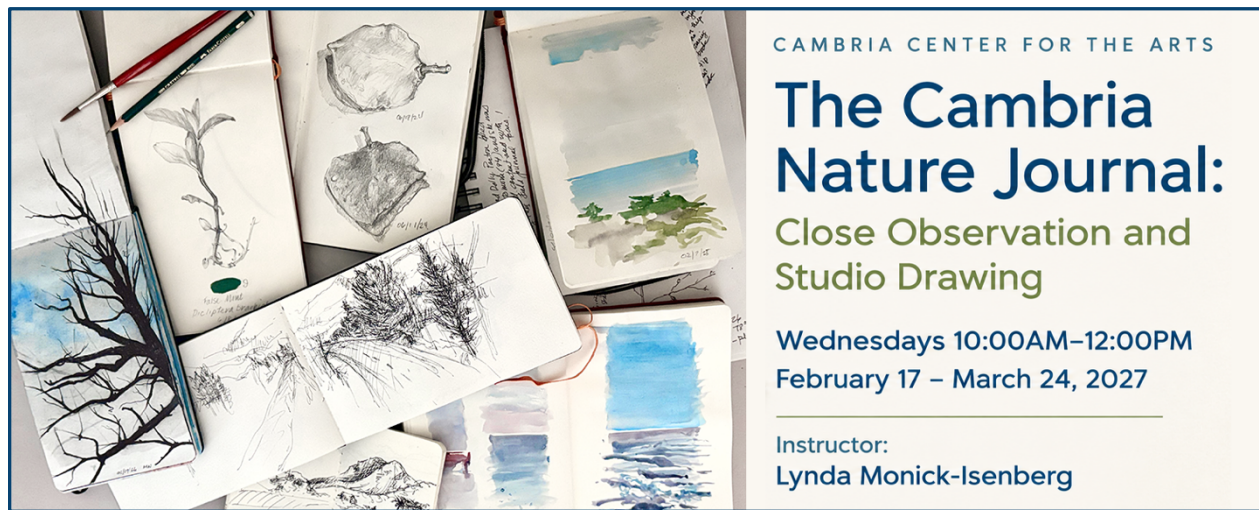
The Cambria Nature Journal: Close Observation and Studio Drawing

Cambria Center for the Arts, Green Room

Wednesdays 10:00AM- 12:00PM

February 17- March 24, 2027

Instructor: [Lynda Monick-Isenberg](#)



The Central Coast invites us to slow down, look closely, and follow our curiosity. A seabird feather, a weathered branch, a piece of kelp, or a rock on the beach can become the starting point for observation, drawing, and discovery. When we pause to really look, the familiar becomes new.

In this six-week nature journaling class, we'll bring together art and natural observation as we explore the world around us through drawing and writing. We'll work with graphite, watercolor, colored pencil, and pen, along with words, numbers, simple observations, and personal reflections.

Each week, we'll explore new ways of seeing, observing, and drawing. Through guided exercises and time spent looking closely at the natural world, you'll have opportunities to experiment, ask questions, follow your curiosity, and develop your own nature journaling practice.

We'll share our observations, drawings, and discoveries with one another in a relaxed and supportive environment. Along the way, you'll develop drawing skills while cultivating a deeper awareness and appreciation of the plants, animals, landscapes, and everyday details of the Central Coast.

No previous drawing, writing, or nature journaling experience is needed. You don't need to consider yourself an artist or a writer—this class is about learning to look, notice, wonder, and record what you discover. All skill levels are welcome.

What Is Nature Journaling?

Nature journaling is the practice of observing and documenting the natural world through **drawing, writing, numbers, and sketches**. Your journal might include:

- Plant, bird, animal, or landscape sketches
- Weather and seasonal observations
- Notes about what you see, hear, or notice
- Questions and discoveries about plants and animal behavior
- Personal reflections and responses to the natural world
- Experiments with color, line, shape, and different drawing materials

Nature journaling can sharpen observation, engage the mind, encourage curiosity, and create a sense of calm. Most of all, it offers a way to slow down and develop a deeper appreciation for the living world around us.

Lynda Monick-Isenberg

Lynda Monick-Isenberg is a visual artist and educator whose practice centers on drawing, close observation, curiosity, and the connections between people and the world around us. Professor Emerita at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, she has taught drawing and studio art throughout her career and has worked as a teaching artist with people of all ages and abilities.

Lynda's current drawing practice grows from a sustained interest in looking closely—at plants, objects, landscapes, and the small details that can easily go unnoticed. Her nature journaling practice emerged from this same impulse to slow down, observe, draw, and wonder. Her *GREEN* journal project, created during the COVID lockdown, explored the plants growing within a few feet of her home, combining careful drawings, color, research, and written observations. This ongoing observational drawing practice continues today, both at home and as she travels, responding to new landscapes and the changing details of the natural world.

Through her teaching, Lynda creates opportunities for people to experiment, develop their skills, and discover their own ways of seeing. She believes drawing can be both an artistic practice and a way of paying attention to the world.