Painting the Natural World: An Illustrated Conversation

James Prosek

Distinguished Writer, Naturalist, Artist, and Conservationist

May 8, 2013 at 1:30 P.M.
UHM Center for Korean Studies Auditorium

Artist, writer, naturalist James Prosek published his first book, *Trout: An Illustrated History* (Knopf, 1996), at age nineteen; the book featured seventy of his watercolor paintings of the trout of North America. Since then he has published a dozen books, including *Eels: An Exploration from New Zealand to the Sargasso of the World’s Most Amazing and Mysterious Fish* (2010), which was a *New York Times Book Review* editor’s choice and was the subject of the April 17, 2013, episode of the PBS series *Nature*. His book *Ocean Fishes* (2012) is a collection of paintings of thirty-five Atlantic fishes, all of which were painted life size and based on individual specimens he traveled to see. He is working on a book as well as an article for *National Geographic* about how we name and order the natural world, and a book on the natural history of Micronesia. He has also written for *The New York Times, National Geographic, Orion, Audubon, Nature Conservation*, and other publications.

In addition to the *Nature* episode, he has made several other films. In 2003, he won a Peabody Award for his documentary *The Compleat Angler*.

His work in conservation includes founding, in 2004, the initiative World Trout (with Yvon Chouinard, owner of Patagonia clothing company), which advocates for cold-water habitat conservation.
Prosek’s art has been shown at such venues as the Gerald Peters Gallery, New York and Santa Fe; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, NY; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; and the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC. In 2012, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Distinction in Natural History Art from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

At present, he is a curatorial affiliate of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale and a member of the board of the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies.

This free public presentation is made possible by the late Dr. Dai Ho Chun through his estate gift, which established the Dai Ho Chun Endowment for Distinguished Lecturers at the UH-Mānoa Colleges of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Chun was a distinguished and visionary educator. The lecture is also sponsored by the UH- Mānoa College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature, with additional help from the Dai Ho Chun Endowment Selection Committee and Mānoa: A Pacific Journal of International Writing.

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