

## A NOTE ON THE COVER ART

“Taxis” is a Greek word meaning “order” or “arrangement.” It is the root of “taxonomy”: the science of describing species and fitting them into evolutionary order on the tree of life. Each of the six oil paintings in a series called TAXA explores one aspect or dynamic of conservation. Each species was carefully researched. Each of the six paintings took nearly a year to complete. All are painted to scale, at life size, and are depicted as accurately as possible. The image used here, *TRADE*, from 2001, shows species of plants and animals whose wild populations are depleted by collection for legal, illegal, and unregulated markets.

In-depth study of a single species can yield a world of information: each life cycle is deeply entwined with that of others in its community. The more we learn about the intricacies of one organism and its ecosystem, the more we see the limits of our current knowledge. The more we discover, the more we comprehend our responsibility for every other living thing.

Oil paintings can last for centuries. I use accuracy, attention to detail, craft, and research to send a snapshot of our current view of humans’ relationship to the rest of nature into the future: a modern *momento mori*.

—Isabella Kirkland



- 1 Elephant ivory *Loxodonta africana*
- 2 Clouded leopard skin *Neofelis nebulosa*
- 3 Northern flying squirrel *Glaucomys  
sabrinus fuscus*
- 4 Golden-headed lion tamarin  
*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*
- 5 Green tree monitor *Varanus prasinus*
- 6 Satanic leaf-tailed gecko *Uroplatus  
phantasticus*
- 7 Yellow-headed day gecko *Phelsuma  
klemmeri*
- 8 Radiated tortoise *Geochelone radiata*
- 9 Golden dart frog *Phyllobates terribilis*
- 10 Madagascan tree boa *Boa mandrita*
- 11 Hawksbill sea turtle shell *Eretmochelys  
imbricata*
- 12 Ruby poison dart frog *Epipedobates  
parvulus*
- 13 Brookesia gecko *Brookesia peyeriasi*
- 14 Gurney's pitta *Pitta gurneyi*
- 15 Blue lorikeet *Vini peruviana*
- 16 Red siskin *Carduelis cucullata*
- 17 Lear's or indigo macaw *Anodorhynchus  
leari*
- 18 Toucan barbet *Semnornis ramphastinus*
- 19 Seven-colored tanager *Tangara fastuosa*
- 20 Trumpet triton *Charonia tritonis*
- 21 Glory of the Sea cone *Conus gloriamaris*
- 22 Loebbecke's murex *Murex loebbecki*
- 23 Golden cowrie *Cypraea aurantium*
- 24 Red coral *Corallium rubrum*
- 25 Fluted giant clam *Tridacna squamosa*
- 26 Peruvian swallowtail *Papilio androgeos*
- 27 Queen Alexandra birdwing *Ornithoptera  
alexandrae*
- 28 Jamaican swallowtail *Papilio homeres  
Fabricius*
- 29 Luzon Peacock Swallowtail *Papilio chikae  
chikae*
- 30 Yellow comet moth *Argema mittrei*
- 31 Urania moth *Chrysidia riphearia*
- 32 Agrias butterfly *Agrias claudina* Godt.  
ssp. *lugens*
- 33 Tissue paper butterfly *Idea jasonia* Westw.
- 34 Hawk moth *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*
- 35 Atlas beetle *Chalcosoma caucasus*
- 36 Ruteline scarab *Plusiotis beyeri*
- 37 Gold scarab *Plusiotis resplendens*
- 38 Jewel beetle *Euchroma gigantea*
- 39 Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*
- 40 Longhorned beech beetle *Rosalia alpina*
- 41 Carabid beetle *Carabus auratus*
- 42 Metallic leafchafer *Plusiotis chrysgyrea*
- 43 Jewel scarab *Chrycina aurigans*
- 44 Orchid mantis *Hymenopus coronatus*
- 45 Slipper orchid *Paphiopedilum sandermanum*
- 46 Ghost orchid *Polyrrhiza lindenii* or  
*Polyradicion lindenii*
- 47 Red vanda *Renanthera imschootiana*
- 48 Slipper orchid *Paphiopedilum  
lawrenceanum*
- 49 Comet orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale  
Thou*
- 50 Slipper orchid *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*
- 51 Gray's lily *Lilium grayi*
- 52 Mountain Sweet pitcher *Sarracenia rubra  
ssp. jonesii*
- 53 American ginseng *Panax quinquefolius*
- 54 Monkey puzzle wood *Araucaria araucana*
- 55 Sundew *Byblis gigantea*
- 56 Pitcher plant *Nepenthes macrophylla*
- 57 Iranian iris *Iris paradoxa*
- 58 Patagonian cypress wood *Fitzroya  
cupressoides*
- 59 Coca *Erythroxylum coca*
- 60 Rosy periwinkle *Catharanthus roseus*
- 61 Venus flytrap *Dionaea muscipula*
- 62 Three-cornered palm seeds *Neodypsis  
decaryi*
- 63 Nellie's cory cactus *Coryphantha minima*
- 64 Peyote *Lophophora diffusa*
- 65 Jabali pincushion *Coryphantha  
werdermannii*
- 66 Matsutake *Tricholoma magnivelare*
- 67 White truffle *Tuber magnatum* Pico
- 68 Priam's birdwing *Triodes priamus*