

California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education is proud to announce the Keynote Speaker, Obi Kaufmann, Poet, Painter, Author and Conservationist, at the California Statewide Environmental Education Spring Conference 2019, Friday March 29 – Sunday March 31, Westminster Woods, Occidental, CA. For details: <http://aeoe.org/events>

“California ecography; where science and art meet to tell the tale of a changing landscape”

For Poet, painter and naturalist Obi Kaufmann, California is a magic network of living systems that connect in a grand, quilted array of ecology and beauty. Author of the bestselling and award-winning *California Field Atlas*, Obi takes readers off the beaten path and outside normal conceptions of California, revealing its myriad ecologies, topographies, and histories with hundreds of exquisite hand-painted maps and trail paintings. Obi’s work blends science and art to illuminate the multifaceted array of the natural world, forming a uniquely elemental narrative based on the shaping forces of earth, air, fire, and water.

In the *California Field Atlas*, Obi depicts layer after layer of the natural world, delighting in the grand scale and details alike. The effect is staggeringly beautiful: presented alongside California divided into its fifty-eight counties, for example, we consider California made up of dancing tectonic plates, of watersheds, of wildflower gardens. Maps are enhanced by spirited illustrations of wildlife, keys that explain natural phenomena, and a clear-sighted but reverential text. Full of character and color, *The California Field Atlas* is the ultimate road trip companion and love letter to a place.

Since its publishing, the *California Field Atlas* (HEYDAY books, 2017) reached #1 on the San Francisco Chronicle’s bestsellers and won both book of the year by the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association and was the winner of the 2018 gold medal for significant contribution to publishing by the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

An avid conservationist, Obi regularly travels around the state, speaking on issues of ecological restoration and preservation to such groups as the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, the Mojave Desert Land Trust, the Anza Borrego Foundation, The Mono Lake Committee, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the California Native Plant Society, the Audubon Society, the Rivers and Lands Conservancy, and Friends of the River. A life-long resident of California, Obi Kaufmann makes his home base in Oakland and is currently working on Field Atlases to come. He posts regularly on instagram @coyotethunder.

Growing up in the East Bay as the son of an astrophysicist and a psychologist, Obi Kaufmann spent most of high school practicing calculus and breaking away on weekends to scramble around Mount Diablo, mapping and naming the creeks, oak forests and sage mazes. Into adulthood he would regularly journey into the mountains, spending more summer nights without a roof than with one as his identity as a wilderness naturalist took hold and that is where he began work on his first book, the California Field Atlas. For Obi, the epic narrative of the California backcountry holds enough art, science, mythology and language for a hundred atlases to come.

Books to come by Obi Kaufmann

1. [The State of Water](#), *Understanding California’s Most Precious Resource* (HEYDAY, June 2019)
2. [The Forests of California](#), the California Lands Trilogy, Vol 1 (HEYDAY, spring 2020)
3. [The Coasts of California](#), the California Lands Trilogy, Vol 2 (HEYDAY, fall 2020)
4. [The Deserts of California](#), the California Lands Trilogy, Vol 3 (HEYDAY, spring 2021)
5. [The State of Fire](#), *Understanding Why, Where and How California Burns* (HEYDAY, fall 2021)

