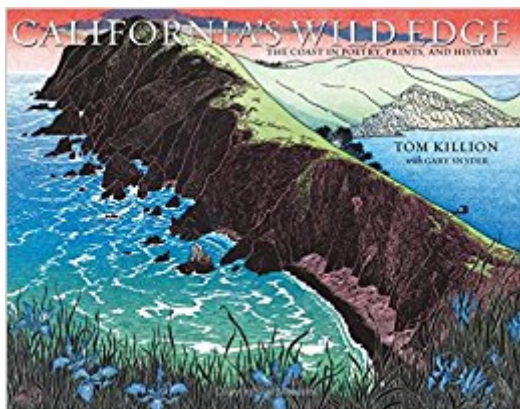


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# California's Wild Edge



## Synopsis

California Book Award Gold Medal Winner This new volume captures the beauty of the California coast from Mendocino, Point Reyes, and the San Francisco Bay down through Carmel, Big Sur, Santa Barbara, and Santa Monica. Woodcut artist Tom Killion's prints combine exquisite color with dynamic composition to portray the coast's ever-changing moods and diverse formations: storm tides crashing at Point Lobos, serene moonlit coves at Mendocino, fog encircling the Golden Gate Bridge. Deepening our experience are poetry and prose from Gary Snyder, as well as selections from Native Californian traditional stories, accounts of travelers, and poems by Jane Hirshfield, Robert Hass, and Jaime de Angulo. As *Tamalpais Walking* and *The High Sierra of California* did for lovers of mountains, *California's Wild Edge* will delight anyone who has seen (or wants to see) the meeting of land and sea.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tom Killion is a California treasure. No other artist knows the state's wild landscapes more intimately, or captures them more faithfully. His exquisite woodcuts combine a walker's inch-by-inch knowledge of the terrain with a compositional sense as dramatic and unerring as that of the great Japanese masters Hokusai and Hiroshige. But Killion isn't only a wonderful artist, he's also a first-rate writer, and both those qualities are showcased in his marvelous new book, *California's Wild Edge*. Killion says that the book is 'about finding the song of the California coast,' and the combination of his graceful and learned historical essays, a rich sampling of poetry, and of course

his spectacular art, add up to a veritable symphony of this special place where land meets sea.â •  
 --Gary Kamiya, author, *Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of California*â œIn addition to being a great artist, Killion is also a serious historian and a terrific prose stylist. This career-spanning retrospective is a vibrant, soulful tribute to the Golden State.â • --Richard M. Lange, *Sunset*â œRenowned Grass Valley poet Snyder's words are the light shining alongside Killion's deep expositions and exquisitely rendered art.â • --Lou Fancher, *San Jose Mercury News*â œOnce you see Killion's woodcuts of natural California, you're likely never to look at the land around you in the same way again.â •  
 --Wallace Baine, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*â œThe art of California's Wild Edge...is breathtaking. Its text a fusion of natural and human history, poems and journal entries by various writers, and personal memoir constitutes a mini-course in California culture that delights and surprises at every turn.â •  
 --William Ray, *Steinbeck Now*

The coast of California-now in paperback This volume captures the beauty of the California coast from Mendocino, Point Reyes, and the San Francisco Bay down through Carmel, Big Sur, Santa Barbara, and Santa Monica. Woodcut artist Tom Killion's prints combine exquisite color with dynamic composition to portray the coast's ever-changing moods and diverse formations. Deepening our experience are poetry and prose from Gary Snyder, as well as selections from Native Californian traditional stories, accounts of travelers, and poems by Robert Hass, Jaime de Angulo, and Jane Hirshfield. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Yes, this is clearly a preposterous publication, because common sense tells us that such a high quality book is almost an impossibility!It is not just the beautiful color and black and white prints that cause this book to stand out as a magnificent historical (and contemporary, given Tom Killion's beautiful visuals) summary of California's magnificent coastline, and of the values and lives of the inhabitants, over time.It is just plain preposterous that Killion has been able to sew together so much of the beauty of the coast, including the botanical beauty and the visual beauty, along with the beauty and awareness of this coast's past inhabitants.Beware, this book's hardbound edition will mesmerize you, and draw you into its subject matter...

This is a beautiful, high-quality, hardback book. It could be considered a coffee-table book: 9-1/2 x 12 inches, 187 pp., with thick paper pages and a gorgeous dust jacket. I counted 41 color pix, many full page, and tons of b&w--Killion really knows how to do b&w and they are just as wonderful as the color. There is also text and poetry here, but I have to confess I just look at the artwork and am

amazed. BTW, I would also recommend checking out Killion's previous two books.

Killion is a remarkable artist. Coupled with Snyder's sometimes dreamy, often pinpoint realistic descriptions, this (and all in the series so far) take one on a visual and spiritual trip through California's most amazing topography. Killion's prints are so magnificent that their brilliance comes through even in book plates... which are very good in themselves. If you're a fan of Japanese woodblock, or really any printing style, this book and Killion's works are for you. If you are a lover of visual and word arts, then this is a real delight to behold.

While the other reviews of this book are insightful, accurate and substantive, I find myself (after reading and viewing it many times) just as impressed and impacted by Tom Killion's text, as I am by the color & B&W prints. We all know how talented Killion is with his woodblock prints, and many of us understand the vital importance of Robinson Jeffers, but the more I read this book, the more I find myself enthralled by Killion's writing. He has chosen the very best quotes and excerpts from so many poets and writers, going far back into the first recorded diaries and comments about California's coast, plus Killion's own commentary and opinions and historical insights are themselves a key part of the vitality and composition of this fantastic book. I have always enjoyed Tom's art, but this book makes me very aware of his superb talents as a writer. I hope the rest of you who buy and read this gem, appreciate the author's own writing and editing, along with his incredible woodblocks, as much as I have. Again, this book shines at first because of the excellent prints and typography, but then it glows even more as you peruse it in its entirety, due to the quality of the poetry (not just Jeffers' poetry), the historical interest and facts that it conveys, and then because Heyday Books has done its usual phenomenal job of editing, composition, book design, etc. What a "wild" and "preposterous" book, and what an interesting, enjoyable read and visual treat...the only (mild) criticism I have is that Gary Snyder's comments and poetry are included. Snyder says here that Jeffers "could have been a great poet", which of course is ludicrous (Jeffers clearly WAS a great poet). I suspect that Gary Snyder is jealous of Robinson Jeffers, and in my opinion, the inclusion of Snyder's poetry and comments was unnecessary. Furthermore, Snyder knows far too little about California, as indicated in his poem "Sharing an Oyster with the Captain". In this poem, Snyder claims that in 1579, Francis Drake sailed into the Farallones and saw "scotch broom" among other plants. There was no scotch broom in California, in 1579. That weedy plant didn't come to California (from western and central Europe) until the 1800's, primarily during the Gold Rush (the broom seeds were used as fillings in mattresses).

Full of information that most readers will not know. Gorgeous woodcuts. Wide range of poetry selections will appeal differently depending on the reader's tastes, but always well-selected to compliment the theme of the book. I was especially taken with the quotes from Richard Henry Dana, who had been only a name in a wide pantheon of "classics" before Mr. Killion let his readers hear his voice.

The history, poetry, and art of California's cultural tapestry are seamlessly conjoined in this stunning book by a craftsman who, like his hero and artistic fellow-traveler Rockwell Kent, writes as well as he illustrates. The wild and untamed territory of the human imagination has found a contemporary voice--and vision--in Tom Killion, a true American original, like Rockwell Kent.

Beautiful book particularly capturing Northern California. Perfect gift for my wife who is a 4th generation native of the San Francisco Bay Area.

A most enlightening and beautifully designed book! A treasure to view and read again and again!

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