

Adapted line drawing of Queen of the Night | Ron Cornett

RON CORNETT

Queen of the Night

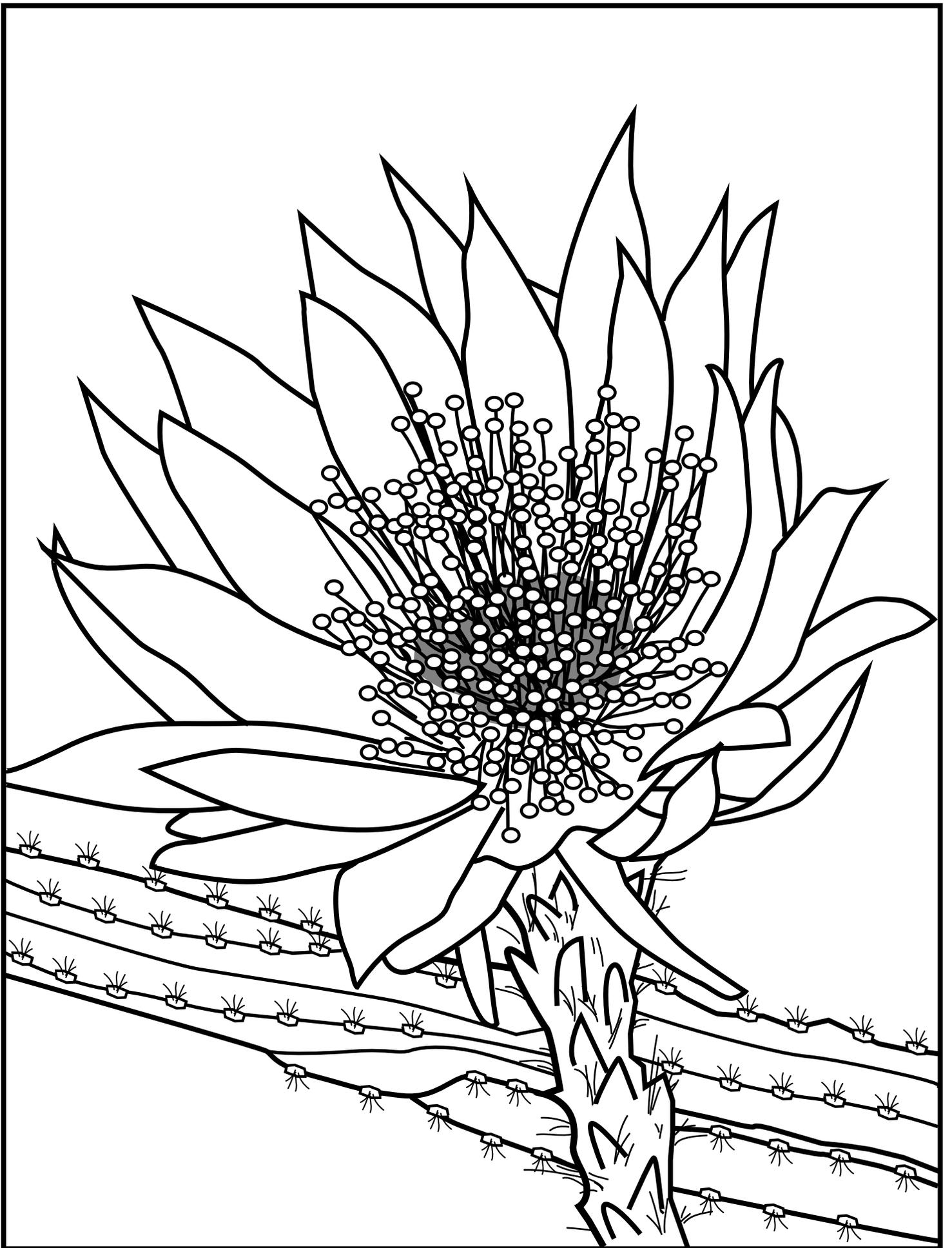
acrylic on canvas

From the Tohono Chul exhibition

Queen of the Night, 2017

"I am inspired by the complexity and the beauty of the Sonoran desert, its flora, fauna, denizens and cultures. This piece is from a study in color and line work series. I wanted to take my line work skill from the comic book world and superimpose that against the beautiful colors of the desert at night.

I have been a resident of Tucson for the last 45 years. I have always had a love of art. I trained under photo-realist artist Larry Gerber for three years. I then worked in illustration and graphic design for several years until I went back to school to pursue another career in radiology. I also had a foray into the world of comic books. I self-published four comic books and had a booth at the San Diego Comic convention for a couple of years. I started painting fine art in the last nine years."



Adapted line drawing of Magic | Wendy Islas

WENDY ISLAS

Magic

archival pigment print

From the Tohono Chul exhibition

Pollen Path

Queen of the Night, 2019

"**Magic** was photographed at Tohono Chul during Bloom Night, 2017. The *Peniocereus greggi*, also known as the Night Blooming Cereus or Queen of the Night, is a wondrous species that graces us with her beauty just one night a year. The magic surrounding this bloom is wondrous. These plants magically communicate to one another to orchestrate a simultaneous bloom that invites the hawk moth to pollinate. Truly, a spectacular and magical moment in nature and one that is just as spectacular to witness and capture. The allure of the Night Blooming Cereus is strong and it just may call you back for more, as it does me."

Wendy L. Islas served twenty-six years as a probation officer/supervisor, with close to twenty of those years in Pima County. Following her retirement, she rediscovered her love of Arizona, nature and the outdoors. She enjoys hiking, exploring, road trips, camping, and photographing Arizona's nature and landscapes. She also volunteers her time helping to keep nature wild at organized clean-up events as well as on her own.

Wendy's photography was included in the Tumacacori National Historic Park's 2018, Art In The Park exhibit. Wendy also has several photographs in the 2019 Discover Southern Arizona Magazine. Her photography is included as the February 24, 2018, "Photo of the Day" on the Arizona Highways Magazine website and she frequently participates in the Arizona Highway Magazine's weekly Facebook photography themes. Wendy has also collaborated with the Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce. As a self-taught photographer, she gleans knowledge from various sources including fellow photographers, research, workshops, and hours of practice.

To learn more about Wendy Islas and her work, visit <https://www.wendyislas.com/>



Adapted line drawing of Desert Surprise | Karen Wright

KAREN WRIGHT

Desert Surprise

archival pigment print

From the Tohono Chul exhibition

Queen of the Night, 2019

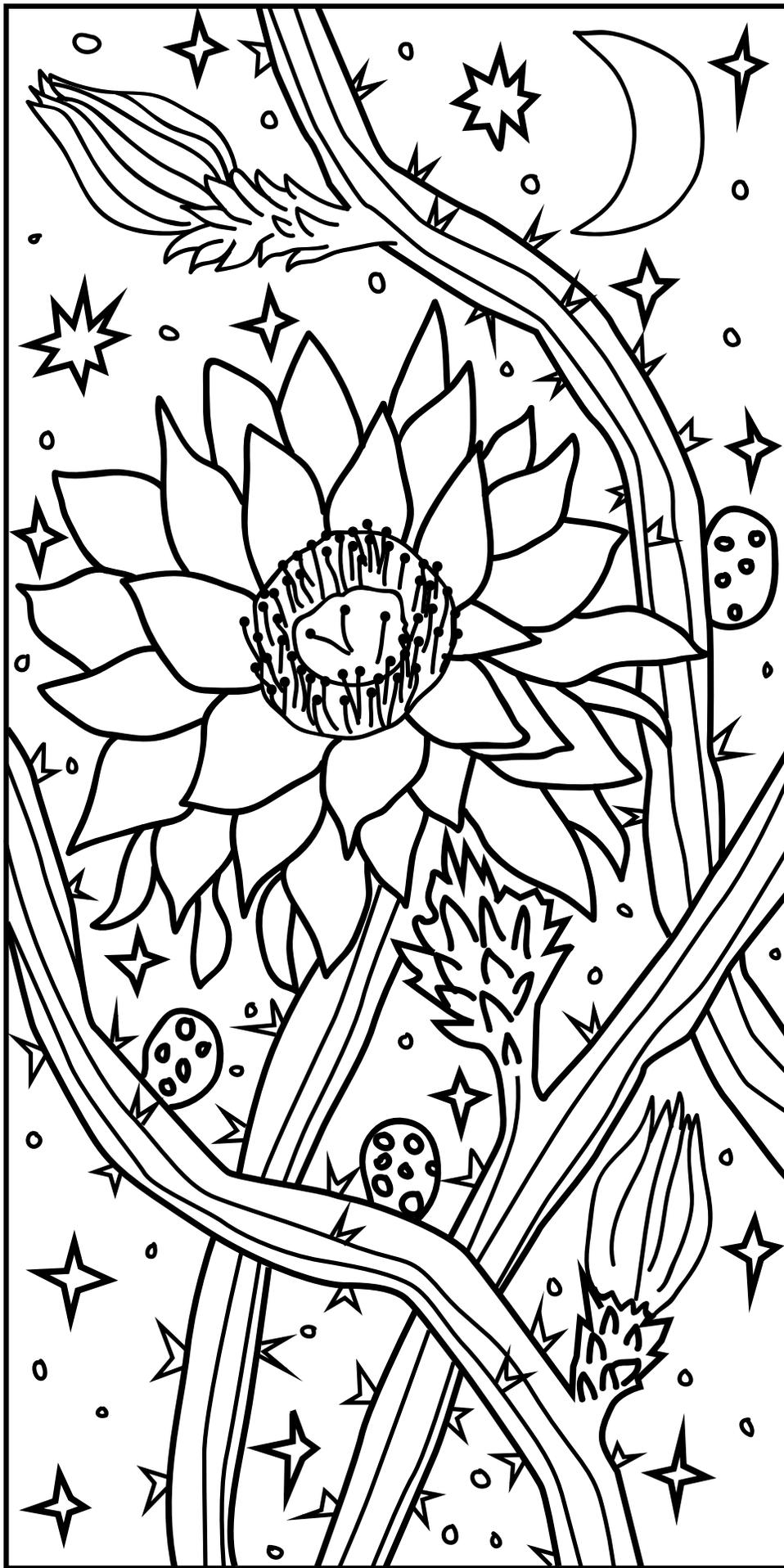
Blooming just one night, the *Peniocereus greggii* can be a pleasant surprise in the desert. Backlit by the setting sun, this bloom was one of 23 on a mature plant.

As a native of Tucson, Karen Wright explores the beauty of the desert around her. The colorful sunsets, a splash of Milky Way across clear night skies, electric thunderstorms and delicate flowers all capture her attention.

But, her true obsession is the intoxicating bloom of the *Peniocereus greggii*, or Queen of the Night. First introduced to the plant during Tohono Chul's Bloom Night, she has diligently photographed at this event for many years and eventually acquired her own cereus. With the use of a single light, the intricate details of the flowers are revealed in her photography.

To share her love of this unique plant, Karen recently published a book titled Queen of the Night: A Rare Beauty. It features close-up images of the elusive flowers paired with information on the life cycle of the plant spanning from identification of the new bud through stages of blooming. It is available at several bookstores throughout Tucson, including at Tohono Chul.

To learn more about Karen wright and her work, visit <https://www.creativeexposuresphoto.com/>



Adapted line drawing of Cactus Night Bloom | Regina Lord

REGINA LORD

Cactus Night Bloom

acrylic on cradled wood panel

From the Tohono Chul exhibition

Featured Artist Regina Lord

Regina Lord believes, through art and creative process, your outlook can change and become more positive, more open. As an artist, she starts by first looking for beauty and inspiration. It is in the Southwestern Mountains, the desert, in nature and wildlife, in the streets, and in the people too. Her style is the unraveling of a woven mixture of her Hispanic heritage, deep-rooted love for folk art and an enchantment with magical whimsicality. She began putting ideas down on paper, making doodles and sketches, finally pulling out various paints, papers and any other medium that feels right. With a paintbrush and the boldest colors, Regina pulls ideas together in the best way that makes her heart sing. Always bright, always colorful, always filled with joy.

Regina Lord was born and raised in Northern Arizona and has lived in Arizona for most of her life. She was very interested in art at a young age and was encouraged to be creative by her loving grandparents. Regina studied art throughout her school years along with studying to become a registered nurse. She received her BSN from Northern Arizona University in 1999 and worked as a nurse for almost 15 years in various hospital settings. Eventually, the call to become an artist became so strong that she left her nursing career behind to pursue her creative dreams. She now spends her time making art and playing with paints and other interesting mediums.

To learn more about Regina Lord and her work, go to <http://www.creativekismet.com/>