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Nudibranchs, art created for Pacific Beach Coalition

**Nudibranchs, featuring an Opalescent Nudibranch and Orange-peel Doris** is a hand-pulled, hand-colored block print by Caren Loebel-Fried.

Featured in the art are Bay Area sea slugs known as nudibranchs, which live in the rocky tidepools of the coastal intertidal zone. Nudibranchs can be sorted into two groups: Aeolids, whose backs are covered in breathing and defense appendages called cerata, and Dorids, whose backs are smoother except for a plume of feathery gills. Both are equipped with a pair of rhinophores, antennae-like projections on their head that chemically detect food and mates. The larger nudibranch is an aeolid called the Opalescent Nudibranch, *Hermissenda opalescens*, and is lying on a bed of seagrass near its egg sac on the bottom left. On the top right is a dorid known as the Orange Peel Doris, *Acanthodoris lutea,* featuring the exposed gills that inspired the name nudibranch, or naked-lung. The two nudibranchs are separated by anemones, which they feed on, along with hydroids, depicted in the borders, both of which have stinging cells called nematocysts. Aeolids ingest and store young, stolen nematocysts in their cerata for their own protection against predators. Similarly, dorids infuse ingested toxins into the mucus they secrete around their bodies, a powerful deterrent to predation.