

DAVID HOCKNEY

Red Pots in the Garden, 2000
Oil on canvas, 60 x 76 in



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CHARLES HOOD

State Insects

Butterflies, for example:
California has the Dogface

that feeds on False Indigo
or any purple flower.

Baltimore Checkerspot holds
Maryland's place in the list;

Kentucky simmers with Viceroy.
The Zebra Longwing in Florida

is well named, its aposematic stripes
warning blue jays and stray dogs

not to lick. Maybe it will rain
and I can be a ladybug

(state mascot of Delaware,
Massachusetts, New Hampshire,

North Dakota, Ohio,
and Tennessee) beaded

up like a red plastic stud
against your collar

or if not there, strange wet
lady at checkout express,

then on your sleeve
or even the hem

of your out-of-fashion
ugly, sexy, very

corduroy pants.

Charles Hood, a research fellow with the Center for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art, teaches at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, California. His work has appeared in the *New England Review* and *Chautauqua*. His current projects include books on Los Angeles architecture and birds of California. Returning from New Guinea, he got his first teaching job when his interviewer asked about Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, the world's largest butterfly.