## POOH'S GORSE





J. Broklause

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The gorse bush is not a native to where I live, so the first time I'd ever heard of it was reading Winnie the Pooh in the third grade, my first big book ever.

They had come to a stream which twisted and tumbled between high rocky banks, and Christopher Robin saw at once how dangerous it was. "It's just the place," he explained, "for an Ambush."

"What sort of bush?" whispered Pooh to Piglet. "A gorse-bush?"

"My dear Pooh," said Owl in his superior way, "don't you know what an Ambush is?"

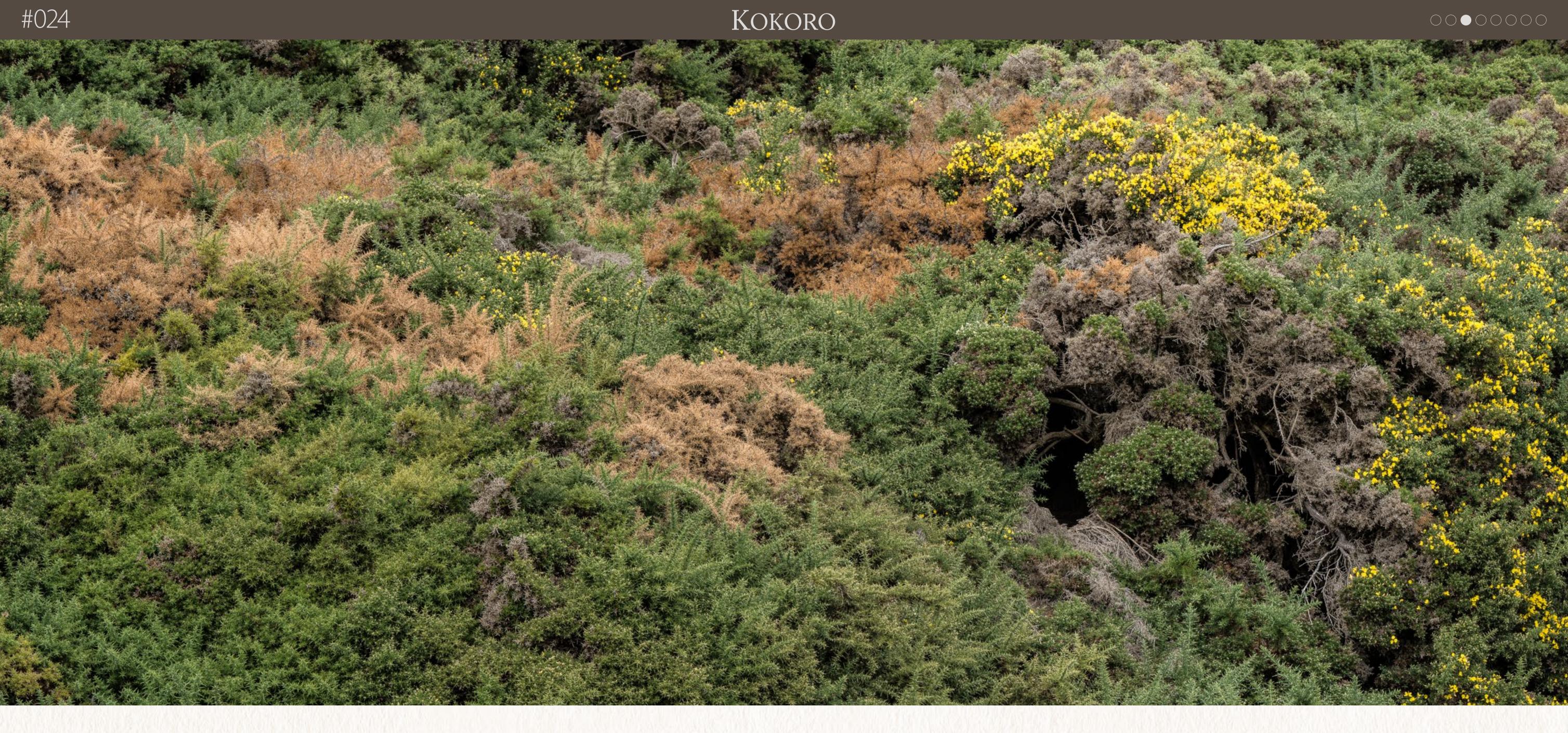
"Owl," said Piglet, looking round at him severely, "Pooh's whisper was a perfectly private whisper, and there was no need----"

"An Ambush," said Owl, "is a sort of Surprise."

"So is a gorse-bush sometimes," said Pooh.

And seeing a gorse bush for the first time, at age 60, I understood Pooh.





Gorse bushes played a major role in Pooh's life. Wherever there was a gorse bush, Pooh's rear end was bound to find it. As an eight-year-old, I lived in fear of gorse, even though I'd never seen one.

Gorse was introduced to the southern Oregon coast where it has become an invasive, pernicious troublemaker. An Ambush, indeed.

Just ask the trees.











**Brooks Jensen** is a fine-art photographer, publisher, workshop teacher, and writer. In his personal work he specializes in small prints, handmade artist's books, and digital media publications.

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