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Artists and Communities - Partners in Promoting Revitalization Through Public Art

JOHN PUGH SELECTED FOR HONOLULU MURAL



Larger than life, the epic wave behind surfer Duke Kahanamoku is Queen Lili'uokalani herself. Bold and defiant, she endures the tide of western conquests. This glass wave monument honors her spirit that still pounds in the hearts of her people, and unfurls the forged legacy she left behind.

On the balcony below are children (not shown on concept sketch), who have come to offer gifts and to share *Aloha*. Spiritual and virtuous, Queen Lili'uokalani made sure all future children of Hawaii would have an *Ohana* (a loving family).

Layered deep within the wave will be other great Hawaiians – such as Prince Kuhio who encouraged and supported her.

With curved blocks of aqua jeweled glass, the effect of light coming through from a skylight above is similar to the effect in a real wave. This allows the viewer to bask in 'the zone' of the surfer's world. The balcony visually integrates with the building and will include Hawaiian artifacts, lush elegant urns, and a grand staircase that issues forth like sea foam.

Thanks to the vision of building owner and patron, Richard Wasnich M.D., there will be a park that continues the theme of the mural. Replete with tropical landscaping, lava stone paths, and music, the park is intended to create a meditative sacred space. And *Mahalo* to Kauila Clark for his council and the guided journey through the rich culture and spirit of Hawaii.

John Pugh

Editors Note: This Trompe l'oeil mural is to be painted on the flat end wall of a medical building and will measure 42 ft. by 100 ft.

The mural is located on a major street and will be adjacent to the Queen Liliuo' Kalani Park that will augment the view and insure its continued visibility.

beyond trompe l'oeil...

The Concept of Narrative Illusionism

Editors Note: Master Trompe l'oeil artist John Pugh's long awaited biography, "The Murals of John Pugh: Beyond Trompe L'Oeil" has been completed by author Kevin Bruce. The book is scheduled for release on August 1, 2006. Copies of the book will be available at the Global Mural Conference in Prestonpans, Scotland and John and Kevin will be there for signing. The following excerpt is from the introduction of said biography. John Pugh is a Founder Artist in CalPAMS and a member of the board of Directors.

Introduction

The deceptive qualities of trompe l'oeil have always made it an engaging and popular artist's medium. It seems to be universal that people like to be fooled. We have all experienced how trompe l'oeil murals "fool the eye" whether by a life-like cat painted on the side of a building or a panoramic landscape on the wall of a restaurant. These illusions are examples of commonplace trompe l'oeil murals, which are usually seen as curious pieces of perceptual trickery or decorative illusionary expanses. Such works serve only to amuse or provide benign ambiance, not insights.

But the *trompe l'oeil* murals of John Pugh are quite another matter. They are not merely ornamental or curiously clever. They offer a rich and rewarding viewing experience. They are thought provoking, substantial, and

sometimes even philosophical or spiritual. What separates the murals of John Pugh from their inconsequential cousins is that he goes **beyond trompe l'oeil** by combining masterful illusionary techniques with extraordinarily conceived narrative elements. He not only "fools the eye", but captures the imagination and engages the mind as well. Within a framework of illusionary space, he cleverly orchestrates the discovery of layers of historical, social, and mythical visual commentaries that challenge the viewer with deeper levels of meaning.

MURAL IN A DAY

Main Street Murals of Barstow will be conducting a Mural in a Day on Saturday April 29, 2006 from 8 AM until 5 PM.

The Master Artist will be Kathy Fierro of Barstow, a Founder Artist in CalPAMS, The subject of the Mural will focus on the California Gold Rush, Statehood and the Bringing of the Railroad to the High Desert of California!

For further information please contact Juliette Tison, President of the Main Street Murals of Barstow.

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Please send news, notices and articles to this address.