

INVENTORY OF PUBLIC ART
ENCINITAS, CALIFORNIA

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Public art :

*One-of-a-kind
non-commercial work,
fully and freely visible
to an undifferentiated public.*



Berlin



Georgetown,
Penang



Brooklyn



São Paulo

Some cities are known for their public art
AKA street art, roadside art, recycled art,
wall art, yard art, community art.



Copenhagen

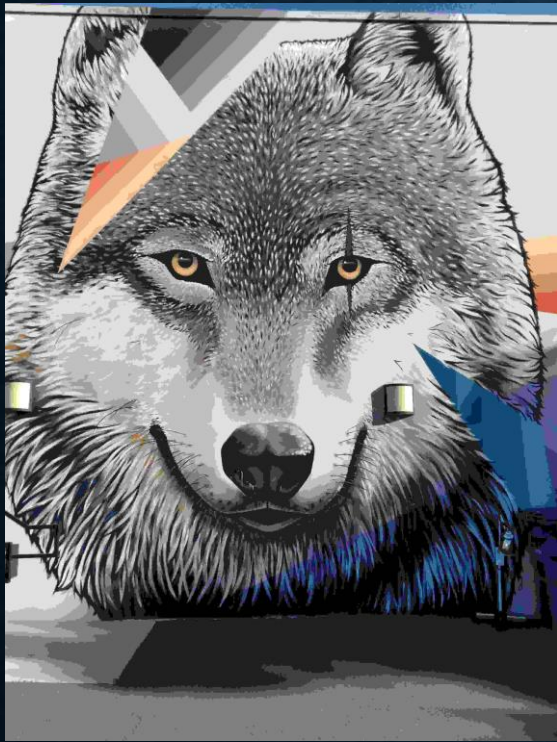


Valparaíso



Barcelona

What distinguishes Encinitas ?



1/ The extraordinary variety of our public art

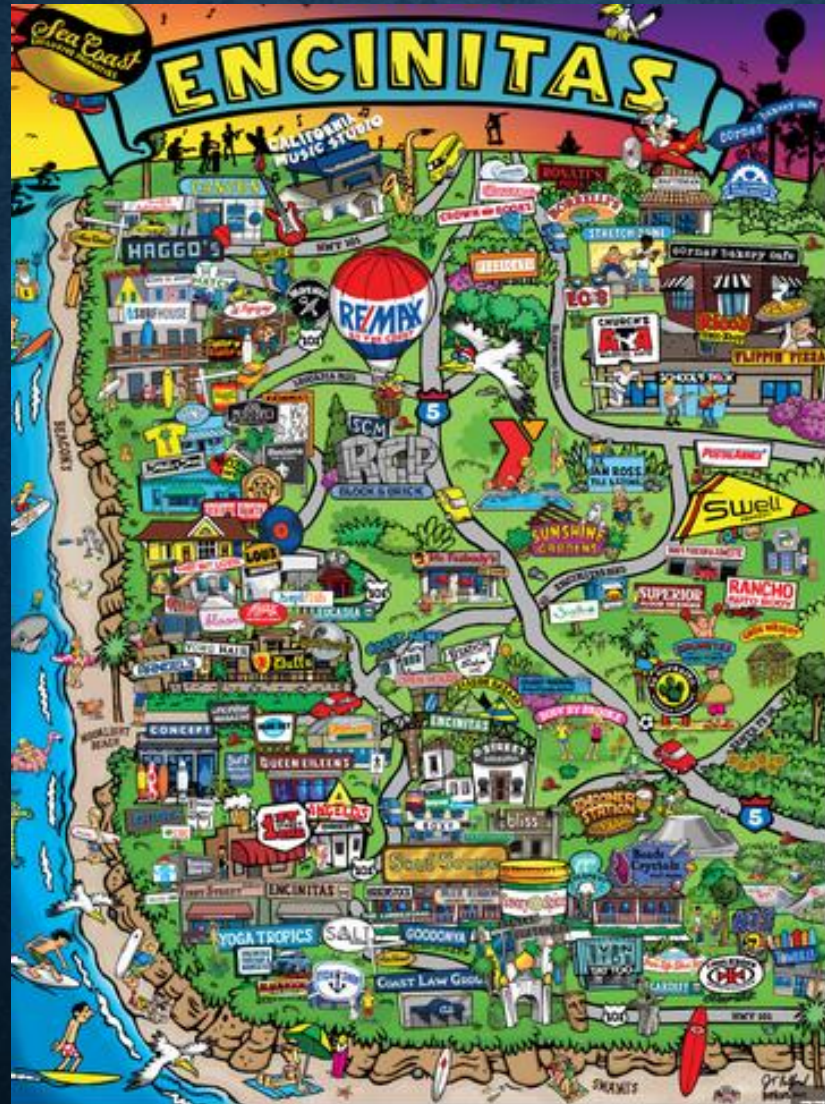
in more than forty (40) media: acrylics, aluminum, bamboo, basketry, bronze, ceramics, collage, copper, decals, driftwood, enamel, found objects, glass, hard-shell gourds, ink, iron, jewels, kinetic sculpture, labyrinths, miniatures, mosaics, murals, neon, oils, origami, pastels, photography, plastics, pumpkin carving, quartz, resin, sand sculpting, skateboard design, stained glass, steel, stencil, surfboard design, tapestry, titanium, votive shrines, watercolors, woodcarving, zen brush painting

...of which I'll give you a glimpse in the next few minutes.

2/ Our unusual constellation of rambunctious, soulful, rough-hewn, and polished work by both occasional and professional artists, most of them local.

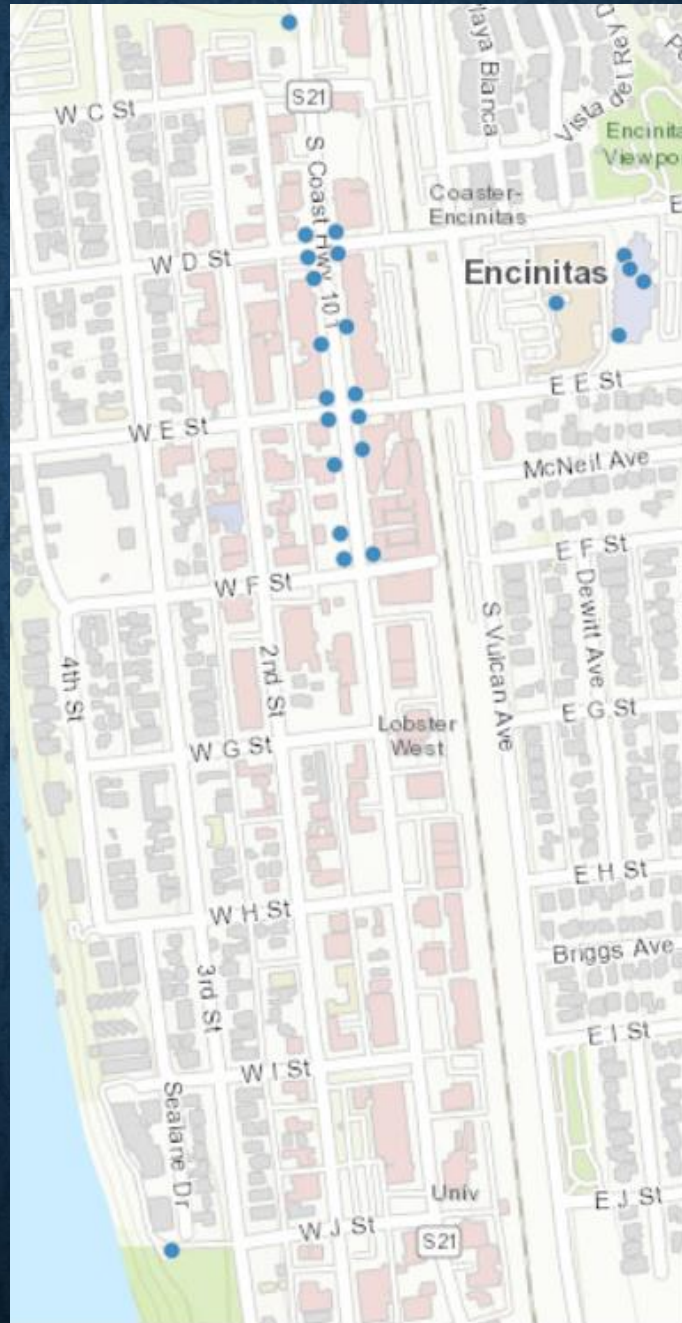


3/ the astonishing number and ubiquity of these works.



*Public art
in Encinitas
is everywhere
for the looking...*

*far more than
what is shown
to date on our only
dedicated art map.*



*Put new GIS
art map here*

*For example,
do you know where this is?*



*Or this,
more*



*(which may be
familiar)?*



CAN
YOU
EVEN

LIVE
WITHOUT
KARMA?

INSPIROBOT.ME

Or this?

*You will find
public art on
walls of stucco
or cinderblock,*



on wood siding,



on steel and aluminum;



*and on mobile home walls
turned bead, marble, brocade.*



on fences,



& other fences;



on driveway gates



*& otherworldly
gates;*



on sidewalks,



beach steps



& benches;

and
steps
down
to
under
ground
parking;



on chimneys,



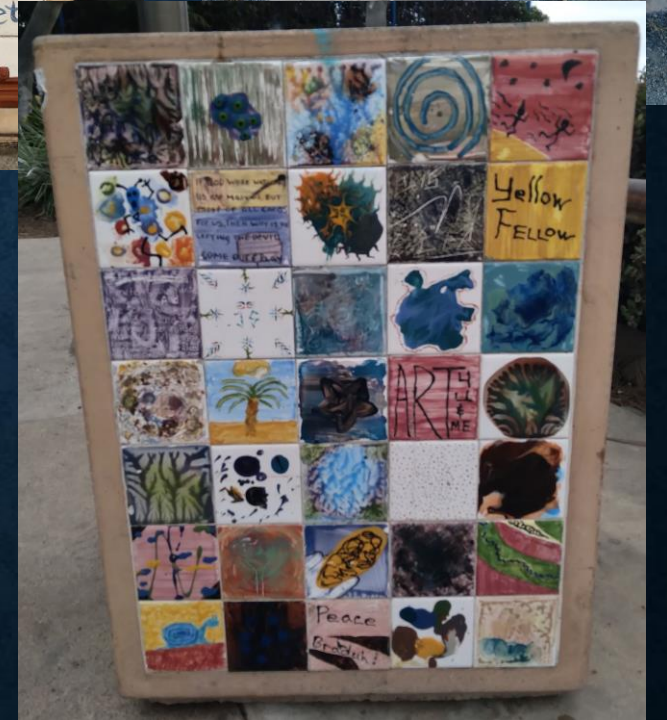


pediments,

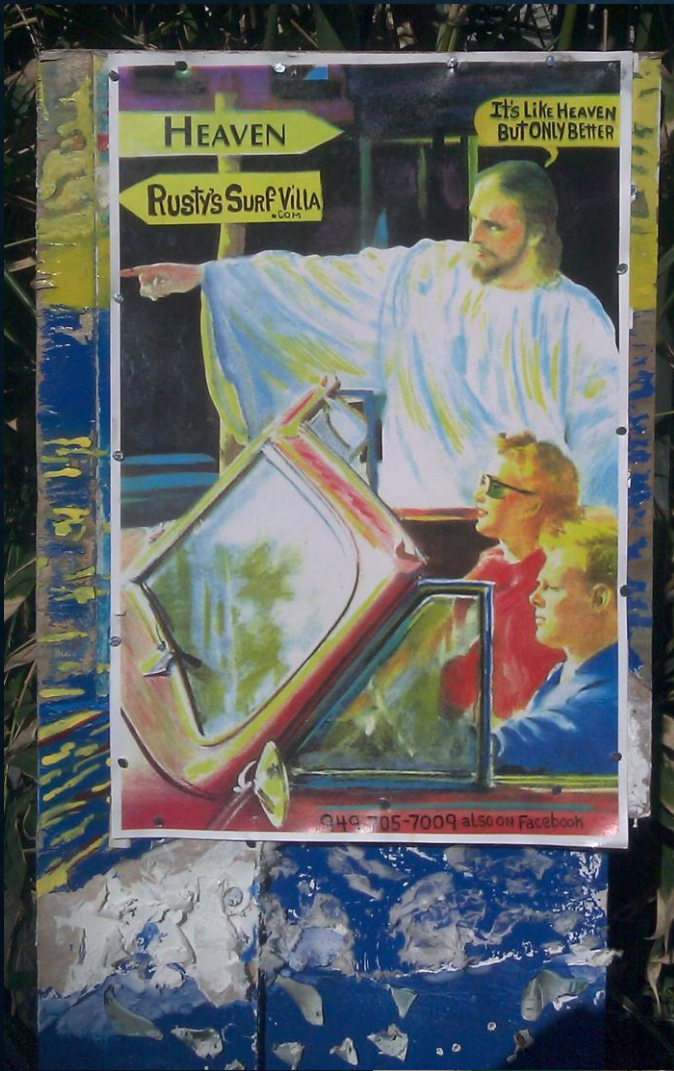
rooftops.



You will find our public art
on trash bins,



utility boxes,



*storage
containers,*



*and outside
lockers...*



*At the entry
to apartment complexes,*



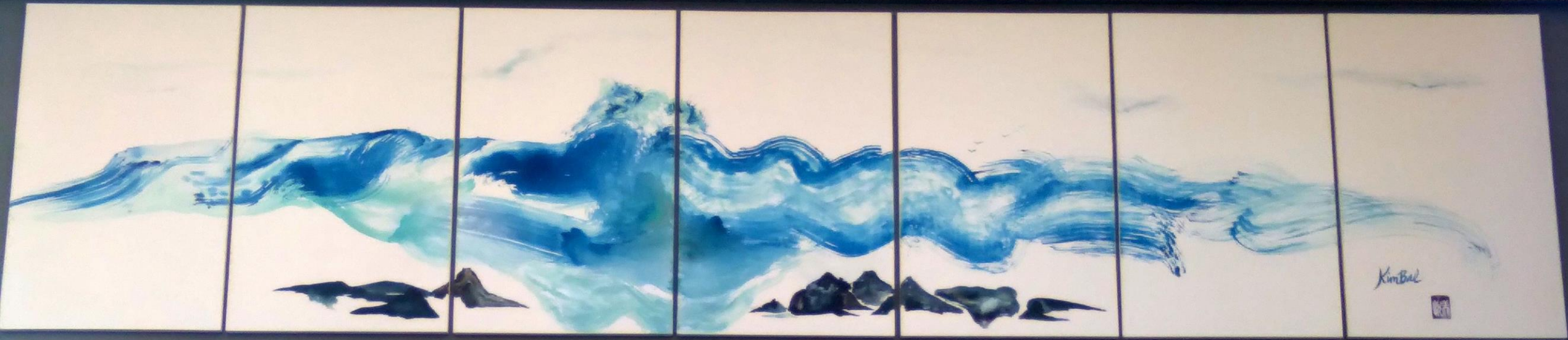
to mobile home parks,



to a hospital;



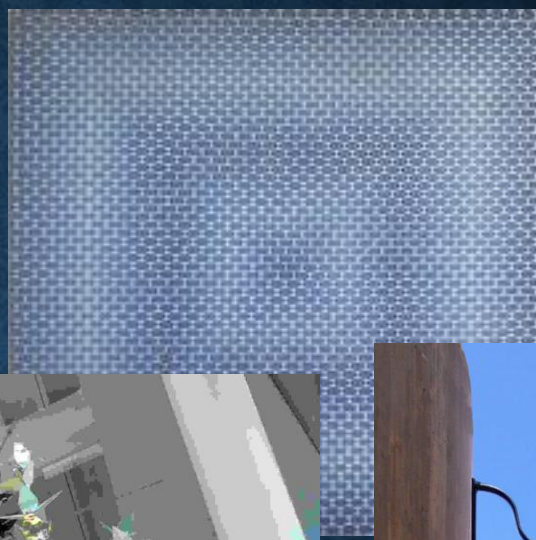
and just inside, high up on the walls of the lobby.



Inside restaurants, too,



libraries,



and schoolyards.



In the open patios of private residences



*including
the famous
rock 'n roll
house...
now gone.*



*Above an
outdoor
fireplace*



*or on the
edge of a
bluff.*



Outside, but deceptive, as trompe l'oeil images at Keith's Automotive & San Elijo Water Campus).



In an alleyway,



in the same alleyway,



another alleyway,



*and yet
another--*



or smack dab on 101

with a mosaic a few steps west →



a mural across the road →



pelicans a few steps north →



& a mosaic medallion just south →



Down a side road,



or a narrow lane.

**Leucadia Museum
of Free Art**

Take a piece/leave a piece/or both!
(please leave figurines and easels)

Follow us on IG: @MOFA_Leucadia





In parks,

in trees,



and really in trees.



At viewpoints



*&
with
viewpoints;*



Defiantly



out in the open,



*or quietly within
a courtyard,
known only
to a few.*

*You will find it
in places entirely surprising*



or entirely ephemeral....



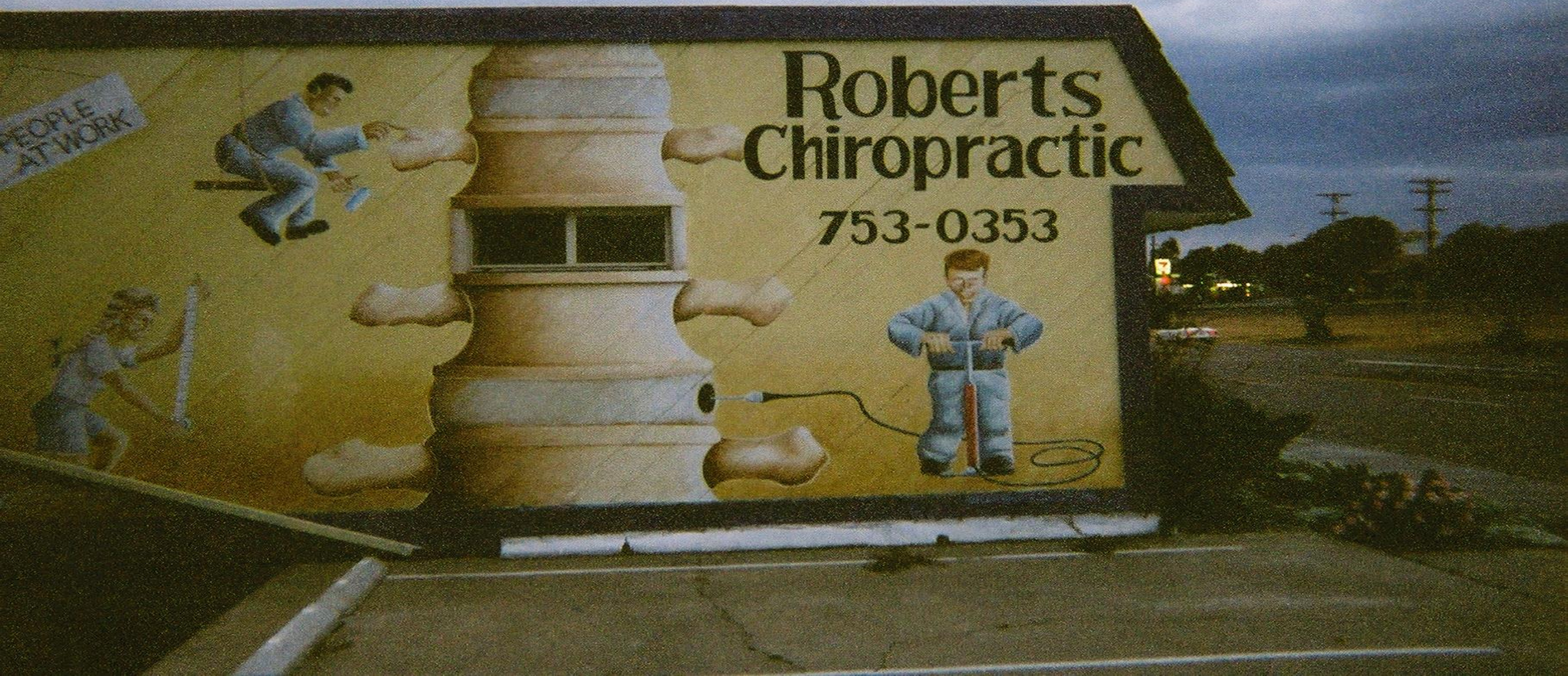
drawing light, as it were, from the very air,





*or circling around the
sun from far below.*

*I began taking photos of public art perhaps 20 years ago
on my walks around Leucadia, where I have lived since 1982.
Nothing systematic.*





In November, in my new position as archivist of the Encinitas Historical Society, I wondered who had been keeping track of the art that I had been enjoying, by foot, and by bike, for decades.

I asked around.

I asked around.

I asked around.

I asked around.

It turned out that the City had a list of just 34 works -- those it was responsible for maintaining.

But even the Three Doves in front of City Hall still go un(re)marked -- no sign of a title, artist, or history (which is substantial).



Ditto for the 28 bollards in front of City Hall.

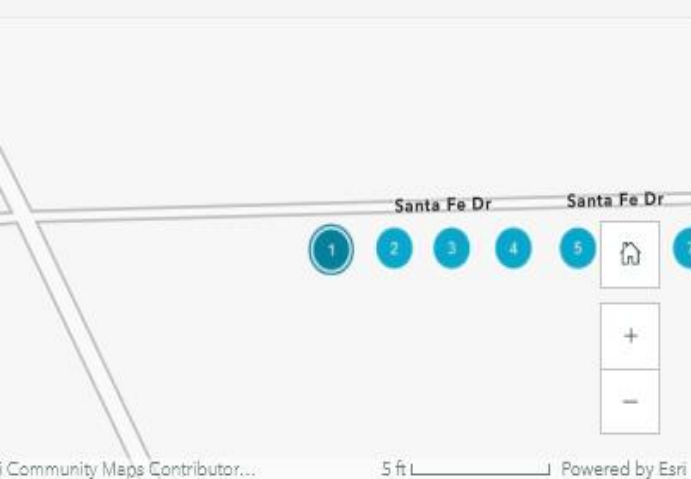


Thankfully, the Encinitas Cultural Arts Dept has created an online tour of the mosaics at the Santa Fe Underpass using ArcGIS StoryMaps



ENCINITAS UP CLOSE

53 Mosaics on the Santa Fe Drive Undercrossing
by Encinitas Artists. Through a Partnership with
the City of Encinitas and Caltrans.

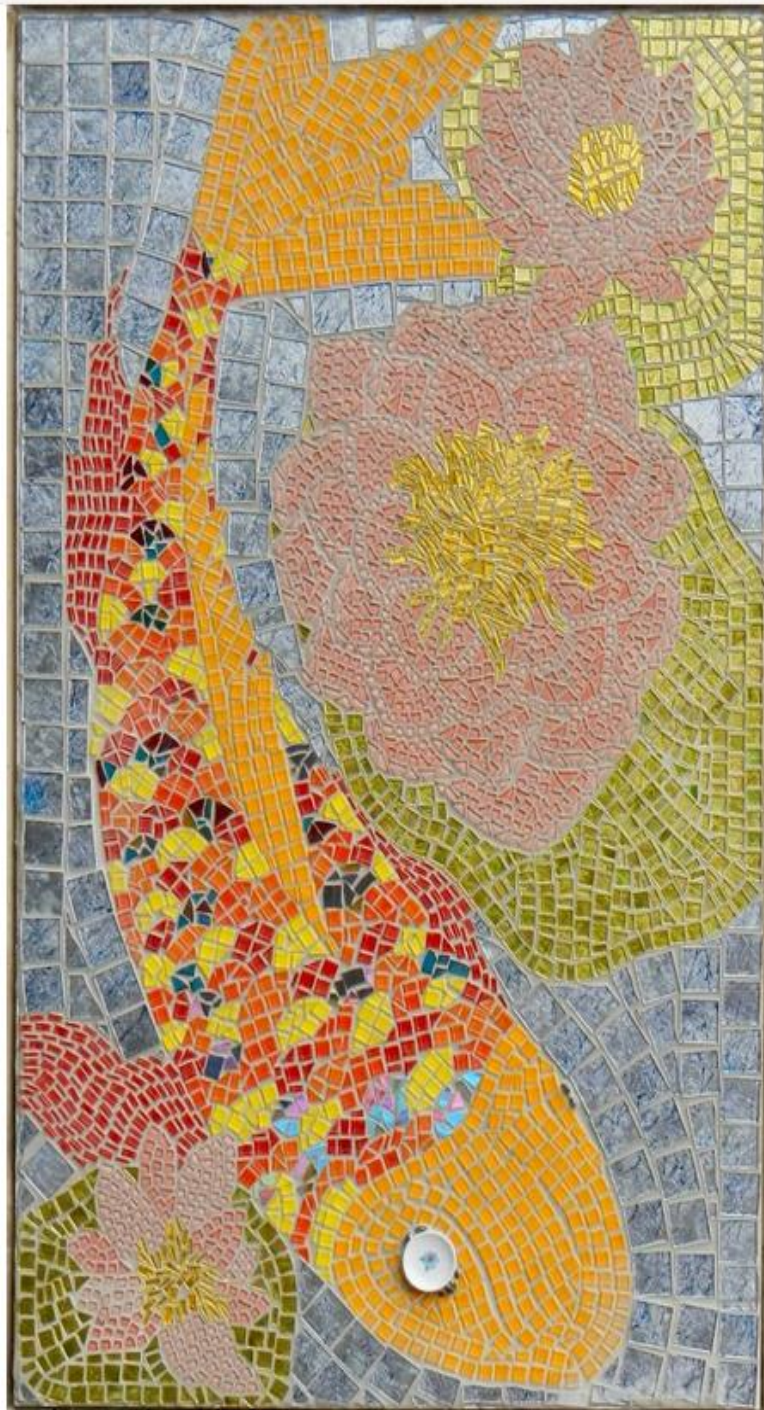


1 KOI WITH LOTUS

Ceramic, dichroic glass, glass

Lucy Stefanko

"Koi fish represent good fortune and luck while also associated with perseverance and courage. As a kid, walks through the SRF Meditation Gardens would always lead to time spent sitting and watching the koi. While they are iconic symbols of Encinitas, they are also part of many good memories from growing up in Encinitas—which is why I chose one for



About the Artist

An Encinitas native, Lucy Stefanko has been actively pursuing her artistic passion since she was seven years old with her first exhibition at the age of 13. She explores concepts around one's sense of self, memories, and inclusion using a variety of processes such as glassblowing, mosaic, printmaking, textiles, watercolor, and illustration. Lucy is a Distinguished Merit Scholar in the class of 2023 at School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

www.lucystefanko.com

and will soon be working to video-document the 17 mosaics recently installed at the El Portal pedestrian underpass. This will be central to a teaching project at the new Pacific View Arts Center....



*But there has never been
a thorough inventory
of the public art in Encinitas.*

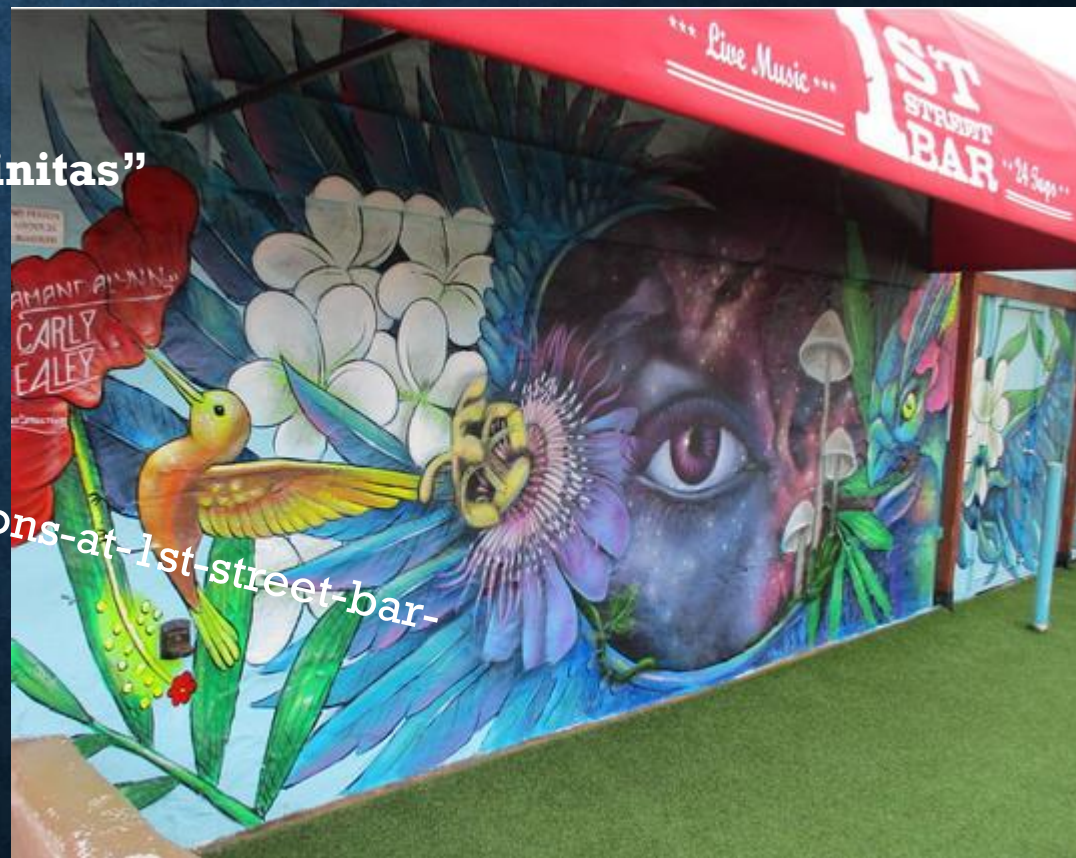
Thirty months ago or so,
Mark O'Connor and Kristine Schindler
made three art odysseys by bike down 101,
mapping 67 works in hopes of conducting
cycling tours of the public art they had found
--getting folks out of cars to explore Encinitas.



Three months ago, using the Schindler-O'Connor maps as a backbone, and the many photographic blogposts by Richard Schulte of "cool San Diego sights" in addition to my own folders of photographs, I started to draw up an inventory of all public art that I could find west of I-5.

"Mystical visions at 1st Street Bar in Encinitas"

<https://coolsandiegosights.com/2022/01/18/mystical-visions-at-1st-street-bar-in-encinitas/>



*I wanted what any obsessive archivist wants:
names of artists, titles and years of works,
medium, dimensions, sponsors, stories.*

*As an historian, I also mean to document
what's here AND what was once here,
like these frogs.*

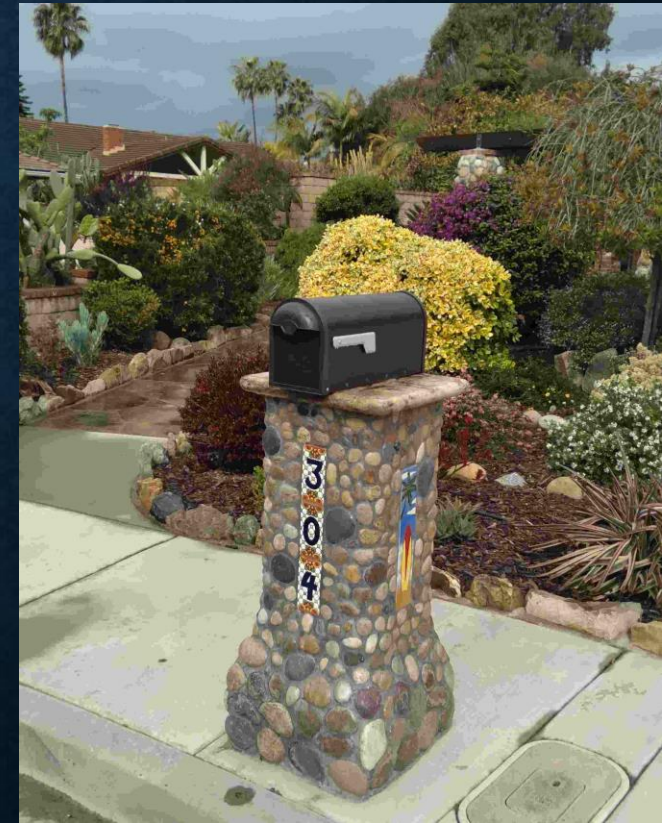


*Among the many images I have shown in the
previous 72 slides, 8 have already vanished.*

*To date, with help from artists and residents,
I have located*

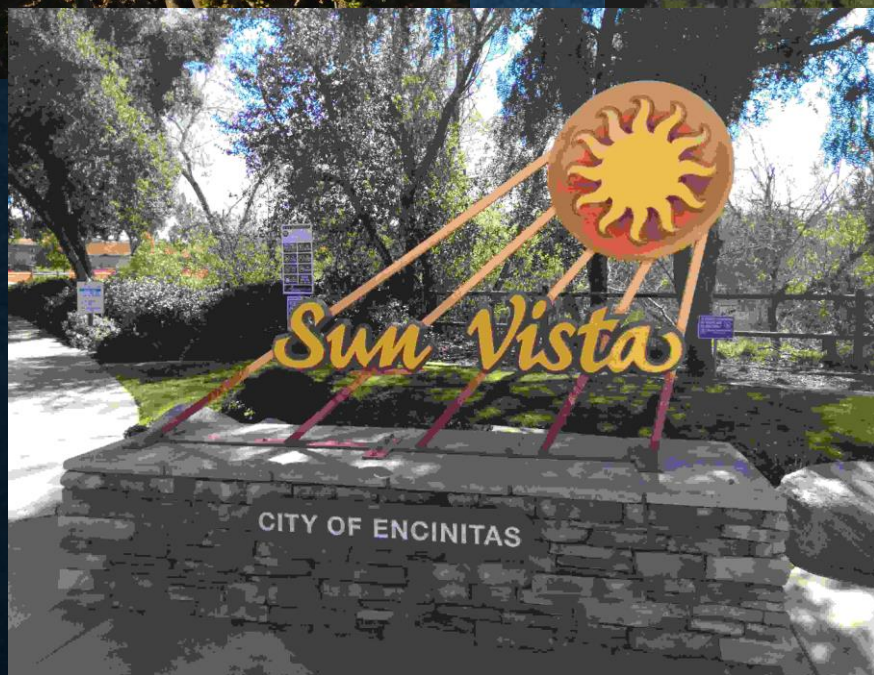
*571 works of public art west of I-5
60 of which have vanished.*

*157 works east of I-5
5 of which have vanished*



If we add to this the 140 artfully painted or crafted mailboxes E & W of I-5,

= 803 works of public art visible today



And this is not counting another 40 distinctive signs at entrances to public parks, beaches, and viewpoints.

And whatever pops up

momentarily

but with familiar frequency

such as

*cairns of precariously
balanced rocks
all along*

Cardiff

Beach?



	INVENTORY	PUBLIC ART	of	COASTAL ENCINITAS	FEB	2025
I	LEUCADIA	N Coast Hwy 101 + 1-2 blocks immediately west	from	La Costa Blvd	to	Encinitas Blvd
<i>#</i>	<i>Creator(s) / Sponsors / Dedications</i>	<i>Genre, Title, and D[escription]</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Location: address, name of/on building, side of building NESW</i>	<i>Dimensions or Vanished</i>	<i>SOURCES photos &/or artists</i>
1	California, State of	multicolor Compass Rose painted on cement deck of outlook, with circular brass plaques imbedded at cardinal points D: Each brass plaque is inset above an embedded narrative text in printed caps North: "The Bluffs," with wind-blown tree South: "Gray Whales," mother & infant East: "Lagoon," with heron West: "Pacific Ocean," with fish & kelp		2100 Carlsbad Blvd (Encinitas) / Bluff Overlook, South Ponto Beach, just north of N Hwy 100 & La Costa Ave, @ Lifeguard Towers 20 and 21		Schwartz
2	Chang, Aaron	wall-length printed photos "Onyx" + "Water Surface" D: a. ultramagnified beach ("Onyx") b. ultramagnified ocean surface ("Water Surface")	2015	2100 N Coast Hwy 101 / Alila Marea Beach Resort / lobby	14' x 5' and 12' x 5' est	https://blog.aaronchang.com/alila/
3	Cauchon, Diane	sign, "Welcome to Leucadia" D: on painted surfboard, with garland of flowers, with smaller board blank below, inscribed, "A Community of Encinitas"	2005, install 2006, renewed	2000? N Coast Hwy 101 / on open land	6' x 8'	<u>San Diego Union-Tribune</u> 12 Feb 2005, 19 Apr 2006, 28 Aug 2016
4	Anderson, Kevin	mural: [Encinitas Panorama] D: coastal landmarks & beachmarks from Cardiff through Leucadia	2000?	1760 N Coast Hwy 101 / 7-Eleven & Berry Bros Gas Station / E-facing wall at back of property	8' x 55' est	Salz; other
5		painting on canvas or wood, untitled D: wolf howling at full moon atop hill of glowing white flowers	2000s	1660 N Coast Hwy 101 / Log Cabin Hotel, Cabin #9 / on S wall near top	4' x 3'	Schwartz

WHEREFORE THIS INVENTORY ... IN PROGRESS

Why all this fuss?

- To honor artists and affirm their artistry.*
- To exult in a community that welcomes art of all kinds all around us.*
- To establish an historical record so comprehensive that public art is understood as vital to the long-term identity of Encinitas.*

*We have now a fine opportunity to make public art
as emblematic of Encinitas*

as its surfers and surf breaks,

its skateboarders and skate parks,

its SRF and Botanic Gardens,

its beach viewpoints and lagoon trails.



So long as we

Identify and keep track of public art from now on;

Digitally map and index that art;

Establish public art tours by foot, bike; bus; car;

*Assess the historical impact of the work of artists
and the public presence of their art in Encinitas.*

*That is the IDEA behind this project
as undertaken by the Encinitas Historical Society.*

Why am I hopeful that this IDEA can work?

→ The numbers: ~800 works of public art in 19 sq. miles.

→ The degree of community engagement: most of these works have been created and maintained by residents themselves.

→ The respect: little or no vandalism; restoration programs

→ The welcome from homeowners, shopkeepers, artists.

→ The grand success of Dave Dean's rock art garden

which began ten years ago when he started to clear away garbage and weeds from an empty lot on the side of the road to Moonlight Beach & is now contoured with paths, plants, plaques, sculptures, and rocks of all shapes and sizes painted by people of all ages from across San Diego and the world.

The garden is still growing.



*The point of this PowerPoint is to make clear
the powerful presence of public art in Encinitas.*

*You have had a glimpse
of an eighth of what there is to see.*

*We need not invent or revive a world of art
that reflects and invigorates our community.*

It is already here.

Questions?

