

Mural #2: Hermosa “Splash” Circa 1909

Location: 140 Pier Avenue, South-West Corner at Manhattan Avenue



ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Chris Coakley

Coakley is a native Californian raised in the Los Angeles area and has been living in Hermosa Beach since 1978. He graduated from UCLA with a degree in Economics, while still managing to continue his art education taking drawing and painting classes. He went back to UCLA in later years to take Photography, Interior Design, and Computer Graphics. Since 1969 he has worked in the Movie business and the Entertainment industry. His main passion is for the large scale painted backgrounds, or murals that wrap around the sets to complete the filming environment. Through the years, he has been able to ply his craft at every major studio in Hollywood, and including every genre such as live stage, commercials, touring rock shows, television, and music videos. Along with his career in the movie business Chris branched into the Theme Park industry. There he applied his knowledge of movie tricks to paint the large murals for many of the shows at Disneyland, Universal, and Six Flags. He began to work closely with the design teams to develop the color schemes, and the character of the show. To do this, he would paint the models and produce the concept art so that others involved in the productions could see what they were going to build. Largely because of this experience Chris started Scenex in 1987, and for the next twenty years he was busy providing a full range of art services to the Entertainment industry. He has contributed to major projects in France, Japan, and Korea, and continues to visit those resorts from time to time as a consultant. Chris's mission going forward is to develop the potential for creating visual impact using the skills he has honed from the Entertainment industry.

ABOUT THE MURAL:

The mural was painted by Hermosa Beach muralist, Chris Coakley. It was dedicated in January 2012. The scene looks southeast from the point of view of the Pacific Ocean off 16th St. toward

the Hermosa Beach Pier. The mural shows a modern young woman (modeled by the artist's daughter) tossing a can of paint onto a wall, which then fans out to become a picture of Hermosa Beach circa 1909. Based on early photographs provided by the Hermosa Beach Historical Society, all of the structures shown are as they were in that period. Seen in the mural are from right to left; Redondo Beach Power Plant, which provided power for the Red Car line; Berth Hotel (now part of the Sea Sprite Hotel); Hermosa Pier, built in 1904; Morse & Morse grocery and lumber store; Red Car Depot, early home of Ralph Matteson, an early builder and businessman whose last house still stands on Manhattan Avenue; Hill House, reportedly the first house built in Hermosa Beach, on Pier Avenue above Monterey; Vetter Windmill, used to water Vetter's flower gardens located at 16th and Ardmore. It has been reconstructed and moved to the park at PCH and Aviation Blvd. It still turns, but it doesn't pump water.; Hermosa's first church, St. Cross Episcopal on Monterey Blvd., and a Red Car Trolley that whisked people from Los Angeles to Hermosa Beach to enjoy the sun, sand and surf.