

about the artist . . .



Ken Auster

You cannot separate Ken Auster, the surfer, from Ken Auster, the artist. For it was in his formative years in Long Beach, California, where Ken grew up with his feet deeply planted in the surfing culture, that he first learned to express his art talent. Caught up in the ground swell of the 1960s surfing culture, Ken not only plunged into the sport of surfing but into the art and graphics of surfing as well.

While working his way towards a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree from Long Beach State University, Ken built one of the world's most prominent silkscreen and T-shirt companies, creating now-legendary surfing art that adorned surfers from Belmont Shores to Hawaii to Mexico. His surfing images, silk-screened as original prints on paper, became the "fine art" of this beach culture, and today, represent the classic surf art of the past century.

At the heart of Ken's work was always the awareness of the fine line between man-made and nature. In the mid-1990s, Ken moved to a more serious art level - involving him with the immediacy of oil paints as opposed to the process-burdened medium of printmaking. Throwing himself into the splendour of "plain air" (on location) painting, Ken discovered the richness and broad colors of the city life he long avoided. He rejoiced in this newfound ability to paint anything and everything - cafes, train stations, airports, street scenes, and of course, never far away, was the beach, his first love.

In a relatively short time since this transition to plain air painting, Ken Auster moved to the forefront of American contemporary impressionists. He consistently walked away with gold medals and first place awards at juried exhibits. His work is collected by some of the most respected galleries and patrons.

Renowned for his classic surf art, Ken Auster painted a bold, dynamically changing world, whether it was London, Venice (Italy), San Francisco, Carmel, Napa Valley, or Baja, Mexico. He shared with us the uncomplicated but moving stories on canvas - simply and effectively, documenting the ordinary in an unordinary manner.

Ken Auster passed away in 2016 leaving a legacy of his amazing artwork.

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