

Jake Early: Lasting Impressions

By Devon Pettengill / CASA

NOSTALGIA, fond childhood memories, and hometown pride are all to be found in the artwork of Jake Early, whose serigraph prints will be on display at Santa Barbara Frame Shop & Gallery from June 4th to June 30th. There will be an artist's reception on 1st Thursday, June 4th, from 5pm to 7pm.

"Places are important to me, and having pride of place is important to me," shared Early. "The point is to try to find a way to bring attention to these places and things that we pass by all the time and maybe don't notice. All those things are deserving of attention."

Most of the places that Early commemorates in his art are iconic locales around California, particularly in Chico and Santa Barbara, which he makes all the more iconic with his bold and colorful prints.

Each print is created by hand, starting with a drawing and adding each color of ink one by one. He uses a printing press in his studio in Chico that he designed and built himself.

"Silk screening, especially on paper, is kind of a dying art," Early shared. "I like the aesthetics of it and I enjoy the physical process. I'll spend just as much time printing a piece as I spend drawing it."



Jake Early



San Luis Obispo, 20 x 26 in, 9 color serigraph, by Jake Early

Early grew up in Chico, California and attended Chico State's graphic design program. While in college, he worked in a screen printing shop, where he gained the silk screen skills that he now uses to create his artwork.

After a screen printing shop that he owned burned down a few years ago, Early began a full-time career as a graphic designer. Early continued to experiment with printmaking in his spare time, and eventually managed

to leave his design job to fully engage in his artistic pursuits.

"I've always thought of graphic design as doing art for someone else, and fine art is doing art for yourself, and if other people like it, great," shared Early.

It is not uncommon to find pink skies or a purple sea in Early's work, and it is his unconventional color choices that help make his work stand out. Also unusual is Early's choice of metallic inks, which allow each piece to interact with its environment as the light hits it.

Santa Barbarans are likely to find at least one if not many images in Early's show at Santa Barbara Frame Shop that will stir up personal

associations and memories, which is just what Early's work is intended to do. The show features prints from his Santa Barbara Landmark series



Hope Ranch, 15 x 24 in, 4 color serigraph, by Jake Early

and Highway 1 series, including bold images of the Arlington Theater and the Golden Gate Bridge.

"A lot of cities in the country are exactly the same. There isn't that local charm or local feeling," shared Early. "Sadly I think it's rare that places have their own unique buildings and unique places. Santa Barbara is great for that."



Santa Barbara Frame Shop & Gallery, located at 1324 State St, is open Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm. For more information, call 963-2332. To see more of Early's work, visit www.jakeearly.com.