

A Long and Winding Road:

Jake Early Explores The Coast at Santa Barbara Frame Shop & Gallery

By ANDRIA WATSON / CASA

A S FAR BACK AS JAKE EARLY CAN REMEMBER, he's always had a pencil in his hand and an idea in his head. With his show at the newly located Santa Barbara Frame Shop and Gallery,



Jake Early

running through April 2nd, Early's work continues to capture and reflect natural light.

"Most of my skills are as an illustrator. In college I was determined to pursue a career in something other than art, but I quickly learned

there was nothing I enjoyed more," Early explained.

After attending Chico State University, as well as The School of Arts in Seville, Spain, Early decided to focus on graphic design using metallic inks created by mixing powdered metals into a clear ink base.

"I literally work with liquid metals. I love the way it reflects the light differently than any other medium, and the appearance continues to change throughout the day," he added.

In his exhibit at Santa Barbara Frame Shop and Gallery, viewers will find a

collection of Santa Barbara landmark locations, depicting scenes of life in the community, as well as images from the Highway 1 installation.

"I think the role of art in the community is necessary. It's an important thing to do and to see. My work speaks to the pride that people have about their hometown. To be creative and get out there, no matter what the form may be, can enrich anyone's life."

Early describes his work as a mix



17 Mile Drive by Jake Early

between fine art and graphic design, which he attributes to his training at school. With his installment of Highway 1, a documentation of artwork from his travels from Oregon to Mexico, Early tries to make the viewer feel like they're right alongside of him.

"I'd rather give my viewers a feeling or personal message than to just take a photograph," he shared. "I use imagery to convey meaning."

While he was growing up, Early was impressed by the 1960's silk-screens of a nun, Corita Kent, who taught at his mother's and aunt's former Catholic school. According to Early, Kent's work was reminiscent of commercialism, and had designs similar to the Wonderbread logo. He was also inspired by European Travel posters and was exposed to Works Process Administration artwork like *Rosie the Riveter*.

Born in Los Angeles, Early's parents had plans to move to San Luis Obispo, but later ended up settling in Chico. He had a friend who lived in Santa Barbara that introduced him to his wife, which prompted his move south.

"Nothing beats getting to know people



Bixby Bridge by Jake Early

that enjoy my work. When a person is compelled to tell me how a piece has inspired them, it makes my job even more rewarding," Early explained. "Just the physical process of creating establishes a connection between myself and the subject matter."

Santa Barbara Frame Shop and Gallery is located at 1324 State St and is open Mo-Sa, 10-6pm.