



Channing Peake drawing at Rancho Jabali.

Photo: Courtesy the Peake Estate

CHANNING PEAKE

1910–1989

Channing Peake came to Santa Barbara to attend the Santa Barbara School of the Arts, after attending the Oakland School of Arts and Crafts on a scholarship.

In the mid-1930s, Peake went to Mexico to study mural painting, and worked with Diego Rivera on a mural at the National Palace in Mexico City. Later, he went to New York and studied fresco painting with Rico Lebrun at the Art Students League, and worked with Lewis Rubenstein on a mural in the Germanic Museum at Harvard, he also collaborated with Lebrun on a WPA-sponsored mural at Penn Station. Upon

his return to Santa Barbara, Peake had studios at the Meridian Court and at 215 W. Canon Perdido Street, in what would become the Alhecama Arts Complex. He then moved to the Santa Ynez Valley, where he and his wife, Katy, owned and operated a working cattle and Quarter Horse ranch, a setting reflected in the paintings of landscapes, farm machinery, horses and cattle he produced there over 20 years. During this fruitful period, Peake matured in his mastery as a draftsman and colorist. He also created unique sculptures using farm implements.

Channing's first one-man show was at the Frank Perls Gallery in Beverly Hills. He was subsequently shown in galleries throughout the United States and Europe, including Gallery Zak in Rome, Knoedler's in Paris, Jacque Seligmann Gallery in New York, and the Willard Gallery in New York. His museum exhibitions include: the California Palace of the Legion of Honor and the M.H. De Young Museum, San Francisco; Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh; Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Everson Museum of Art, New York; Portland Museum, Oregon; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; San Diego Museum of Art; Seattle Museum of Art; and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

Channing Peake was a founding member of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. In the late 1950s he and Howard Warshaw painted a mural which is still on view in the Santa Barbara Public Library. His first exhibition, while still an art student, was in the Faulkner Gallery of the Public Library. He painted a mural in the Biltmore Hotel in 1979, and he created another, dedicated in 1984, in the Gold Room of El Paseo.

Channing was a member of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission from 1979 to 1989. Following his death in 1989, the Arts Commission and the Board of Supervisors dedicated this exhibition space as the Channing Peake Gallery.

In addition to his murals in the County Courthouse and the Public Library, each within a block of this space, one of his paintings is on display on the fourth floor of this building.

CHANNING
Peake
GALLERY

Exhibitions in the Channing Peake Gallery are organized by the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and its County Art in Public Places (CAPP) committee. For information please call 805.568-3990.