

San Pedro Art Association

PRESS RELEASE

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Jay Meuser 1911-1963

Currently San Pedro has a well established and growing art community and San Pedro Art Association (SPAA) has been a part of that community for the past 75 years and continues to be a organization that fosters and promotes the arts in San Pedro.

SPAA has proposed that there be recognition of artists who have made an impact in the arts and specifically San Pedro. Prolific painter Jay Meuser, who was a member and past president of SPAA, qualifies as one of those artists earning recognition within San Pedro, and specifically downtown in the heart of the art scene. It is also of significance that 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of his birth.

An outdoor plaque of recognition for Jay Meuser has been created and will be set in a key downtown location. The site of the plaque has been donated by Linda Jackson and her brother Charles Barsam, owners of 343 W. 7th Street, on a wall situated between two galleries and connected to a long series of galleries on 7th Street. This will serve as an interesting tribute read by visitors as well as something San Pedro can be proud of.

Some of Jay Meuser's accomplishments include:

- Several of his works were donated and hung in prominent places in San Pedro including Fort MacArthur, Dana Junior High School and various religious institutions as well as surrounding cities including Marymount College and the Long Beach Museum of Art.
- Countless first place awards and purchase prizes in oil painting and watercolor. Many of these awards were won in San Pedro exhibits.
- President of the SPAA in 1953
- Oversaw three San Pedro Galleries
- He ran 30 exhibits during his time as President
- 557 works of art shown by artists at San Pedro exhibits during his term
- He designed, renovated and constructed improvements at the premises at 820 S. Beacon Street, used as a permanent art gallery for the San Pedro Art Association. It was the first permanent gallery for the association.
- He was responsible for monthly Art Lectures and Demonstrations by visiting contemporary artists as well as films shown to the community.
- Worked in the Terminal Island Naval Shipyard as a sheet metal worker. He wrote a column for the union's newspaper and was frequently commissioned to paint portraits of high ranking Navy officials.

Jay Meuser's biography is located at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_Meuser. From vaudevillian, to police chief, to union worker at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, to professional artist in San Pedro. An interesting individual with a very interesting life.

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