

LOST MISSION WATERCOLORS - FOUND!

Now on Exhibit in Santa Barbara

At the time, the lone rider made his way along the abandoned “King’s Highway” from San Diego to Sonoma visiting each of the 21 Mission locations. An order to disband the Missions had been issued in 1813 and by 1838, the Missions were completely desecularized. Many of the properties were used for alternative purposes or were left to ruin. Edwin Deakin, noted early California artist, made his way to each site, by horseback.

On arrival at each site, he would have set up camp and proceeded to take out his sketch pad and the tools of his trade: paper, pencils, brushes, watercolors and perhaps, oils. Where the buildings were in partial ruin, he surmised the once grand structures. Where a church was completely destroyed, he found old photos or worked from earlier

Time: May, 1897

Place: The lost trail of Padre Serra - El Camino Real

Transportation: A rugged, fully loaded pack mule

Lone Figure: Edwin Deakin (1838-1923) - seasoned painter of the California Missions

Project: Paint all 21 California Missions



paintings. Eventually, he had enough information to return to his studio in San Francisco and complete two major canvases for each of the 21 early buildings. It took two years to complete the project. The custom of the day was to 1) make drawings from multiple perspectives, 2) do some watercolor sketches and 3) sometimes do small oil studies. Today, more than 100 years later, no one knows if he did preparatory sketches in oil - if so they are lost. It is thought

that Deakin completed the major Mission canvases entirely in the studio.

For years historians had known that in addition to the two oils Deakin painted of each Mission, he had also completed a lone watercolor of each church. It is possible that these watercolors were completed in the field as final studies for the oils. However, the watercolors have been missing for the better part of 100 years. They have never been exhibited. Many historians simply thought they were lost.

In the last few years, scholars became aware that they had survived. Sullivan Goss - An American Gallery, through a series of wonderful accidents, and the suggestion of famed San Francisco art dealer, Alfred Harrison, located the original artworks in the hands of knowledgeable and astute collectors in the Bay Area.

As it turns out an earlier Santa Barbaran, Harold Willoughby (1892-1989) was responsible for finding and preserving them. For the first time ever, they will be displayed at Sullivan Goss from March - June along with the incredible story of their survival.

GALLERIES



Danny Lyon Photographs, *Llanito*, New Mexico 1970
Santa Barbara Museum of Art

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

1130 State St., 963-4364, www.sbma.net

A remarkable permanent collection featuring ancient art: 19th C, American, French & English, 20th C, European, North American & Latin American, as well as a vast collection of works on paper and highly praised Asian art. Showing thru May 26th, *Myth & Materiality: Latin American Art from the Permanent Collection, 1930-1990*. This exhibition examines the multifaceted art produced in Latin America during this dynamic 60-year period. *This World is Not My Home: Danny Lyon Photographs* exhibit shows thru June 2nd featuring more than 50 photographs & photographic montages, drawn from the artist's studio & the Menil collection & spanning the period 1962 to the present. Also, visit the children's gallery, café & gift store. Open Tue-Sun, 11am-5pm.

SULLIVAN GOSS - An American Gallery

7 East Anapamu St., 730-1460, sullivangoss.com

Sullivan Goss has represented the work of American artists for 25 years. With an inventory of over 3,000 works, including paintings, watercolors, drawings, prints & sculptures, Sullivan Goss is the primary West Coast gallery positioned to help build private & public collections of important American art. With over 20 exhibitions each year, including solo shows for contemporary arts & curated historical exhibitions, Sullivan Goss is currently featuring the works of Edwin Deakin (1838-1923), Painter of the California Missions. With over 21 Franciscan Missions strung along the historic El Camino, this road made by the Franciscan Padres in the establishment of the Missions spans nearly 1,000 miles north & south on the California coastline. Plan on dining before or after your viewing at the Arts & Letters Café located directly in back of the main Gallery.