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Photo Essay: Murals of Humboldt

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MURALS OF HUMBOLDT

ryan sendejas



An abandoned barn in Samoa off Vance Avenue and New Navy Base Road. Location is used for murals by graffiti artists.

A sense of place is central to the human experience. Perception of place is unique for each individual. Each of us ascribes meaning to places and internalize their meanings into our social fabric. In turn, we also personalize communal places based on our cultural values, ownership, location, and position with social hierarchies.

When we modify of place it causes shifts of perception, sometimes tectonic, in society and the physical environment. Public art, both sanctioned

and unsanctioned, is an intersectional medium to shape place since art is the physical manifestation of human emotion, creativity, and experience.

In this photo essay, I explore the Humboldt as a community through its publicly displayed art murals, both legally and non-legally sanctioned. I traverse under bridges, behind warehouses, abandoned buildings, and alleyways to capture the creativity of local artists' works, hoping of capturing a diverse pallet of social color and textures.

MURALS OF HUMBOLDT



Graffiti street art on an abandoned millyard warehouse in Manila.

Eureka Live Art Walls at the Halvorsen Park. This project seeks to empower local artists and community members by giving space and the opportunity to showcase their creativity.



MURALS OF HUMBOLDT



Eureka Street Art Festival is a week-long community event that celebrates and promotes creativity in the Humboldt community. Throughout the week local and visiting artists create extravagant murals on buildings and walls in designated areas in the city of Eureka. The public is invited to a block party event each summer.

Above: The mural "Sun • Ram • Anasyrma" by Sofia Amezcua is located on the Ink People Center for the Arts building in Eureka. Amezcua describes her work as "powerful and intimate expressions of femininity that delve beneath the surface to encourage and validate deep emotionality and the strength in vulnerability."

Right: The mural "Diva Grace" by local artist Blake Reagan is located at the Speakeasy Bar in Eureka. Reagan has numerous murals throughout the community, showcasing his unique "electric art deco" style.



RYAN SENDEJAS graduated from HSU with a BA in Environmental Studies (2019). His passion for photography stemmed from his experience Art and Place (ART 395), a course taught by Dr. Nicole Jean Hill, in which students studied geographic locations through lens-based art. On his social media page, you will find his indulgence of travel experiences of travels, portraits, and photojournalism. Follow Sendejas at SenShutter.