

Art Mortimer **Biography**

Art Mortimer was born in Long Beach, California, and is a graduate of Occidental College in Eagle Rock, California. He moved to Santa Monica in 1965 and has been working as a freelance artist since 1969. He painted his first mural in 1971, on the side of the house he was living in, at the beach in Santa Monica. Also in 1971 he worked with artist/film maker Terry Gilliam in London on a series of short animated films that became part of a Mary Feldman television series shown in the USA. He lived and worked at the beach in Santa Monica until December, 2002, and now lives in West Los Angeles.

Since 1971 he has painted over 100 murals, including major public murals in Claremont CA, Billings MT, 29 Palms CA, Lompoc CA, Susanville CA and many Southern California communities. Among many other murals, he has painted a 300 ft. long 'History of Long Beach' mural in that California beach city (2003); a 4-story high mural in downtown Santa Monica about the beach, commissioned by the Milken Family Foundation (1998); a mural on Fairfax Ave. in Los Angeles depicting the history of the Jewish community in Los Angeles (1985); one on the side of Brandelli's Brig bar on Abbot Kinney Blvd. in Venice (1973); a large piece in the new corporate headquarters of Rockwell International in Seal Beach CA (1992); a mural on the history of Century City in the lobby of a high-rise office building in Century City (1991); a large mural on the side of Bloomingdale's department store in New York City for the State of California depicting the various regions of California (1989); and many private commissions.

His plein air and studio paintings, depicting mostly Southern California urban and semi-urban landscapes, are an expression of his interest in the exploration of the world we inhabit in our everyday lives, particularly the intersection between the man-made and the natural world.

Considered one of the originators of the mural movement in Los Angeles, his mural work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and photographic collections, as well as in newspapers, magazines, books, television and films all across the United States and in many countries around the world. He was honored as Artist of the Year in 2004 by the City of Long Beach. Several of his murals have also won community beautification awards. The April, 2009, issue of Southwest Art Magazine featured a 6-page article on his murals and paintings. He was a featured artist in the book "Sketchbook Confidential" published by North Light Books in 2010, and wrote a 3-page article in November, 2010 issue of The Artist's Magazine.

He is currently teaching Mural Painting at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. He has also been a part-time faculty member at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles where he has taught Landscape Painting, Mural Painting, and Plein Air Painting, as well as Life Painting and Painting I and II. He has also taught classes and workshops on mural painting in a variety of schools and communities.

He is a member of the board of directors of the California Public Art and Mural Society, and is also a member of the National Society of Mural Painters and the California Art Club.