

The choice of Carmel-by-the-Sea must have been obvious to the painter. He had developed a fondness for the charming town on childhood vacations. In the late 1960s, Earle had a series of one-man exhibitions at the Zantman Art Galleries and Galeria Americana in Carmel. He eventually moved here with his wife, Joan, in 1988. It was in this intimate art community of Carmel-by-the-Sea that Earle chose to settle down and be at home for the remainder of his life. The unmistakable Carmel fog and rugged Big Sur coastline became signature subjects for many of Earle's later works.

The Monterey Bay area was close to Earle's creative heart for the better part of his life and inspired his imagination most deeply during his final decades. The artist's lifelong passion for natural forms made the perfect fit with the Carmel region's moody weather and bewitching geography. Fog, waves, meadows, windswept trees—all found graphic inflection by the artist who had imagined the myth-infused setting of *Sleeping Beauty*. "For seventy years," Earle wrote in 1996, "I've painted paintings, and I'm constantly and everlastingly overwhelmed at the stupendous infinity of Nature. Wherever I turn and look, there I see creation. Art is creating . . . Art is the search for truth."

Eyvind Earle established Eyvind Earle Publishing LLC to continue his legacy by organizing exhibitions and shows in galleries and museum worldwide. Since Earle's passing on July 20, 2000, at the age of eighty-four, many of his rarely seen works—a substantial body of watercolors, drawings, paintings, and sculptures—have been collected by Earle Publishing, which creates limited-edition serigraphs from Earle paintings owned by private collectors as well as from Joan Earle's collections. Since 1991, Gallery 21 in Carmel has exhibited the largest collection of Eyvind Earle's artwork anywhere in the world.

Happy Endings

Eyvind Earle's instincts were prophetic. It turned out that the fairy-tale castle I'd visited as a girl was to be adopted by Walt Disney Pictures as the inspiration for its own fairy-tale Disney logo as well as its *Sleeping Beauty* replica castles in Disneyland parks across the country. With his flawless eye, Earle had chosen well when he painted those first designs for the animated landmark. The shimmering castle

motif was key to the film's enduring legacy. The imagery designed by Earle continues to enjoy a mythic existence wherever fairy tales are celebrated.

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EYVIND EARLE

Surf, Wind, and Fog, 1993
Oil on canvas, 48 x 36 in



COURTESY GALLERY 21