

QUIVERS & WHEELS

DREW BROPHY

By Paul Ensyde
Photos: Dan Krauss

PAINTED ROAD TRIPS: ADVENTURES IN THE DREAM MACHINE

Drew Brophy

SAN CLEMENTE, CA

ARTIST, ADVENTURE SEEKER, ROAD WARRIOR

You've seen his artwork all over Southern California's coast and even in the corporate world, where his cool vibe is in high demand. When he's not painting or riding, he's on the road. As long as he has a tank of gas, Drew Brophy will travel.

This 2008 Ford E150 van is the art vehicle centerpiece in the town of San Clemente. If you live in any of the neighboring towns, you've seen him out there creating his next project in the Dream Machine.

"We passed the 150,000-mile mark this past summer, and it's still running great. I had a tune-up in the spring and the guy said the plugs were destroyed; I need new tires again too. This will be my fourth set. With maintenance and a little love, it will make it another 150,000."





“I ride a full range of boards, including a 12’6” Rivi Coastal Cruiser shaped by Ron House.”

Tell us about the art on the vehicle.

“It was all white and boring, so I spray-painted it to give it personality. We call it the Dream Machine. In 2009 my family and I had an adventure in New Zealand where we rented an Escape Campervan, which was painted amazing. We drove it for months all around the country, SUPing everywhere we went. I ended up befriendng the owner and we helped him bring his vehicle to America, and I started painting them here. That was the inspiration for the Dream Machine, a total adventure van. We added an Aluminess roof rack and we headed out on the road.”

“We travel as a family, always on an adventure for work or



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“My San Clemente Pier surf break is my 8’2” stock Riviera El Tigre, shaped by Taylor Rambo. The Black’s [Beach] surf break is an 8’6” swallowtail Riviera custom board shaped by Ron House. But I ride a full range of boards, including a 12’6” Rivi Coastal Cruiser shaped by Ron House, which I’ll take out along the coast when it’s small for adventure paddles, and also for lakes. I also have an 11’11” custom Ron House big-wave gun for spots such as Mavericks in Northern California, Nelscott revise: Reef in Oregon, and Todos Santos, Mexico. I’m really looking forward to riding it a lot this winter.”

“My quiver also includes a 10’6” Rivi Tube Gun shaped by Ron House for big tubes at places like Puerto, Mexico, Ocean Beach up in San Francisco, and big Black’s in San



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Diego. Finally, my 12' Riviera Paddlesurf inflatable is an awesome adventure board. I use it in rivers where there are a lot of rocks. My kids fight over it on road trips.”

“While I love surfing, I’ve made some great memories in the last three years at Lake Powell, which has the most amazing red rock in the country. I also took a 21-hour drive to surf Nelscott Reef in Oregon, and this summer we did Tahoe and then took the 89 through the forest to Shasta. We were in so many lakes and waterfalls, it was epic. It captured my imagination and inspired me to put it down in paint. It was all thanks to the Dream Machine.”