

# The Lure of Lighthouses & Dancing Waves

Photographs by Dan Merkel



**The Lure of Lighthouses & Dancing Waves** is now available for inter-museum loan through the

**Santa Barbara Maritime Museum!**



**The Lure of Lighthouses & Dancing Waves** features 34 photographs of lighthouses and waves by renowned and Emmy award-winning surf photographer and videographer Dan Merkel. Colorful and dramatic photographs are printed on aluminum to enhance the color and light of lighthouses near and far—from Cape Hatteras on the East Coast and Point Loma on the West, to Portugal and Australia. The images are coupled with breath-taking photos of waves throughout the world.

Twenty-five panoramic photographs capture mesmerizing lighthouse landscapes, evoking a strong emotion of place in the maritime world. For thousands of years, lighthouse towers and their beacons have made maritime exploration, trade, and travel possible. Symbols of resilience and safety, their lights tirelessly project out to sea, warning mariners of approaching coasts, shallow water, and rocky terrain.

Lighthouses illuminate a sea that is never still. Whether looking at the ocean from the shore or a boat, we expect to see waves. A transmission of wind energy across the ocean, a wave travels endlessly until it breaks onshore. How it breaks depends on how it meets the shore, and whether the profile of the shoreline is shallow or steep. The exhibition includes nine photographs of waves from around the world, which can accompany the lighthouses or can stand alone as their own show.

A video interview with Dan Merkel is available to run during the exhibit.

## Waves



Wave in Winter, Laguna Beach  
24" x 36"



Wave Water, Laguna Beach in Winter  
24" x 36"



Wave Over Reef, Laguna Beach in Winter  
24" x 36"



Storm Wave in Winter, North Shore, Hawaii  
24" x 36"



Back Wash Wave Breaking with Lighthouse in Background, Cape Disappointment, Washington  
24" x 36"



Seabirds in Flight Next to Perfect Wave, Tahiti  
18" x 36"



Wave Shot from Water, Pipeline, North Shore, Hawaii  
24" x 36"



Panoramic Camera Photo of Wave, from Jet Skis at Famous Jaws, Maui, Hawaii  
12" x 36"



Wild Wave Breaking & Going Back Out to Sea, New South Wales, Australia  
22" x 36"

## Lighthouses



Nubble Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Portland Head Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Bass Harbor Lighthouse  
14" x 36"



Walton Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Pigeon Point Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Point Pinos Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Point Vicente Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Anacapa Island Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Split Rock Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Morris Island Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Battery Point Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Point Loma Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



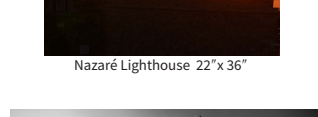
Nazaré Lighthouse  
22" x 36"



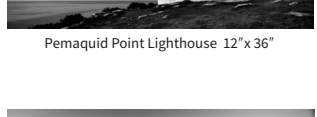
Pemaquid Point Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Heceta Head Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



West Quoddy Head Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Marshall Point Lighthouse  
14" x 36"



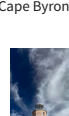
Cape Byron Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Point San Luis Obispo Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Cape Lookout Lighthouse  
12" x 36"



Cape Henry Lighthouse  
36" x 12"



Point Montara Light Station  
36" x 12"



Nauset Lighthouse  
36" x 12"



Cape Disappointment - North Head Lighthouse  
36" x 24"

For more details and availability please visit [sbmm.org/traveling-exhibits](http://sbmm.org/traveling-exhibits). To book this exhibit, contact Emily Falke by email at [efalke@sbmm.org](mailto:efalke@sbmm.org).

## Dan Merkel

Dan Merkel began his career taking pictures of his friends. When he was hired to work for various surfing magazines in the early 70s, surfing was just being recognized as a sport with international competitions and professional surfers. Being an experienced surfer himself, Merkel was able to get in the middle of the action with his cameras, which gave his images more immediacy and energy. In order to do this, Merkel designed much of his own waterproof housing that protected his equipment and allowed him to follow focus. Beginning in the late 1970s and continuing through the 1990s, Merkel switched his focus to commercial cinematography and became an Emmy-winning filmmaker working on classic surfing films including *Free Ride*, *Big Wednesday*, *Endless Summer II*, and many others.

According to 1977 World Surfing Champion Shaun Tomson, whose recent book *The Surfer and the Sage* featured Dan's images, "Dan Merkel is one of the surfing world's most acclaimed and courageous action photographers. Combining a unique eye for composition in exceptionally dangerous situations, Dan captured some of the most intense moments of his subjects' lives, artistically freezing and sharing each in the maelstrom of one-thousandth-of-a-second increments. Dan reveled in capturing beauty in the impact zone, the most violent area in the ocean. Whether he is doing still photography, music videos, commercials, or commercial films, Dan brings the same level of perfectionism and ambition that has propelled him throughout his long career."