

EDWARD PARENTE

Raised in Queens, Long Island, Ed Parente was a fine artist and sculptor who attended Parsons School of Design. He created the signature poster and graphics for his lifetime friend Wakefield Poole's ground-breaking *Boys in the Sand* (1971). His stylish line drawing for the film was the first gay display ad to be published in the *New York Times*. In 1969, his first solo show was at Cannabis Gallery, 295 Mercer Street, New York, and he sold his work at Ballardos on Christopher Street. Famous on the sands of Fire Island Pines in the 1960s for netting butterflies for his delicate boxed sculptures, he often shaped his twin sister's face into his plaster-cast work. In 1969, he starred in Poole's short film *The Gift*.

Supporting Poole's San Francisco career, he moved to the City in 1975, and continued sculpting with found items such as bits of bridal veil blowing by in the streets. He was exhibited at San Francisco's first new gay art galleries: Robert Opel's Fey-Way Studio, The Wizard's Emerald City, and Poole's Hot Flash on Market near Castro. He designed the invitations, posters, and the pop-art tin-can gift sculptures for the legendary "Night Flight," San Francisco's first mega-party which he co-produced New Year's Eve, 1977. Marketing his art, he and Tom Sandburg founded the greeting card company Cold Shower Press.

His much published work appeared frequently in *Drummer*, San Francisco's longest-running gay magazine. He is referenced in Wakefield Poole's memoir *Dirty Poole: A Sensual Memoir* (2011), in Jim Tushinski's documentary *Dirty Poole* (2011), and in the GLBT history *Gay San Francisco: Eyewitness Drummer* (2008).

Edward Parente (March 11, 1941 — November 19, 1992)

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