

FUNWORLD

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Painting the Park Red... and Yellow... and Purple...

Chris Baynum started painting houses with his friends in 1982. After progressing and painting Sunlight Pool at Coney Island, the world's largest re-circulating pool, Baynum Painting was born. They've since specialized in amusement parks, and Baynum cites Santa Cruz Beach & Boardwalk in California as his favorite. The



company's completed more than 150 major rides in the past 20 years—including projects like "The Beast" at Kings Island. After building strong relationships with parks like Cedar Point, Canobie Lake, and Kennywood, they've acquired a national contract with Six Flags that has them putting finishing touches on 10 current projects this year and assessing each park's rides after that.

His crew happily welcomed the extra workload. "It's been exciting to be challenged, to see the workload come through, and to be successful," Baynum says, a success he attributes to his highly skilled foremen, some of whom have been with him for 24 years.

"We have some of the best people around working for us," he says, speaking of employees like Walker Hopkins, Perry Sellers, Rob Cole, and lead foreman Steve Hickey.

Now, Baynum weighs in on the company's latest projects: "X2" at Six Flags Magic Mountain, completed this past February, underwent a color, theming, and name change. The color difference shown in this January photo shows the vast change the coaster experienced during the process. "It's the most exciting project we've ever worked on," Baynum says.

"Medusa" at Discovery Kingdom was completed on Dec. 1, 2007. "What made this project stand out was its proximity to the front of the park and the impact the restored colors have from the highways and surrounding areas," he says.