



Paul Sweany

May 9, 1927 - July 13, 2009

Paul J Sweany, renowned artist, beloved husband and father passed away July 13. He was born in Indianapolis, graduated from Shortridge High School, class of '45 and served in the Naval Reserve during WWII. As a multi talented individual of rare proportions, Paul chose between a scholarship to the prestigious Martha Graham Dance Company or the pursuit of his passion for the visual arts. Paul chose the latter and went on to receive his B.F.A. from John Herron School of Art in 1951. He married Margaret Marshall in 1950 and they had four daughters. Paul's multitude of talents was only surpassed by his generous heart, and his sensitivity, wit and sense of humor will be missed by many.

Paul was a prolific artist, best known for his watercolor paintings. His career included over 75 solo exhibitions, over 200 awards, and artwork in private collections the world over. He was an enthusiastic instructor, and taught art and art history at Orchard Country Day School, Park Tudor, John Herron School of Art, Marian College, the Indianapolis Arts Center and the Waldron. The IAC held a lifetime multi-media retrospective of Paul's artwork in 2001, which included watercolors, oils, ceramics, enamel jewelry, intaglio, lithography, pen & ink, pencil, dry brush ink, silkscreen, photography and a book of his poetry. A great part of Paul's legacy will be to leave behind more beauty in the world than when he entered into it.

Paul spent many summers leading art history students on tours throughout Europe, enthusiastically sharing his love and knowledge for the Italian

Renaissance, as well as all things Italian. Paul used to say "mi corpo Americano, mi cuore Italiano." (my body is American but my heart is Italian). He also insisted that Frascati wine was the "reason God made grapes." Although he spent many summers traveling abroad as an instructor, he most enjoyed the later trips he took with his artistic partner and beloved wife, Margaret (Peggy). Together they explored their mutual appreciation of art, architecture and breathtaking European landscapes.

Paul was an avid nature lover and environmentalist, as was evident in his artwork and life long hobbies of raising orchids and bird watching. He and Peggy taught their daughters to see beauty in even the most subtle and overlooked details which were often depicted beautifully in his intricate watercolor paintings.

Paul leaves behind his wife, Margaret, their four daughters, Jessica Rutherford (Covington, GA), Justyn Wolf (Rochester, NY), Jaime Sweany and Jenny Stankiewicz (Bloomington, IN), their spouses; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The family plans a private service at their home, with a public memorial service to be announced at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ *It was a great sorrow to hear that Paul is gone, but it will be a greater joy to see him again...soon.*
We were young musicians & crazy hippies that Jesus had rescued from the world. Just some Jesus freaks freshly saved out of Indy, we'd run into Paul and his sweet family at various Christian events. Paul was a not only a big fan but also a kind and wise older brother in the Lord. His creative spirit was always an encouragement to us as Christians, as musicians and to me as an artist. He was one of those links in God's Chain of Grace that you look back on and realize God used him to touch you. I believe Paul painted not just on canvas, but on the hearts of those who knew him. He touched mine.
Dave Eden,
drummer & artist from E-band (1970-1975)
EdenSigns.com

David Eden - October 26, 2015 at 04:38 PM

PE

“ *I am a friend of Jessica's from Ohio. I am so sorry for your family's loss. From reading Paul's Obituary, he influenced and blessed many peoples lives.* *Peggy Williamson*

Peggy Williamson - October 26, 2015 at 04:38 PM

CR

“ Jaime,
*I want to extend my sympathy to you and your family. When your dad was a patient I really enjoyed visiting him and listening to him talk about his paintings and his life experiences. He certainly was a man of many talents.
In your work and with your store you seem to have attained many of his traits.
I pray that you and your family can continue to celebrate your dad's eagerness for life!*

*Blessings,
Chaplain Mary Ruth*

Chaplain Mary Ruth Krack - October 26, 2015 at 04:38 PM

ME

“ Peggy and family:
So sorry about your loss. Miss seeing you on our walks with Lucky.

Your Hills & Dales neighbors. Max & Edna

Max & Edna Rubin - October 26, 2015 at 04:38 PM

MI

“ Jaime:

*Thinking of you. Your gifted father raised an equally gifted daughter.
Take care of yourself and see you soon.*

Miah Michaelsen - October 26, 2015 at 04:38 PM