



Joseph R. Shepler

July 29, 1937 - October 4, 2018

SHEPLER, Joseph R. "Joe"

age 81, of Pittsburgh, PA. passed unexpectedly last week.

Joseph "Joe", the son of Elizabeth Clark and Robert Shepler was born July 29th, 1937 in Pittsburgh, PA. Joe was the youngest of three children and is preceded in death by Betsy and Clark. Joe served in the US Navy, from '55-'59.

Once Joe returned from his service he enrolled in and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Allegheny College. Further expanding his education, he pursued and earned a M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art.

After resettling in Pittsburgh, he established himself in the local art scene and was a prolific, creative and brilliant painter to this day. Joe taught as a

Professor of Art at Chatham College for many years. Joe married Martha Fairchild in 1964 and they had two sons together. Joe was preceded in his death by his parents and siblings, as well as his ex-wife and friend Martha Fairchild. Joe is survived by his sons, Robert Alexander (Tracy), William Byron (Liv Sorli) and four beloved grandchildren, Derek, Liam, Abigail and Olivia.

As well as being an avid reader of art and history, he loved the movies, dark chocolate, traveling and visiting family, often taken him across the continent for many summers volunteering. Joe was very loved by his family, his friends and former students. Joe spent a lot of time maintaining the deep friendships he developed over the years. Joe was so intelligent, independent, generous and empathetic. Joe liked his routines. Joe was a remarkable and fascinating

man, so curious, inquisitive and with numerous interesting stories to tell. Joe's art, as did his unswerving and curious personality, touched people and created responses; inspired enjoyment, wonder and sometimes anger, but never indifference. Joe could not be ignored. He embraced criticism with as much curiosity as he did with praise. Most of all, Joe was loved.

There will be a short service at the Homewood Cemetery Chapel on Saturday October 13th at 11:00 AM, with a gathering of friends and family at the Gallery on 43rd Street at 12pm.

In lieu of flowers we would ask for donations to some of the causes that were close to Joe's heart: Humane Animal Rescue, The Southern Poverty Law Center, Sierra Club.

Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME and CREMATORY LTD., (Lawrenceville).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Homewood Cemetery
1599 S Dallas Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
(412) 421-1822

Gathering of Friends

OCT 13. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Gallery
187 43rd Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph R. Shepler*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *Joseph had heART! He was a cherished friend of our family, a mentor to my daughter who is now studying art at RISD, and a talented artist who generously shared his gifts. Joseph volunteered his time to teach painting and figure drawing at our community arts center. He made time to visit, to chat, to write letters, and to send parcels of fun clippings and unexpected gifts. We always read the books he recommended and watched the movies he suggested. Joseph made us laugh, and he made us think. We will miss him dearly and extend our sympathies to his family.*



Jody Best - October 16, 2018 at 10:59 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Joseph R. Shepler.*



October 12, 2018 at 11:47 AM

LG

“ Joe Shepler said “let the weight of the tool do the work” as I was building a frame for a canvas 44 years ago at Chatham. Thank you Joe for that gem of advice which I still hear in my head today.
Lee Grice

Lee Grice - October 11, 2018 at 09:56 AM

LT

“ I am so sorry to hear your sad news. Joe was my professor at Chatham, 68-72. He had a huge influence on me, personally and artistically. I always loved his “style”. The sketches he did, whilst instructing me, are some of my most treasured art pieces. My most vivid memory, from my college days, is the “sit in” many of his art students were involved in, in support of Joe getting tenure. In 1973 I moved from Pittsburgh to the UK, where I have been ever since. I was sorry to lose touch, but felt a tenuous connection through Facebook. I wish we had stayed better connected.
I am so sorry for your loss.

Lydia Tapley - October 11, 2018 at 03:17 AM