



Dorothy Gill Barnes

May 30, 1927 - November 23, 2020

Dorothy's family held a virtual celebration of her life. Please see <http://www.dorothygillbarnes.com/celebration-of-life.html> to view the recording of that event.

Dorothy Gill Barnes, age 93, resident of Worthington, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 23, at Riverside Methodist Hospital, after a short battle with COVID-19. Known to some as Ducie or Grandma Dot, she was surrounded by the voices of her loving family at the time of her passing. Dorothy was an internationally recognized fiber artist and sculptor who called the Columbus area home for over 60 years.

The third of four sisters, she was born in 1927 in Strawberry Point, Iowa. She showed her creative spirit early by making dolls from paper bags and playing with her younger sister Mary in the asparagus patch. Over the years, she had some interesting chores, including sweeping up in her father's funeral home/furniture store business and, in the summer, de-tasseling corn. As a teen, she loved going out dancing to big bands.

Dorothy studied at Coe College, Minneapolis School of Art, and Cranbrook Academy, as well as at the University of Iowa, where she earned BA and MA degrees in art education. She met Marshall Barnes of Fairfield, Iowa, at Parsons College where they were both teaching. They were married in Manchester, Iowa, in 1952, and made their way to Columbus in 1957 when Marshall joined the music faculty at The Ohio State University. Their family grew, and Dorothy continued to explore a variety of art forms, including ceramics, basketry, and textiles. She spent a year teaching industrial arts at Worthington Junior High School and was an instructor for many years at Capital University in Bexley. She soon began to exhibit basketry and other artworks internationally.

As her work evolved, she became widely known for innovative sculpture using natural materials including bark, wood, and stone. She was inspired by the forest and made a point of gathering respectfully, often using trees that were already marked to be thinned from a property. Dorothy taught and participated in residencies and workshops in Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, and Canada, as well as throughout the United States. She could often be seen bicycling around Worthington, following the sound of chainsaws to new construction zones, where she harvested beautiful roots and bark from recently cut trees.

She could also be found, every Saturday for many years, on the Worthington Village Gree

n with her friends from Central Ohioans for Peace, encouraging drivers to “Honk for Peace” as they passed by. Dorothy had a long history of activism in the civil rights and anti-war movements. She encouraged others to think globally and have empathy for all, regardless of differences. She supported environmental conservation, Honduras Hope, and Habitat for Humanity, where she was a longtime volunteer. When interviewed in 2006 about her participation in protests against the war in Iraq, she stated, “Life is so precious. It is important we find a way to be good and kind to each other.”

Dorothy never stopped experimenting and had an enviable supply of creative energy and new ideas, which made her a wonderful mother and friend, as well as a sought-after art instructor and mentor. She enjoyed sharing her reverence for nature and her imaginative spark with her students, often collaborating with or trading pieces with artists who used other media. She continued to work with students as a visiting artist in the glass area of the Department of Art at The Ohio State University until 2018.

A Fellow of the American Craft Council, Dorothy received lifetime achievement awards from the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the National Basketry Organization. Other awards include the Raymond J. Hanley Award, Outstanding/Artist Educator from Penn and School of Crafts, an Individual Artist Governor’s Award for the Arts in Ohio, and four Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowships. Her work is in the collections of the Columbus Museum of Art, de Young Museum of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Mint Museum, Museum of Arts and Design (New York), Racine Art Museum, and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian’s American Art Museum, among others. In Nature, a comprehensive retrospective, was held at the Mansfield Arts Center in 2018. The Ohio Craft Museum hosted From the Woods, a major mid-career survey accompanied by a catalogue in 1999. Dorothy’s work is represented by browngrotta arts in Wilton, Connecticut.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marshall H. Barnes, her parents Gorda J. Gill and Dorothy Moninger Gill, and two of her sisters, Rosalee Huebner and Margaret Van Dyck. She is survived by her children, David (Miki), Gordon (Deborah), Ted (Claudia), and Juliet (Robert Kaeding) Barnes; grandchildren Alison Hamacher, Aaron and Clara Barnes, and Eliza and Eleanor Kaeding; sister Mary Teschner; numerous nieces and nephews, and three great-grandchildren. She loved and was proud of them all. She will also be missed by her many friends, students, colleagues, and devoted helpers and caregivers.

Please send inquiries to memorial@dorothygillbarnes.com

Donations in her memory can be made to The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org>), Sierra Club (<http://www.sierraclub.org>), or to a charity of your choice.

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Events

DEC **Virtual Celebration**03:00PM - 05:00PM

13

Online-send inquiries to email

OH, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Schoedinger Funeral Service - December 08, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ I was a neighbor and grew up there just around the corner on High Street. I still maintain pleasant memories of the art/craft classes she held for the neighborhood children and the fun I had. My mother still has the clay creche and giraffe I modeled and a small oil painting with flowers when I was nine. My mother also still has a chalk drawing she did of the Worthington Inn. How multi-talented she was! The last time I visited my grandparents (Steve and Emma Snouffer) in 1986 I had a nice visit with Dorothy and gave her the dried husks from some ears of purple corn. I've sometimes wondered how they might have been incorporated into one of her basket creations. I appreciate the fact that she would visit my grandpa in the rest home after grandma passed away and he could no longer live alone. I am now 70 and have lived in San Diego for many years. My condolences to David, Gordon, Teddy and Julie.

Lynda Bell - May 11 at 11:20 PM



“ Dear Friends and Family of Dorothy,
I had the great privilege to attend a workshop with Dorothy at Peters Valley in 2002 when I was a freshly minted MassArt graduate. I had idolized her for her work for years, but I had no prior knowledge of how tremendous she was as a person until I spent a week listening and watching her teach and interact with us. She had such a joy of her craft, of the natural world and her materials, and of teaching. She was so so curious about everything new and interesting. I am so very grateful to have met her and been taught by her. She knew how to see the beauty of the world and celebrate it.

I sincerely wish you heart's ease and comfort in your loss.

Michele Koenig Augeri

Newbury, MA

Michele Koenig Augeri - February 02 at 01:38 PM



“ When I was in college I was friends with her son David. I don't remember what I did for David but I remember he said “if I ever wanted anything just ask”. And I did , I asked to meet his mother. What a privilege and joy it was to meet Dorothy and see her beautiful work and visit her studio. One of my fondest memories of college days.

Mary Jeanne Goss - December 17, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ Dorothy touched many lives in a deep and meaningful way – as a teacher, artist, friend, mentor, and role model – she was all of these to me. When I first saw her innovative sculptural work and her magic teaching box filled with inspiring nature samples - I was in awe. I was in my 20's - young and impressionable and who better then to cross my path then Dorothy Gill Barnes. Dorothy's work strikes a deep emotional cord we seem to crave. It brings us back to the earth, the trees, the elements, to beauty and wonder.

I feel truly fortunate to have shared many adventures with Dorothy over the years. I had several visits with her at her home surrounded by her work, enjoying her lovely daily rituals, and being inspired by her beautiful spirit. She found joy and wonder in every moment.

It is one of my greatest joys to have called her friend. To have met such a creative and kind spirit who brought out the best in people and inspired reverence for nature and peace toward humanity.

Peace to you now Dorothy on you next adventure.

My sincere condolences to her family.



Joan Carrigan - December 13, 2020 at 08:53 PM



“ I loved visiting Dorothy at her home which was filled to the brim with creativity. Dorothy always put on a pot of tea and had goodies to share. Rest in peace, Dorothy. The world will miss you.

Kim Wenden - December 13, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ Dorothy's departure leaves a pretty big hole in the universe for such a petite person. It's hard to think of anyone who loved more people, was loved by more people, or loved what she did with her life more than Dorothy.

She was the mother of my best friends, and was one of my best friends herself. She was my "second mom." She always was kind and generous to me, and strongly encouraged me in following my dream to be an artist. She continues to influence and guide me even though she is not physically here anymore. I'm sure many people can say the same about her.

I miss you so much, Dorothy.

Mark Wenden

Mark Wenden - December 13, 2020 at 03:41 PM



“ I am an electrician and did some repairs at Dorothy's home. We went shopping for a new stove because her old one was refusing TO TURN OFF! I classified that as an emergency (!) and insisted that she replace it. I drove her to a store, she bought a new stove and I installed it that very day. She was grateful, gave me her health snacks (nuts and fruit), we talked about her new art projects (using the roots, branches, etc. in her garage) and the new show she was having in a nearby small town (?).

Dorothy was a great person, innovative artist and friend. I miss her.

David Jon Krohn, davidjonkrohn@gmail.com

David Jon Krohn - December 13, 2020 at 03:19 PM



“ I met Dorothy as a graduate student in the Sculpture dept. at The Ohio State University, and she became a great mentor to me, and greatly influenced my work. I loved visiting her home and taking pictures of what she was working on and discussing her work with her, and she would always pop into my studio with some little surprise - some sheets of mica, or colorful felted wool, or a twig she thought I'd like.

On one of my last visits to Dorothy, there had been a heavy snow the night before. I offered to shovel the walk for her and Dorothy, then 87, vociferously declined, saying, "why would I want to give up one of the best parts of winter!" I think that exemplified so much of who she was, just approaching everything with curiosity and delight, and appreciating every part of nature so fully. I am so thankful for everything she taught me and the friendship we shared.



Lauri Murphy - December 09, 2020 at 02:26 PM



“ So honored to take care of Dorothy and serve your family at this time! What a wonderful mother, friend and personality! Keeping your family in my thoughts!



Todd M Hurley - December 08, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ We treasure our memories of Dorothy, beginning in 1975 when she sent Juliet over to play with our daughter Leigh at the playground on Kelleys Island and invited us to their campfire that evening. This led to many wonderful weekends together each September with various combinations of our families.

Jean and Bill Peterman

Bill and Jean Peterman - December 07, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ I will always remember her amazing energy and enthusiasm over the many years I knew Dorothy. My days camping and tromping around Kelly's Island with her and her family were always great days. She will be greatly missed.

Derrick W Peterman - December 07, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ I had the privilege of meeting Dorothy when helping the McConnell Arts Center prepare for its inaugural exhibition featuring her works. She was such a talented and giving person, welcoming me into her home and showing me around. She spoke with love of her husband at that time, too. I also loved to see her out and about on her bicycle, or standing proudly on the corner advocating for peace and goodwill. In her memory and in her honor, I've donated to the MAC. Blessings for all she brought to the world.

Michelle Geissbuhler - December 04, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Jacci Delaney - December 03, 2020 at 03:19 PM



“ Dorothy was one of the sweetest souls I've ever met. It oozed out of her! I will always remember her twinkling eyes, sun kissed skin, beautiful smile, and petite but strong body. She was a delightful neighbor to everyone and took interest in our children. She loved to show and teach them anything found outside. We will never forget her bicycle rides around town and her cross-country skiing when everyone else was hibernating. I loved the "show and tell" time of all her art weaved (literally) together around her house. I am especially thankful for the last few years of her life as we spent more time together. The porch swing and kitchen table were great places of sharing and eating one of her favorites snacks...POPCORN!!! Dorothy, thank you for your hospitality, your creative gifts and that tender, loving heart. You will be missed greatly!

Love,
Beth Gwin

Will miss her, what a wonderful neighbor and friend. Will never forget the time she convinced us to plant some bamboo from 'starter' clumps taken from her patch. Four years later our backyard looked like someplace in Vietnam ;-)

And one of the first times watching her cruising around the neighborhood on her bicycle with the big basket in her 70's (both her age and the decade that bike was made).

Even in the past few years as health and memory declined, she was always welcoming. One could obviously see she had lived such a full life.

Sad now, just thinking of her...

^/itch Gwin

Elizabeth Gwin - December 03, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ In her own way Dorothy Gill Barnes has made the world a better place. During her long and illustrious journey through life as a wife and mother, as a widely renowned artist, a human rights advocate and a peace activist she has touched and enriched countless lives. Thank you Dorothy and Farewell
Christa Roth Gharbo

Christa Gharbo - December 02, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I wished I would have known her better, but I do remember her smile and that is alone, a nice legacy.

Rob Lamp - December 02, 2020 at 12:17 PM



“ To the dearest Dorothy and Family,

I met Dorothy when I first became the ED of the McConnell Arts Center. I had already learned of her legacy within the international craft world from a previous job. When I arrived in Worthington, she was so welcoming, supportive and truly wanted to support the new arts center in her “home town.” She was gracious enough to exhibit the inaugural exhibition at the MAC, and soon became a very close friend. A gem of her own very large and committed international artist community, Dorothy’s spirit will remain imprinted forever in the creative fabric of ALL of our souls. Meet you on the porch swing in the new future - Jon Cook, former ED of the McConnell Arts Center of Worthington, believer and admirer.....I would do anything for her!

Jon Cook - December 01, 2020 at 09:30 PM



“ So sorry to see that Dorothy has moved on to her next adventure. I have been trying to get back in touch with her for a few years now but had been unable to find current contact information. I was fortunate enough to serve as her "gofer" for a few months in 2003-helping try to organize all her workspaces and learning SO much as we worked. She was amazingly generous in every way, encouraging me in my artwork and teaching me about living life in a purposeful way. I will treasure every memory.

Noelle Newton - December 01, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ We will all miss this kind and spirited creative woman. When she came to RAM and told us her stories of training her trees and showed us all her little bark altering travel kit - we were all engaged. We are honored to have her work in our collection and will continue to show and write about her works and this remarkable woman.

Lisa Englander and the staff at the
Racine Art Museum

Lisa - December 01, 2020 at 01:22 PM



“ While I cannot recall exactly when I first met Dorothy, it seems that anyone who lived in Worthington for even a few minutes might encounter her on one of her bicycle rides. My kids and Dorothy's daughter, Juliet (Julie), attended Worthington High at the same time. My daughter Isla recalls attending one of Julie's birthday parties. In later years, I would see Dorothy at Sunrise of Worthington when I would visit my mom there. Sometimes Dorothy would display her art pieces. The last time I recall speaking with Dorothy is when we both were in AAA in Worthington. I was planning a road trip and - as I recall - Dorothy was planning a visit to Alaska. Dorothy was such a remarkable person. I enjoyed every moment that we stopped to chat. She "belonged" to Worthington, and we will miss her presence. Our hearts go out to all of Dorothy's family.

Annie Marie Garraway and all of the Garraway family

Annie Marie Garraway - December 01, 2020 at 08:57 AM



“ I have known Dorothy to be a spirited advocate for peace. Since 2003 Central Ohioans for Peace held demonstrations each Saturday from 12 to 1 PM at the corner of High Street and SR 161 in Worthington. Regardless of cold or hot weather, rain or snow, Dorothy would be there. She often came by bike with her peace poster and her small patriotic flag tucked into her wicker basket. She shared with us the events of her week: recounting an art show, a trip to her sister or some work with students from OSU. She may have shown us a strangely twisted twig that would become part of her next project. Or she would surprise us with something delicious from the Farmers Market.

For Dorothy life was a fascinating adventure. We, the participants of the "Peace Corner," were privileged to experience a delightful slice of it with her.

My warmest condolences to the Barnes Family



Sieglinde Martin - November 30, 2020 at 10:22 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Nicki Strouss - November 30, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear of Dorothy's passing. She was always so kind and interested in Julie's friends when we were growing up in Worthington. The family must miss her very much. -- Stephanie Palmer

Stephanie Palmer - November 30, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ Dorothy was always so kind to share willow sources with me and we harvested many times together. She was interested in most everything and saw the world through a true artist's eyes. I learned so much from Dorothy and treasured my time with her. Rest in peace, Dorothy. You will be dearly missed in this world.

Liz Hunt - November 29, 2020 at 05:01 PM



“ I have known Dorothy as a fellow artists for most of the 50+ years I have lived in Worthington. I have been captivated by her her reverence and connection to the trees and natural landscapes that she made into living art. She was an admirable old soul and a supporter of legions of other artists. She will be much missed.

Carol Hershey

Carol Hershey Durell - November 29, 2020 at 02:29 PM



“ Dorothy spread love and kindness in my direction for a couple of decades; I am a sculptor and teach at OSU, and we- the faculty and students were always glad to see Dorothy coming. I would chat with Dorothy at the sculpture building where she was well known to all in both the sculpture and glass shops there in Sherman Studios. I saw Dorothy at her exhibition at the Col Conservatory with my daughters, wife, her sister and her daughters- all have a lasting memory of their encounter with her there as she spent quite some time - especially with the three 12 year old girls explaining her artwork.

Another singular experience with Dorothy sticks in my mind. I was working on a large sculpture and Dorothy waltzed into the room bearing small wrapped candy. I remember initially absorbed in my activity, and how the burden of gravitas of this activity was lifted as I was able to suck on a bit a candy and chat with Dorothy for a few moments. One could not resist talking with Dorothy.

Todd Slaughter

Todd Slaughter - November 29, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ She was such an inspiration. From her magnificent artwork to her activism, she projected grace and a lightness of being few can match. She will be greatly missed.



Jules Knowlton - November 29, 2020 at 01:08 PM



“ Dorothy Gill Barnes
Thinking of Dorothy and Marshall brings joy as I remember family hikes, wonderful meals, concerts and especially touring weaving supplies of bark, strips of wood from salvaged saplings and finished and unfinished baskets made with magical artistic imagination, and hard work. She did not choose the easiest medium but that choice reflected so much more about her ethics and inspiration. I bought one of the baskets she contributed to an AIDs auction many years ago and I treasure not only the lovely basket but the person who made it and supported such a worthy cause.

Jan Sorensen - November 29, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ What a wonderful long life she had! She and her husband were neighbors of my close friends, Lois and Lester Jipp. Dorothy was a gifted artist.

Deborah Matthews - November 28, 2020 at 08:14 AM