



Rick Bartow

December 31, 1946 - April 2, 2016

Rick Bartow (1946-2016) was a Native American artist of Wiyot and Yurok (Native American groups indigenous to Humboldt County, California) heritage. He created works in sculpture, print, etching, monotype, ceramics, mixed media and painting. But in the Newport area he was best known for his music and his gentle kind soul.

Rick was born in Newport, Oregon in December 1946 to Richard and Mable Bartow. And it was in Newport that Rick crossed over on April 2, 2016 after battling heart disease for many years. He was 69 years old.

When Rick was five, his father died. His mother then married Andrew Mekemson, whom Bartow considered a beloved second father. He became interested in art at an early age, encouraged by his aunt Amy Bartow, who was studying art and art education at the University of Washington. His love for art continued through high school and extended to music when he took up the guitar and bongos. Rick attended Western Oregon University and graduated in 1969 with a degree in secondary art education. In 1969, he was drafted into the army and sent to Vietnam. He served in the Vietnam war from 1969 to 1971 as a teletype operator and as a musician in a military hospital, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star.

His work can be found in several museum collections including the Peabody

Essex Museum[5] in Salem, Massachusetts; Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis, Indiana; the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC; the Hallie Ford Museum of Art in Salem, Oregon; the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona; the de Saisset Museum; and the Portland Art Museum. In 2003 his works were exhibited at the George Gustav Heye Center, a branch of the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City.

His carving *The Cedar Mill Pole* was displayed in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House in 1997; it had been designated one of the most highly regarded Native American public sculptures in the country. The pole was partially inspired by Bartow's work with the Maori artist John Bevan Ford. Presented as a gift to the Portland, Oregon metropolitan community from Oregon's Washington County and the Oregon College of Art and Craft, it was intended to help heal the controversy that surrounded an urban development project. The 26-foot-tall carving was created using one of the giant cedars that were removed for a road project.

Bartow's monumental cedar sculptures "*We Were Always Here*" were commissioned by the Smithsonian National Museum, and sit on the Washington DC Mall, visually across from the Washington Monument, at the entrance to the National Museum of Indian Art. Dedicated on the autumn equinox in September 2012, the towering works represented the pinnacle of Bartow's accomplishments.

In 2013 the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts selected Rick as its Community Legend Award recipient.

A Celebration of Rick's life will be held Saturday, April 30th, 2:00pm at the Newport Performing Arts Center. Any other events taking place in Rick's honor will be noted on this website as the funeral home becomes aware of

them.

Bateman Funeral Home is handling final arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Rick, I used to chase you around with my old Gibson under my arm begging to sit in with you. You never turned me down. I learned from you, so much. Even picked up a few blues riffs. As they say, The rest is history. I still play and sing after 45 years. I can still hear you singing Bowling Shoes !! and "Summer's dying in Canada" I loved your voice and your spirit. I will see you again. Rest in the arms of Love. I always loved you. Jessie

Jessie Geary - March 31, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Jessie Geary lit a candle in memory of Rick Bartow



Jessie Geary - March 31, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Ronald Wayne Collins lit a candle in memory of Rick Bartow



Ronald Wayne collins - October 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Diana Franklin lit a candle in memory of Rick Bartow*



Diana Franklin - October 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ My Rick Bartow story revolves around an incident that happened 8-10 years ago involving my dog Lola. My wife and I have visited Newport from The Dalles numerous times over the last 3 decades since moving to Oregon. We enjoy Newport. Lola our young wire-haired pointer was our traveling companion. Locals who met her always embraced her friendliness and marveled at her speed and unrivaled energy levels on the beach. One early morning when the streets were nearly empty, Lola and I took a stroll to fetch a coffee at a Nye Beach establishment Bartow frequented. I tied sweet Lola's leash to a folding wood and metal bistro chair near the sidewalk outside and went in to order a coffee. Bartow looked up from reading the paper and we engaged in a greeting and momentary small talk about the welcomed sunshine. As I waited for my coffee, I heard the sound of metal crashing outside followed by silence. I quickly peered outside and down the street to see Lola being chased by a "killer" chair. It seems she pulled the chair which tipped over and startled her. She was certain the chair was going to attack and she bolted down the street with the bistro chair swinging on the leash behind her clanging on the pavement with pieces breaking and falling off. I caught up to her and calmed her promising myself I would never do that again. I walked sheepishly back to the shop with Lola and the broken chair to pay for my coffee and make amends for the chair. Bartow immediately offered to repair the chair in his shop. His concerns were for the trauma that poor horrified Lola had suffered. Thanks Rick. RIP. We buried Lola on March 16, 2016. John Donovan, The Dalles

John Donovan - May 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Sue Korn lit a candle in memory of Rick Bartow



Sue Korn - April 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Jane Fuller lit a candle in memory of Rick Bartow



Jane Fuller - April 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Gretchen Smith lit a candle in memory of Rick Bartow



Gretchen Smith - April 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Judy And Butch lit a candle in memory of Rick Bartow



Judy and Butch - April 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM