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Eleanor Rappe-Raugust, née Blum/Gershkowitz

Born February 14th 1933, Brooklyn New York
Passed away April 5, 2021, Santa Fe New Mexico

Eleanor passed away peacefully after an extended illness, attended by her three children and her beloved husband, John. John was her life companion of 50 years, and was her sole caretaker during her 15 month illness. John did everything possible to mitigate her suffering and surround her with love and well-being as he cared for her over the months, faithfully keeping a vigil over her in her final days and going without sleep to attend to her bedside. He also did everything throughout their lives together to nurture her spirit and support her artwork. John was the love of her life and they moved to Santa Fe in 1995, building a house overlooking the Sangre de Christo Mountains.

Eleanor lived in San Francisco, California for 30 years, where she had established a career as a prominent printmaker, exhibiting several shows at major museums, including the De Young Museum, and the San Jose Museum. Eleanor retired as the chair of the art department at City College of San Francisco in 1994, having previously taught a large cohort of printmaking students, The Fort Mason Print Makers, who regularly exhibited their work and became successful artists in their own right. Some of her prominent students included the renowned San Francisco based Hungarian born artist, Theodora Varnay Jones, her dear friend Chris Knipp and the American artist Anita Toney.

Eleanor started her California career at the Vorpall gallery of San Francisco, with a one woman painting show. After obtaining her MFA in printmaking at SFSU where she studied with James Torlakson among others, Eleanor began to explore a number of printmaking techniques, including chine cole, collograph, etching, monotypes, and three dimensional forms. She later turned to digital arts. Eleanor's work evoked the ruins of Greco-Roman antiquity, including etchings that imitated the stone forms of pavements, fragments, and larger structures from photos she personally took during her extensive travels throughout the Mediterranean, Middle East, and North Africa. Eleanor visited numerous Greco-Roman archaeological sites, including Leptis Magna in Libya, Persepolis in Iran, and Palmyra, in Syria. Her work developed in prolific series, as for example her studies of the goddess Aphrodite, the drapery folds of the Parthenon

