



Corban LePell, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Art, Passed Away May 10, 2018

Corban LePell, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Art, passed away May 10, 2018. He began his career at Cal State Hayward (now East Bay) in the fall of 1962. He was awarded the BFA in 1957 and the MFA in 1959 from the University of Wichita. He retired in 2001 and participated in the Faculty Early Retirement Program until 2005. The following has been provided by the family.

"Corban LePell

February 27, 1933 - May 10, 2018

San Leandro, California Corban LePell--artist, professor, father, friend--died of pulmonary failure on May 10, 2018 in San Leandro, California.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, the only child of Roy and Mary LePell, he is survived by Paul David LePell, Miriam Clare LePell, and Ann Rachel LePell, his children, along with Miles LePell Koehler, Arden LePell Koehler, and Liam LePell Koehler, his grandchildren. His wife of 37 years, Audrey LePell, as well as his second wife for 15 years, Victoria LePell, also survive him.



Corban met and married Audrey in Wichita, Kansas, moved with her to Lincoln, Nebraska, Evanston, Illinois, and eventually to Oakland and Hayward, when he became one of the founding faculty members of the Cal State University Hayward Art Department. He taught at CSUH, now CSU East Bay, for 40 years, having touched and inspired thousands of students. Many students continue their love of making art, and often credit Corban with changing their lives forever.

Corban was an artist his whole life, having made hundreds of drawings and paintings, showing them at various galleries and museums around the country. Starting successfully in Abstract Expressionism, Corban's art continually evolved, including renderings of traditional figures, austere landscapes, objects and textures. He believed deeply in the pursuit of art, beauty, and truth; he always wanted the viewers of his work to experience what it was to "really look, really see" something.

Corban and Audrey raised their three children together in Hayward, cultivating a family life rich in community spirit and intellectual pursuits. Later in his life, he married Victoria LePell, with whom he spent years socializing and traveling. Victoria and Corban divorced in 2015.

Corban's other passions included Persian rugs, ancient Oriental pottery, classical music, and old Hollywood Classics.

Corban started The Okeghem Circle, a cadre of intellectuals and artists, with whom he shared rich conversation on wide-ranging subjects. He greatly valued his Okeghem friends and reveled in their regular meetings for more than 20 years.

Corban LePell – artist, professor, father and friend – farewell.

A memorial is planned for July 2018."

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