

OBITUARY OF ALEXANDER POVLOVIC LIOUTIKOFF/ SACHAL

This is the obituary of Alexander Pavlovic Lioutikoff, known as Sachal in the art world, born November 24, 1924 in Kiev, Ukraine. He was the son of Fedora Olianova Lioutikova, from Mogilov, Bella Russe and Pavlovic Gregoriev of the Caucas Mountains area. Alone with his single mother, his childhood was one of homelessness, loneliness, starvation, and hardship, struggle to survive, and diseases like scarlet fever. Out of desperation to find a better life for her son, Fedora moved to Moscow where there was the possibility of more work and feeding her 8 year old painfully emaciated boy.

Alexander was known affectionately by many names, Sacha, Shura, Shurka, Sachka, Sachinka, Sachoolia, Sachok. . He found in the university dormitories built by Corbusier an empty elevator shaft , with no electricity or water, where he and his mother lived for the next 9 years. He read prodigiously every night, all the great literature of the world's best authors by the light he, at 8 years of age, wired from the outside hallway into their little, drafty cubicle. He developed the lifelong habit of never complaining and accepting hardship with a song or a smile.

Sacha had remarkable talent as an artist and was working in the Sculpture Lab with copper and marble, and making posters for Stalin and Lenin. At 17 he was sent to the front lines of WWII and captured by the Germans. He lived in the German Prison Camp at Lorraine on the border between Germany and France, grueling work in the iron ore mines. Lice and starvation colored his experience. Clever chap, he endeared himself to the guards and made portraits of them at night to earn extra morsels of bread. He was greatly admired, for his cheerful baritone singing and humming, as well as his exceptional skill as an artist. When the Warden of the camp heard about his talent, he brought him a slab of marble to do his portrait in bas relief.

Sacha daringly escaped from this camp a year and a half later. He walked 400 miles to Dijon where he was imprisoned for vagrancy. He was delighted to taste his first mustard there! In jail, he was encouraged by a fellow prisoner to join the French Resistance which was being formed by Leon Bertrand in Burgundy; he was #12 of what eventually became an effective resistance group of 150 banditos. In an altercation at San Berneau on August 8, 1944, he received 7 bullets, 14 bullet holes from the Germans and would have died at just 20 years of age, had not the brilliant Count and Countess de Montalembert dared to rescue him. Their castle, in the family since the 1100's, in La Roche en Brenil, was where they hid Sacha until the end of the war and where he could begin the long journey to heal.

He stayed with this marvelous family for 3 years, recuperating, relearning to walk, painting portraits of their children, painting their property at Fontainebleau, very happy with his fate. He always said he was so lucky he got shot so they could save him! France awarded Sacha La Croix de Guerre for his bravery. He went to Argentina 1947-1949 to work in the Countess' family Bemberg business. More comfortable in European culture, he returned to Paris, where he studied art at the Academy Julien, La Grande Chaumiere, and other art studios to refine his art. He sang and played the guitar at Russian parties, always the life of every gathering; the true bon vivant.. He sold his paintings of the great bridges and scenes of Paris to tourists.

Sacha married his first wife, Svetlana, and he moved to be with her in Chicago, and then together to Berkeley, California. They had two girls: Barbara (1955) and Alexandra (1960). Sacha worked painting houses, and then got a job with Gannett where, according to the CEO of the Sign Painter's Union, Michael Hardeman, he was the Best of 101 painters of large billboards for the highways. In 1960, Sacha moved his family to Fuengirola, Spain for a 6 month vacation and he stayed for 16 years. He divorced Svetlana and lived the life of an irresistible bachelor and a dedicated artist for many years on the Costa del Sol. When he returned to San Francisco in 1976, Gannett had his job waiting for him in Berkeley! He had a short 4-month marriage to Anne Marie, a German woman.

In 1984 he met the love of his life, Carol Blumenfeld, and they had a loving marriage for 34 years in the milieu of her family and with many wonderful friends. Sacha made everyone laugh and feel good. His sense of humor, tenderness, and love of life is reflected in every stunning painting he created until 95 years of life. His exceptional work was shown all over the major cities of Europe; to highlight just a few in America at the Vorpall Galleries of New York and San Francisco; a one man show at the Petaluma Museum. curated by Joe Noriel when he was the President of the Board of Directors; and a fabulous 50+ works exhibit which transformed the cement warehouse space of San Francisco's SoMart Gallery, South of Market Street into a dazzling museum.

He reached excellence in everything he did...not one ounce of mediocrity in this man. He was a Master Chess and Championship Backgammon player and loved gambling. He was gracious and noble when he won or lost. Sacha will be remembered by all fortunate enough to know him as a Hero of mythological proportions; a zesty, colorful adventurer in life; a resourceful entrepreneur who escaped from 3 jails during his lifetime: Krasnodar, the German Prison Camp, and Marseille; a raconteur who delighted others in five languages; a

great history and literary connoisseur; a romantic figure with a powerful personality and a uniquely delightful sense of fun! He was a Guru who honored every soul. His goal in art was to put his soul on canvas. Sacha passed on of old age on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 3 pm with his wife Carol at his side. For more details of his life, consult his web site at www.sachal.com