



Dyann Kay Alkire

June 1, 1948 - April 3, 2020

Dyann Kay Alkire, 71, of Portland passed away peacefully April 3, 2020 as the result of pancreatic cancer. Dyann was born on June 1, 1948 at Vancouver, Wash. Her parents were Ray and Florence Funkhouser and Dyann grew up in Vancouver where she graduated from Hudson's Bay High School.

Dyann met her husband, Tom Alkire, at the University of Washington where she earned a BFA in painting. Tom and Dyann married in 1969 and lived in Seattle for another few years when they eventually moved to Portland in 1977. She was a founding member of Blackfish Gallery, later moved on to other galleries, and was a long-time member of Inkling Studio. Her work was inspired by nature, especially birds combined with geometric shapes. Her paintings and etchings are included in a number of private and public collections around the country.

In addition to her artwork, Dyann enjoyed cooking, walking, gardening, traveling, camping and the outdoors. Her children and grandchildren were the centerpiece of her life from raising them as toddlers to sending them off to college, and finally seeing them marry and create their own families.

Dyann is survived by her husband, Tom; son, Michael and spouse Linda in Austin, Texas; daughter, Natalie Golobay and spouse Jonathan in Gresham; sisters Sherrie Funkhouser in Portland and Linda Funkhouser in Tampa,

Florida; one grandchild and another on the way; and seven nieces and nephews.

Please sign the online guest book at the Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Vancouver, Wash. There will be a family memorial service at some later date this year when gatherings are allowed.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 05:28 PM



“ *Dyann was a lovely, bright being and the best neighbor you could imagine. Her love for her family, art, and the natural world was a shining example. Her gentle spirit, kindness, and caring nature was a sweet influence on everyone in her orbit. We feel so lucky to have known her, and she dwells in our hearts for good. - Lisa, Adlai, & Henry*

Lisa Levine - April 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *I miss my sweet and fun (and funny) sister-in-law. I'm grateful I have so many wonderful memories of our time spent together. It was never a dull moment with Dyann. I will miss her genuine love and spark! She truly made the world a better place with her amazing art, her enjoyment of nature, and how much she loved family. I feel blessed to have been a part of that love. Dyann, missing you and I loved you so much. You will always have a special place in my heart.*

Roxanne Alkire - April 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Tom and Family: We were so very sorry to learn about Dyann's death. Our hearts go out to you at such a difficult time. Alan and Anne Rosenfeld*

Alan Rosenfeld - April 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear Tom and family, Gary and I want to express our sincere sympathy to you all. We both looked forward to seeing you and Dyann to nosh and visit at the Christmas Ships parties over the years. We felt her gentle and kindhearted spirit. She exuded warmth, generosity and good old-fashioned friendliness. We are heartbroken for your loss. Gary and Sandra Miller

Sandra Miller - April 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ I remember first meeting Dyann back in 1969, and we were very sorry to her of her passing. Over the past fifty years Claire and I always looked forward to seeing her and Tom when our paths would cross. We so admired her artistic talent, and the joy and imagination she put into all her creative projects over the years. Her artistry made the world a better place, and created a lasting legacy. Our deepest condolences to Tom and the Alkire family.

Don Doud - April 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dyann was an amazing Gamma, Mom, Sister, and Wife who welcomed me into her family with open arms. I'll always cherish the time we spent together and remember the many good memories we had. Dyann was thoughtful, open minded, and her concern for others and the world around her will remain an example for those she left behind. We will always love her and honor her memory by continuing her legacy.

Jon Golobay - April 12, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ I first knew Dyann in high school, about 1964. Later at the UW, I was able to introduce her to Tom. The chemistry was immediate and lifelong. Her light may have gone out, but her star still burns.
Richard Osborn

Richard Osborn - April 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ I was so sad to hear about Dyann. She was one of my students at Jazzercise and I will always remember her bright smile at the back of the room. She always gave her best and was loved by everyone in class. I played one her favorite routines the other week and it made us all smile thinking about her. Dyann loved to talk about her grand baby and it was one of the highlights of her week looking after her. Much love to all of you. I feel blessed to have known Dyann.
Best Sasha Wright

Ben.sasha@me.com - April 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

N(

“ Thank you to all of our dear friends and family for the kind words about my mom. We've really enjoyed reading the memories and tributes. She is so deeply missed by many. Please feel free to keep sharing, and post any photos you would like. Natalie

Natalie Golobay (Alkire) - April 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EO

“ I met Dyann thanks to her daughter/my sister-in-law, Natalie. From the first time we met, I could tell that Dyann loved her family dearly. Her granddaughter Lily was her pride and joy! Dyann's gentle spirit is also reflected in her beautiful artwork. Her light will continue to shine through all who have known and loved her.

Emily Ocheskey - April 08, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I met Dyann in the late 60's when we were both in the school of art at the UW. As time progressed we shared a group studio. Each friday we had a pot luck lunch for the other group members. Such fond memories. Dyann's style then resembled Matisse's. Although Dyann graduated before me, we kept in touch. I even have postcards she wrote from her trip to Europe in the early 70's. Over the years we shared all milestones;my wedding in 77' , the birth of our 3 kids, the birth of hers Michael and Natalie. Then there were the weddings of our children. Our last rendezvous was this summer when our oldest married. It was a wonderful reunion and I was thrilled Dyann and Tom joined us. I can still remember our happy tears and shared memories that day. And I remember and shall use Dyann's words to me via her emails; "hugs and kisses" and the last one "love you forever and always". And I shall. Thank you for being my friend for 50 years you wonderful angel.

Marlene Souriano-Vinikoor - April 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I met Dyann when she was dating my high school friend Tom. She put up with a lot from those of us from the "A" burg, with our special language, accent, and history. Our families had some great times together through the subsequent years. Dyann was always so kind. She had no pretense and a quirky sense of humor, inspired by her unique view of the world and its residents.

Kerry Compton - April 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Tom, Natalie, and Michael ~ We are sorry to hear of the loss of your amazing wife and mother. Thank you for sharing her with our family these past several years. We are blessed to have known her, and are forever grateful for the gift of Natalie, our sister. May your days be wrapped, somehow, in peace. Our hearts are with yours.

Sarah Eubanks - April 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Thanks. TA

tom alkire - April 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

VT

“ *Dyann: Wife, Mother, Artist, Friend, and so much more. Her gentleness and warmth permeated every room she entered. Sharing a home cooked, spaghetti dinner and a glass of red wine with her and Tom before an early morning start to a fishing trip remains an indelible memory. Vance Thompson*

Vance Thompson - April 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Dyann was my little sister and best friend. From the time she was born we were inseparable. We raised our families together and I cherish the hours we spent working at Inkling Studio on our etchings and all the artist friends we met there. I loved being the first to see her beautiful etchings and paintings and attending her art openings. We had a rare, deep, and loving relationship. I miss my little sister and was so lucky to have her and her wonderful family in my life.*

Sherrie Funkhouser - April 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Dear Tom and Family, We are so very sorry for your loss. Dyann was a wonderful friend and neighbor. She was fun and funny, smart and interesting, and always kind and thoughtful. Our Monday walks were one of the highlights of my week. We will miss her dearly. Katy and Gary Schlickeiser*

Katy Schlickeiser - April 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BG

“*Dyann, an original as a person and as an artist. Gracious and generous, always. Interested and interesting, she would lean into a conversation, ever present. She brought to her art all of this. Her birds, her vision, her humanity. Barry Grimes*

Barry Grimes - April 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM