



Jerrold "Jerry" Turner

June 19, 1933 - February 14, 2026

Jerrold "Jerry" Turner, 92, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2026, leaving behind a world more vibrant and colorful than he found it. A beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather—and a passionate painter—Jerry devoted his life to capturing beauty in its purest form. His art was not just a reflection of landscapes; it was a conversation with time, memory, and imagination.

A Life in Color:

Born on June 19, 1933, in Los Angeles, California, to Maynard and Bernice Turner, Jerry discovered his love of art early in life. Even as a boy, he was drawn to the interplay of light and shadow, sketching scenes that spoke to his curiosity about the world. That passion never faded. While building a successful career as a structural and civil engineer—a profession he pursued with integrity and precision—Jerry nurtured his artistic spirit, studying independently under mentor Lundy Siegriest, son of renowned Society of Six painter, Louis Siegriest, of Oakland. In 1990, he went on to co-form "The Outsiders" with Nikki Basch-Davis and Bill Rushton, artists also influenced by Society of Six colorist Selden Connor Gile and who shared his passion for plein air painting and the California colorist movement. The group later expanded to include Pam Glover, who also painted with Siegriest, as well as Judy Molyneux, Randy Sexton, and Ray Jackson.

His dual life as an engineer and artist reflected his unique character: disciplined yet deeply imaginative, balanced by whimsy and a playful spirit. Eventually, Jerry's art became his defining pursuit. His paintings, celebrated for their vibrant colors and ability to capture the essence of place, are featured in private collections and galleries across California and remain a cornerstone of Benicia's art community.

An Artist's Vision:

Jerry's early works honored the wild, hidden places of his beloved San Francisco Bay, offering glimpses of California's history and landscapes as they transitioned into the future. His canvases became living records—testaments to a world in motion. Later in life, Jerry embraced a new artistic challenge: surrealism. Through whimsical motifs and symbolic forms, he reimagined humanity's story, blending humor and philosophy into dreamlike compositions that invited viewers to question and wonder.

A Mentor and Friend:

Beyond his artistic achievements, Jerry was a generous teacher and mentor. He led workshops, organized community programs and art shows, and encouraged countless aspiring artists to find their voice. He believed art was a language of the soul—a way to connect, heal, and celebrate life—and he dedicated himself to sharing that message.

Family and Legacy:

Jerry's studio was his sanctuary, but his greatest pride was his family. He taught them how to see the art in everyday life, from the way light hits the trees, to the vibrant colors in a shadow, to the smoldering glow of a sunset.

Jerry is survived by his son, James Turner; daughter, Julia Turner; two granddaughters, Natalie Turner and Jamie Turner; grandson, Sean Turner; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his former wife, Janet Turner; his son, Michael Turner; and his brother, John D. Turner. His family remembers him not only for his talent but for his humor, warmth, charm, and unwavering love.

Celebrating Jerry's Life:

A celebration of Jerry's life and art will be held in the coming months. The date is still to be determined. Friends and admirers of his art are invited to attend and share memories. A memorial paint-out will also be held at China Camp State Park in San Rafael at Noon on June 19, 2026—a favorite painting spot and the site of many workshops Jerry led over the years. This gathering will honor his love for plein air painting and the community that he cherished.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to 621 Gallery, supporting Benicia artists in Jerry's honor.

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." – Edgar Degas

Tribute Wall

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“ 6 files added to the album Jerry Turner



Julia Turner - February 23 at 07:32 PM