



Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 11



Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025

Elizabeth Holm, 66, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 19th, 2025, at the Kline Hospice House in Mount Airy, Maryland. Born on December 20, 1958, in Tacoma Park, Maryland. Liz was the beloved daughter of the late Victor Bunky Holm and Page Cressman Helenek and the stepdaughter of the late John Helenek. Liz grew up in Silver Spring and Montgomery Village, MD, and graduated from Gaithersburg High School, where she was a member of the swim team. She attended the University of Maryland at College Park, obtained a BA in English, and received a post baccalaureate degree in painting from the Maryland Institute, College of Art, in Baltimore. Liz is survived by her cousins Karen Sawyer of Melrose, MA, Debbie Sawyer Smigocki, her husband Damian of Germantown, her daughter Kristen Sills of Somerville, MA, and by Petie Sawyer Heather, her husband Peter, and their sons William Sawyer Heather and Nathaniel Sawyer Heather of London and Oxford, England, and by many cousins in Pennsylvania and Norway. She is also survived by her loving friends Eric Seebach and Kate Calvert of Frederick, MD, Cheryl Hystad of Baltimore, MD, Rick Rankin of Los Angeles, CA, and Amber Armstrong of Germantown, MD as well as by many other people who cared for her and held her dear.

After pursuing a career in publishing at the National Geographic in Washington, DC, Liz left to paint full time and teach drawing, painting and design at Frederick Community College, Hood College, Montgomery College, and The Delaplaine Visual Arts and Education Center. Trained as a classical realist, her work then moved towards more abstract explorations. Animals and the bond between man and nature, and memory and shifting perceptions of form into spirit are recurring themes in her work. Her paintings and drawings are held in private collections across the U.S. and the UK.



Obituary

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025

Liz was a force of nature. Beginning with Snowflake, Buttons, and Simba, she adored animals. An avid and accomplished sailor, she single-handedly sailed home from the Caribbean, fighting severe weather and spoiled drinking water. After caring for Page during her battle with Alzheimer's, Liz settled on her farm—her True North. There, she loved and nurtured every creature with devotion: her horses, her dogs, her cats, her parrot and conures, every one of her chickens and even the occasional barn cat or spider that wandered by. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations in Liz's memory can be made to the Delaplaine Arts Center in Frederick, MD, the Animal Welfare League of Frederick County, or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



Tribute Wall

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025



Carol Chapin posted:

Liz's love of animals warmed my heart and, I'm certain, gave her purpose and strength to battle cancer as strongly as she did. I was so sad when her cat Rami chased a mouse out of the house and disappeared. I pray that he is safe and warm in some other home, or snuggled in Liz's lap up above. ❤️

February 11 at 6:51 PM



Carol Chapin lit a candle in honor of Elizabeth.

One of my fondest memories of Liz is as first cousin to my brother Eric. Although not listed as a survivor in the obituary, Eric Martin Holm is very much alive and battling cancer every bit as ferociously as Liz did. Eric and I had the chance to visit Liz the winter before her passing and the two cousins shared fond memories. My brother is a good person and should not be canceled because of things his father and uncle said about him. Said with love.



February 11 at 6:48 PM



Rebecca Pearl posted:

I met Liz for lunch at the Main Cup in Middletown about 10 years ago. I loved her art, and love of horses and animals. She took me to meet her horses on a beautiful farm just outside the town. She was kind and we talked a long time about family, animals and art. I think of her a lot, I remember her courage and strength to prevail... May she have a peaceful journey to a place of love, and peace. ❤️

July 24 at 3:43 PM



Liz Nonnenmacher posted:

I am sad to learn about Liz's passing. My deepest condolences to her family and friends. Her father was my father's photographer when my dad ran for congress. My fondest memories revolve around us pretending we were the Monkeys together with some of my other siblings. We also had fun running around the Gaithersburg Fair during my father's campaign. Rest in peace Liz and I am happy you are now free of your battle with cancer! Love, Liz N.

June 10 at 7:38 PM



Tribute Wall

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025



Vern Schwarz posted:

I had the pleasure of meeting Liz online through Karin Jurick's Different Strokes For Different Folks where we all contributed to the weekly challenges. Liz was a wonderful artist and supporter who will always live in my heart as a great friend and contributor who made everyone feel good and happy to be a part of a wonderful community. I will miss her even though we had never ever met face to face. She instilled a feeling of comfort and closeness to all that she met.

June 5 at 12:19 AM



Celeste Bergin posted:

What a warrior Liz was. My jaw was often on the floor reading accounts of her stopping at the feed store, mucking the stalls, feeding the "chuks", doing the laundry on and on, and all of it at the height of cancer! I'm still so in awe of her. Oh and remember how she took wonderful care of her Mom? That had to be so hard, but she did it without complaint. Honestly, she'd be mad at me for saying so, but Liz was a Saint! She truly made the world a better place, and I'm so very grateful for having known her.

June 4 at 3:38 AM



Mona Conner lit a candle in honor of Elizabeth.



May 31 at 11:10 AM



Mona Conner posted:

My deepest condolences to Liz's dearest cousins and friends, especially those who were supporting her, both in person and online, as I was. I will miss her so! She had a way of brightening the path of many of us, even when her health was fading until it just became too tough and it was hospice time. I loved and admired Liz's farm life, which she bravely only started after her diagnosis of stage 4, and which lifted her up and supported her in that it was her dream too, apart from the artmaking that she loved. We blogged and we spoke online, both there and on Facebook, and though we never managed to meet up in person, you would have thought do because of how she had this way of reaching out and embracing me too. Thank you Liz! Much love always. I have loved and admired your art as well as your personal style in this lifetime.

Always, Mona ❤️😁😔

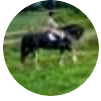
May 31 at 11:10 AM



Tribute Wall

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025



Patricia Carter posted:

I met her over 30 years ago when we were taking Andrea Burchett's watercolor class at Frederick Community College (which she wound up teaching) and during that time she actually quit her day job to become an Artist full time. We reconnected when she decided to get into horses and being Liz, went out and bought an Irish-bred mare and took up fox hunting (again, being Liz, she adopted two foxhounds). When the foxhounds' baying disturbed her city neighbors she just went out and bought them a farm, where she collected more creatures (horses, chickens, parrots). She documented her battle with cancer on facebook where it was closely followed. She was courageous throughout and continued caring for her adored creatures as it was becoming increasingly difficult. I knew she was gutsy, as she had often told me about her single-handed sail from the Caribbean to the Chesapeake though stormy weather; she reminded me of that when I saw her fall off her mare and told her not to quit. She never did. She was a very talented artist and I would like to buy one of her paintings.

April 27 at 12:11 PM



Diana Kaye posted:

I've known Liz since 1999. I could not believe that this lovely and so very talented woman agreed to paint a huge 10' x 10' canvas mural for us for our small business with our tiny budget. The finished mural was extraordinary--colorful, beautiful and so infused with Liz energy! (I still have the canvas mural--but, sadly, without a wall big enough to display it!) I regret not taking pictures of her progress on the painting process as she painted it in our barn! Over the years we maintained communication and Liz and her father helped us in several generous ways. I loved her spirit--her daily inspirational posts, her sense of humor, her strength, the animal antics and her love of nature. Where she found the energy to keep her positivity, I can only guess. But, do know that I miss Liz and will do so forever. Going forward, I will strive to be more like her and carry forth with the life example that she left for all of us. Rest in peace my old friend, lovely Liz. ❤️

April 27 at 10:55 AM



Carolyn Spencer shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Liz with her godson, Austin, and his daughters, Tatiana and Anastasia - December 2019. Her art that I purchased and cherish: Leap of Faith from one of her in person shows and the yellow roses I purchased directly from her.



April 23 at 12:53 PM



Tribute Wall

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025

CO

Caragh Owens posted:

My father & Liz's father Vic were best friends. Liz and I have always stayed in contact. At one time she was the videographer for depositions in my office. Liz had a huge heart and soul. I have a lot of her art work and love every piece because each one reminds me of different time periods in both our lives. Thank you Liz for your love, your warmth, and compassion. Until we meet again my friend ❤️

April 25 at 1:18 PM

CB

Cathyann Burgess posted:

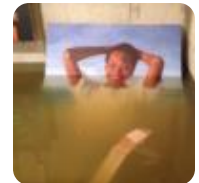
I knew Liz online since early blogger days. We met through daily painters early days in 2005-6. I remember chatting about Malta and her Maltese friend. I am also of Maltese descent. While we intended to meet in DC someday, sadly, it did not happen. But we remained in touch online through our mutual love of art. What speaks to me at this time, is that her generous spirit and humanity reached many and that kind of extended love made our world better. She will not be forgotten. Thank you to all the wonderful people who were physically at her side these last years and days of her life. In this harsh environment, it bears witness to all the goodness that is still present in ordinary life through community.

April 25 at 8:44 AM



Celeste Bergin shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I met Liz online around 2009, during the heyday of artist blogs. Back then, blogging was a lively and supportive space, artists cheered each other on with comments, virtual high-fives, and even online "awards." It was our version of social media before Facebook took hold. Many of us posted daily, and Liz was part of that creative community. Her blog is still up, a lovely reminder of her voice and vision, even though she stopped posting in 2017. One moment I'll never forget was when Liz's basement flooded, destroying a huge number of her paintings. I kept a photo from that time (possibly from early Facebook) because I was in awe of how she responded. Imagine working for years to build your skills, only to lose so much of it in a single disaster. She was understandably upset at first, but soon said, "It's okay, I'll paint new things." Her grace and resilience were unforgettable. That photo still reminds me to try to be more like Liz. I never met anyone quite like her—so full of love for this world and every animal in it. She was truly a joy to "know." This was her second battle with cancer, and while she wanted to see her treatment through, she continued to meet life with acceptance rather than resistance. I'll miss her always. For those interested, Liz's beautiful blog is still online: <https://lizholm.blogspot.com>



April 23 at 12:53 PM



Tribute Wall

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025

JG

Jessie Lee-Gibbons posted:

She was an amazing professor and it was such a privilege to have her for my watercolor class at FCC ❤️

April 23 at 8:31 PM

DH

Dennis Habecker posted:

I had a huge crush on Liz in the high school, but we only became close friends when my wife Selma and I visited several times on visits from the Middle East while she lived in Frederick. She worked on two paintings for me, for which I "paid" her with a poem each time. I finished one last one for her two hours before I learned of her passing, which I've written below. She was a wonderful soul. Rest in peace, Liz; this is for you. This House of Mine This house of mine has been my portal-a space where all my worlds entwine, a frame to catch the life-soaked seasons-a space of love, this house of mine. If I could just embrace it all, and touch each creature near and far the love I'd send from this old doorstep would echo down each hill and dale. But seasons were not made to linger; Love won't stop this march of time. One day this seasoned frame will falter; I'll leave this blessed home behind. Perhaps a new one waits before me; but Lord, I've loved this house of mine.-For Liz from Denny "Hobbs" Habecker (04/19/2025)

April 23 at 7:20 PM

KM

Kelley Macdonald posted:

Liz and I have been 'online friends' since the days she cared for her mom, with humor and love. We shared a love of animals and of art, and I have adored every post that let us be a part of her wonderful world. I will miss her.

April 23 at 4:56 PM

JP

Jala Pfaff posted:

I wasn't fortunate enough to know Liz in person, but I have known her online for many years, and every photo and post delighted me. We shared our love of animals and art. What a wonderful artist and caring, loving soul. Thank you, Liz. I will miss you, and I hope you and your beloved cat Rami will be reunited.

April 23 at 4:49 PM



Tribute Wall

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025

CN

Carol Nelson lit a candle in honor of Elizabeth.

Liz was a warm, caring, honest, and funny person. I never met her personally, but loved reading and sharing posts on her Facebook page. I'm sorry I didn't know her when she was in good health. She was so honest and candid about her health struggles, yet was able to laugh at her own struggles, and, of course, the antics of her pet family. I feel fortunate to have known this bright soul.



April 23 at 4:38 PM

NB

Nancy Briscoe shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Oh how we laughed~! I will always remember Liz this way. Sail on Silver Girl. You're loved and missed. ❤️❤️❤️



April 23 at 2:35 PM

SB

Stephie Butler lit a candle in honor of Elizabeth.



April 23 at 2:21 PM

MH

Maryann Harvey posted:

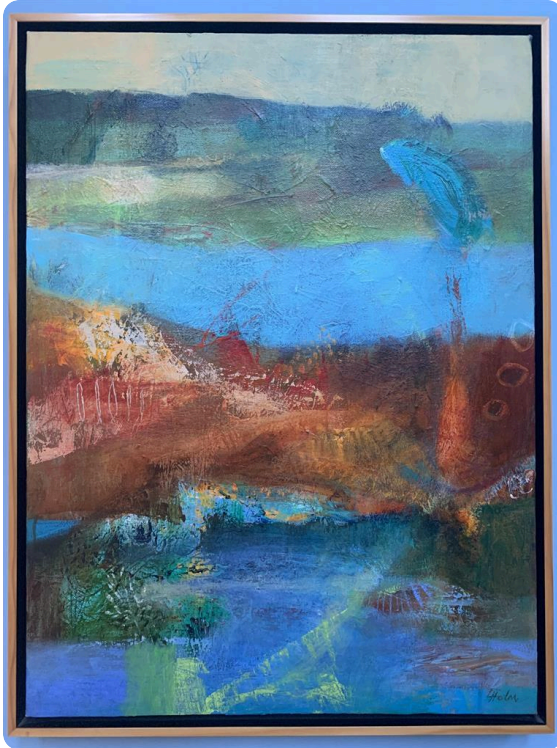
I loved the way Liz did beautiful and colorful abstract paintings. We became friends online in 2012, and I have connected with her about every week since then. She was a joyous woman who looked forward to each day, loved her crew of animals, and appreciated pals and the sunsets from her farm. I will miss my friend.

April 23 at 12:53 PM



Carolyn Spencer shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 27 at 7:27 AM





Media

Elizabeth Holm

DEC 20, 1958 - APR 19, 2025



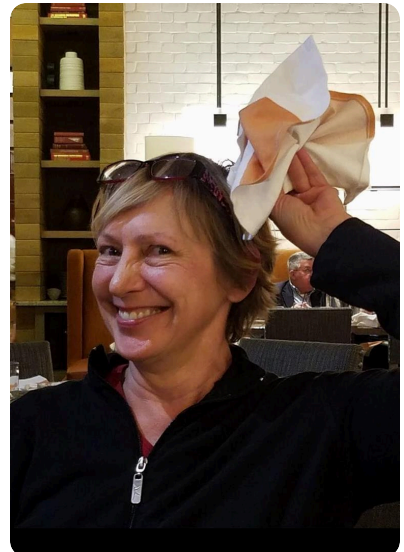
Celeste Bergin shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 24 at 11:38 AM



Nancy Briscoe shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 23 at 2:35 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Elizabeth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit