



Vlasta Polacek

July 1, 2019

Vlasta, age 94, lived her life to the fullest, she loved art in all forms and was always eager to try new techniques which she took on with such gusto as to totally immerse herself into the artwork itself. You can feel the emotion and enthusiasm in her finished pieces which resonate the life she willed into them! She loved sharing her etching techniques and mentored a number of artists who also came to love printmaking.

It wasn't always easy for Vlasta to paint whenever she wanted to. While under communist oppression she was in her teens and forced to work in a factory that made ammunition, she instead made tiny figurines.

She managed to turn incredibly dangerous life threatening situations into, what seemed to me, by just holding my hand and making me feel safe. She possessed the quality that cloaked me in love and out of harms way, as when we had to cross the border from Czechoslovakia into Vienna on foot in the winter. I don't remember being scared, just holding her hand on some kind of adventure. That bond of respect, pride and love was not only felt by me but by many people that came to know and love her over the years.

When a group of artists and I started an artists co-op, Mom surprised us by purchasing a building to put the gallery into. That was 23 years ago and we are still carrying out her dream at the ARTISTS PALETTE.

SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND, MY MENTOR AND MY HERO! THANK YOU MOM!

A Celebration of Vlasta's life will be at The Blue Bayou in Manitowish Waters on Sunday, August 4, 2019 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Please RSVP Val, 715-543-2728 if you can make it.

Tribute Wall

KL

“ From the first moment I met Vlasta, hanging her art at the Presque Isle Library, I knew here stood greatness. Fiesty, determined greatness. It was years later I learned of her fight against communism, the daring escape with her young daughter Val and her work with Radio Free Europe. Vlasta lived a spectacular, why isn't this a movie, life and all with such grace. Others would have rested on their laurels and she truly deserved them, but she continued to work for good. What a fragrant life she lived. Godspeed my friend, until we meet again.
Kay Lorbiecki

Kay Lorbiecki - July 15, 2019 at 09:28 AM

CA

“ My memories of Vlasta are what epic movies are made of. In my eyes she was an International hero. Vlasta held an active leadership role in "Radio Free Europe". Her vivid reenactments of the perils of resisting the spread of Communism were spell binding. I could listen to her accounts for hour on end. Most of us alive today have yet to learn what true sacrifice is. The most graphic account was her icy escape across the Danube river with women and children, holding babies out of the frigid water while enduring a hail of Communist gun fire. These rebels were dangerous to the underpinning of Communism. Vlasta would repeatedly say, "we always had to be on guard".

Then came 9/11. Again, Vlasta once again stood for the cause of FREEDOM. Through her art she raised funds and awareness for the victims and emergency personnel in the downing of The World Trade Centers. This woman of impeccable character, forever etched an image of awe in the depth of my mind. Vlasta, it has truly been an honor to know you, my only regret is that these epic historical events didn't make it to the big screen while your time on earth. I'm sure the Good Lord has a special purpose for your special talents. What a pleasure to ever know you...Most Respectfully Yours
Forever

Charles (Chuck) Ahlborn, Wilderness Legends Gallery

Chuck Ahlborn - July 05, 2019 at 10:02 PM