

**Peter Greene Holbrook**  
April 13, 1940 - June 22, 2016

Peter Holbrook was born in New York City, NY. He attended Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Dartmouth College in 1961.

Peter was born an artist-winning his first award at the age of 7 in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. His first solo exhibition was at the Carpenter Galleries at Dartmouth College in 1960.



Peter in his studio  
(Photo by Fred Bauer)

Following graduation, Peter spent 2 years traveling around Europe, Africa, the Middle East and India. Upon his return to the United States, he enrolled in the Brooklyn Museum Art School.

For seven years he worked a variety of jobs in Chicago, from draftsman to taxi driver, and began to exhibit his art work professionally and lecture at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus. It was during this period that photorealism began to emerge as a counter to abstract expressionism. This genre suited Peter's dual interests in photography and painting, although his own approach was to use deliberately applied brushwork and line to suggest the landscape rather than replicate it.

In an interview with Rosemary Carstens for an article in Southwest Art magazine, Peter states: "I have always admired the great realists. There's a basic visual magic in the ability of pigment to credibly translate a three-dimensional world into a flat two-dimensional world on paper and canvas. A good painting allows us to momentarily enter another's consciousness and implies dimensions beyond what is normally seen. It makes painting a spiritual exercise, requiring imagination to create credibility."

Peter decided he had had enough of city life and came West to California in 1970, bought land in Briceland in Humboldt County and began to build his home. He taught for two years at California State University, East Bay, while commuting back and forth on the weekends to complete construction. In 1976 Peter met Pat Weaver and together they homesteaded their property and raised two children, Acacia and Sean Holbrook.

Peter continued to exhibit his paintings in Chicago, California, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. A prolific and hardworking artist, by 2016 he had presented his work in 58 one-man shows and 48 museum exhibitions. His work is in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Oakland Museum of California, Tucson Museum of Art, Morris Graves Museum of Art (in

Eureka CA), Brooklyn Museum, Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington DC) Archenbach Legion of Honor (San Francisco) and many more. He will be remembered as a great American painter.

The quest to find new subject matter for his paintings was always an adventure for Peter. Whether rafting down the Grand Canyon; hiking through Escalante, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Bryce, Zion or Arches national parks; paraplaning over the Eel River and Pacific Ocean at Shelter Cove; flying in a small aircraft over the Trinity Alps and Lake Powell; or skiing down a mountain side at Lake Tahoe, he always had his camera in tow. He felt deeply that "These landscapes are the examinations of polarities: light and dark, hot and cold, flat and textured, focused and unfocused all the while emphasizing patterns, rhythms, and transitions in search of the music of the place." For Peter, the land offered up a symphony he spent his life translating into paint.

When he wasn't traveling or painting Peter loved sports. In high school he played ice hockey and soccer and, as an adult he enjoyed tennis, volleyball, skiing, softball, and golf. His zest and enthusiasm for life, art and family never waned.

Peter is survived by Patricia Weaver, his wife/partner/ friend of 40 years; his two children, Sean and Acacia Holbrook; sister Margaret Birch; niece Laurel Tabi and her husband Frederik; nephew Ryck Birch; sister and brother in law Mary and Bruce MacMartin; nephew Kris MacMartin and partner Michelle Whitney and niece Vanessa Underwood; and numerous fellow artists and friends from all walks' of life.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Heart of the Redwoods Community Hospice 464 Maple Lane Garberville, CA 95542

You can read more about Peter's life on his web site [peterholbrook.net](http://peterholbrook.net)