



Ann Rockefeller Roberts

May 12, 1934 - December 18, 2024

"Ann Rockefeller Roberts, a champion of the rights, welfare and culture of Native Americans and the eldest daughter of former Vice President and Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, died on Wednesday at her home in Bedford, N.Y. She was 90."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/20/nyregion/ann-rockefeller-roberts-dead.html>

Cremation was private.

Previous Events

Cremation Private

DEC **19** (ET)

Ferncliff Cemetery
280 Secor Rd.
Hartsdale, NY 10530

Tribute Wall

NN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Nicolás De Jesús. Mexican Artist Nahua - January 29, 2025 at 02:41 PM

NN

Muchas gracias Gran Señora Ann, por su gran labor en el reconocimiento a nuestras Culturas Indígenas en México. Y por su Gran Corazón al apoyar el Arte de todos los pueblos originarios. Que su Luz se siga difundiendo en el mundo. Con gran Sentimiento: Nicolás De Jesús. Pintor Nahua. Guerrero , México.

Nicolás De Jesús. Mexican Artist Nahua - January 29, 2025 at 02:47 PM

JG

“ *I've known Ann since I was 19 (69 now). She was nothing but king to me and always interesting. I'll miss her. Jon Glascoe*

Jon Glascoe - January 11, 2025 at 12:11 PM

“ *The Board and Staff of the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) sends its condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Ann Rockefeller Roberts.*

Following Nelson Rockefeller’s death in 1979, Ms. Roberts acquired approximately 3,500 pieces of Mexican popular art from his collection, carefully curated them, and generously donated them to both the San Antonio Museum of Art and the Mexican Museum in San Francisco. Her vision helped establish the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art at SAMA—the first center in the U.S. dedicated to the study and exhibition of Latin American art.

In looking for homes for her father’s collection, Ms. Roberts’ goal was to make Mexican cultural objects available to the broad public in cities where communities have connections to Mexico’s heritage. Writing in 1990 about her museum donations, Ms. Roberts noted that at these institutions, “North Americans can see the richness of Mexican culture through her folk arts, and Mexican-Americans can see their own abundant Spanish and Indian folk heritage fully honored.”

As a result of Ms. Roberts’s work, SAMA today stewards one of the nation’s premier collections of Mexican popular art. Reflecting on her father’s love for Mexico’s popular art, Ms. Roberts noted, “he could [...] see that it is in the nature of the cycles of life to repeat themselves and that folk artists recreate each new birth, life, or death through their art. In this way, the folk arts allow us to renew our own experience and understand the uniqueness of each human passage.” SAMA is proud to steward this collection of objects intimately tied to human experience, and we will always be grateful to Ms. Roberts for her expansive work to make them an indispensable part of San Antonio’s cultural life.

*From Edward A. Hart, Board Chair, San Antonio Museum of Art
Emily Ballew Neff, PhD, The Kelso Director*

Kristopher Driggers, PhD, Associate Curator of Latin American Art



Emily Neff - January 06, 2025 at 06:35 PM

“ Recuerdos de Ann R. Roberts December 21, 2024

Ann Rockefeller Roberts (1934-2024) was one of the most important benefactors in the 50-year history of The Mexican Museum (TMM). Her passing this week gives me an opportunity to share memories of my dear friend and mentor.

I first met Ann shortly after I became the museum's second Executive Director (1984-1989), following our founder, Peter Rodriguez. At that time the museum had just moved to Fort Mason Center. TMM was one of several museums she was looking at to gift her father's collection of Mexican folk art. We were the least developed of all the art museums that she was considering.

However, Ann being Ann, she was immediately taken with the purity of Peter's vision and the core mission statement at that time, "to foster the exhibition, conservation, and dissemination of Mexican and Chicano art and culture for all peoples."¹ The community rallied around supporting our candidacy to receive her father's prestigious collection and, together, we convinced Ann of our vitality as one of the most important community-based art museums in the country. She carefully and methodically made the decision to divide the Nelson A. Rockefeller Folk Art Collection between TMM and the San Antonio Museum of Art. Ann's astute decision catapulted TMM into national, even international, visibility propelling us into a new phase of growth and development. On the evening of the inaugural celebration for the acquisition of the collection, Ann and I literally skipped across the Fort Mason parking lot filled with joy and happiness. I will be forever grateful for these memories.

Ann and I kept in touch throughout our careers, she as a writer and philanthropist, I as a museum director and curator. Together we kept track of the museum's cycles of change. We saw each other whenever we could, in New York, San Francisco and, even, Hawaii.

I returned to TMM in 2012 to inventory the permanent collection as

Adjunct Curator and Director (2012- 2015). At my request Ann returned to support TMM once again as a primary advisor. She funded a day- long strategic planning meeting in Sausalito for our stakeholders, including Guadalupe Rivera Marin, Diego's daughter. The two of them, Ann and Lupe, became instant friends and stayed close through their lives.

We owe Ann R. Roberts a great deal of gratitude and admiration for gifting her father's collection, providing major grant support and inspiring us to do our important work. AnnmR.Roberts will be remembered as a great humanitarian and supporter for women's issues, Native American and Mexican American art and culture.

Ann's generosity and love for TMM continued throughout the museum's history. While there have been several key benefactors, I believe that without a doubt Ann is THE single most important patron to have supported TMM. I will miss her today and every day.

RIP Ann Rockefeller Roberts

David J. de la Torre

TMM Executive Director (1984-1989) (2012-2015)

1 The current mission of The Mexican Museum is "to voice the complexity and richness of Latino art and culture throughout the Americas, and to engage and facilitate dialogue among the broadest public."

David J. de la Torre - January 02, 2025 at 06:29 PM

LG

“ To Ann Rockefeller Roberts' family, I am saddened to hear of Ann's passing and offer my condolences. I came to know and connect with Ann and also the late daughter of Diego Rivera, Dr. Guadalupe Rivera Marin in the late 80's/early 90's. Since the Rivera and Rockefeller families had not been in contact for decades, and I very much enjoyed both Anne and Guadalupe, I felt they should meet. I suggested it to Guadalupe and she wrote to Ann. As a result they met and the three of us shared time at The Algonquin Hotel, a historic meeting. They initiated a friendship, a meaningful one. Guadalupe passed in 2023. So, much can be said about Ann, her intelligence, humanity, her grounding. The world was more resonant because of what she brought to this earthly existence we share-
Lorraine Garcia-Nakata



Lorraine Garcia-Nakata - December 24, 2024 at 02:53 PM

EG

“ On behalf of the entire Smiley Family at Mohonk Mountain House, we share our deepest condolences.

Eric Gullickson, president and fifth generation Smiley family member.



Eric Gullickson - December 21, 2024 at 02:36 PM

DT

“ To Ann Rockefeller Roberts’ family and friends, please accept my deepest sympathies on her passing. Ann’s dedication to and appreciation of women, the underserved, Native American and Mexican American art and culture, among many other worthy causes will be remembered in perpetuity with fondness and much love. My family and I cherish our time with her. Missing you now and forever.

RIP Ann Rockefeller Roberts

Respectfully, David J. de la Torre

David J. de la Torre - December 21, 2024 at 01:25 PM

MI

“ My prayers go out to Ann's family and friends. For many years, I had the privilege and pleasure of driving thousands of visitors on carriages over Mr. Rockefeller's Roads in Acadia National Park. As a historical interpreter, I shared many facts from Ann's wonderful book and stories about the Rockefeller family in Seal Harbor. Sometime around 2008, Ann visited Seal Harbor and gave a wonderful talk. I was fortunate to sit with her a moment as she signed her book, Mr. Rockefeller's Roads. It remains a memory I will cherish. I pray that the her legacy, and that of her grandfather remain intact to be enjoyed by many generations to come.



Mike - December 21, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ann Rockefeller Roberts.*



December 20, 2024 at 04:46 AM



“ *My prayers to her family*

Bob Shroba - December 18, 2024 at 05:52 PM