

IN *tribute*

J. P. Cobb collector

by Dave DeRoche

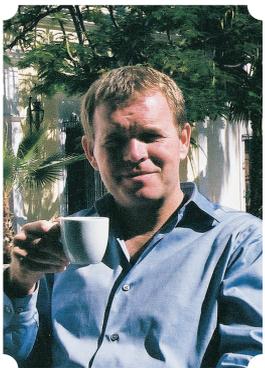


Jonathan "J. P." Cobb was an indefatigable art collector, art lover, and fun lover. Born and bred in San Francisco, he was proudly old fashioned in a gentlemanly way and enjoyed complaining about the modern world while playing quaint old tunes on a piano in his antiques-filled parlor. He also enjoyed debating and would spice conversations with acerbic asides. He loved to haunt auction houses, shops, and galleries, where he would discover treasures to restore. J. P.'s knowledge of tex-

tiles, antiquities, and Asian and ethnic art was vast. His knowledge of Yoruba art and culture was especially deep. He was known to sometimes wear African costumes and actually dance his masks. Few knew, but he was the sole caregiver and support for two severely disabled adult cousins. Whether to individuals or an organization, J. P. gave of his time and energy with awesome dedication and endless good cheer. He was a wonderful friend to art and to the art community.

Ron Messick dealer

by Thomas Murray



The friends of Ron Messick are too many to count and we share a collective grief at his untimely passing.

Nine years ago, Ron and his long-time partner Paul Rochford opened a gallery featuring indigenous and colonial art of North and South America in a 250-year-old adobe house on Canyon Road in Santa Fe, New Mexico. With an unerring eye for pottery, textiles, paintings, and furniture, they also included objects from North Africa and even presented one of the first important exhibitions of Himalayan masks ever held in the United States. With a keen aesthetic, genuine warmth, and broad-ranging knowledge that made clients feel ever comfortable, theirs was an immediate success.

Perpetual learning was one of Ron's values. Every year in the summer he sponsored a scholarly program on some aspect of art history and connoisseurship. A highlight for us out-of-towners was the party he and Paul threw following these lectures as a fundraiser benefiting the College of Santa Fe. He was famous for his hospitality and was a great host, a role

that came quite comfortably to him, as he and Paul had created a very successful catering business in New Mexico in the years before opening the gallery. He was as passionate about food as he was about art, and their home, filled with every kind of masterpiece, was a wonderful setting for an epicurean meal.

Over time, Ron and Paul's taste felt confined by the old gallery. In what turned out to be Ron's final project, they created a new space behind the first one with a more contemporary architectural aesthetic. This lent itself readily to presenting the Asian and contemporary art they so loved but which did not work as well in the old adobe building. Ron's spirit lives on at this new location, now titled Rochford & Messick, at 602-A Canyon Road.

Ron accepted his cancer with hope and peace, never with anger or bitterness. He died as he lived, in touch with his spirit guides and with an Indian holy man chanting while his soul transitioned from his body. And what a great soul it is! He will be missed, and the world is a far lesser place without him.