



## Enid Ellison Cutler

September 27, 1921 - December 28, 2012

Enid Varian Ellison Cutler passed away Friday, Dec 28, 2012 at Parkhouse Providence Point, a nursing facility in Royersford, PA. She was born September 27, 1921 to Harold Cornelius Ellison and Mary Louise Fitch Ellison and was raised in Webster Groves, MO. Both her parents and her siblings, sisters Mary Steppi and Barbara Fumagalli, chose art as a way of life and profession. From early on, Enid's own artistic aptitude was so apparent that in the midst of the Great Depression a portraiture client of Harold Ellison, her father, offered to pay Enid's tuition to the University of Iowa. There she received several honors and graduated with a BFA in 1942 and a MFA in 1944. It was also at U of I that she met and married an economics major, Howard Armstrong Cutler of Webster City, IA in 1943. Enid was a prolific artist all her life. Moving with her husband's career, she made homes in Georgia, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Alaska, raising three children.

Throughout her lifetime, she produced hundreds of works in a variety of mediums and on a range of subjects. Her work was displayed in venues around the country including Lincoln Center Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. When approached to share her knowledge, enormous enthusiasm, and love for art, she accepted offers to teach at a variety of institutions, from universities to medical and retirement facilities. Enid was highly social by temperament. Besides the arts, she was passionately concerned with politics, the natural environment, and education; and she tirelessly supported the professional communities in which her husband served. Together these two

built community wherever they went, actively seeking and creating occasions to recognize and celebrate the contributions of community members, students, faculty, and staff. At Pennsylvania State University and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, they worked as a warm and enthusiastic welcoming committee and outreach team, attending, planning, and hosting social gatherings and communal events in town and on campus. While with the Institute for International Education in New York City, they traveled around the world, promoting international educational exchange. After the passing of her beloved husband, Enid moved in 2002 from Alaska to Pennsylvania to live with her daughter, Kristen, and son-in-law, Thomas Bissinger. With their support, she continued to produce and present her work unabated in one-woman and group shows at local galleries, such as The Chester Springs Art Studio and Phoenix Village Art Center. Enid leaves behind a substantial artistic inventory of enormous variety. Enid is survived by her sister, Barbara Fumagalli of Camarillo, CA, three children and their spouses, their children, and their grandchildren: Cheryl Cutler of Ashland, OR; Kristen Bissinger and husband Thomas Bissinger of Pottstown, PA, their children Esther Bissinger of Tepotzlan, Mexico, and Zachary Bissinger and wife Sunit Gill and their children Anand and Zareen of Denver, CO; Thor Cutler and wife Joy and their children Cleopatra and Iris of Burien, WA.

# Tribute Wall



“ *In the mid to late 1990s I knew Enid Cutler as the next door neighbor to my parents in law. I got to know Enid while I was learning to paint (a short lived hobby that had a major impact in helping me survive medical school). Enid took me in, showed me her paintings, gave me a few, and reviewed my attempts. One painting she gave my wife and me is called Prometheus Bound and Prometheus Unbound, of a couple of apples, each depicted separately. Yesterday I was walking through the sculpture garden at Baltimore Art Museum and came across a sculpture of a man curled forward while seated. It was called Prometheus Bound 2. I thought back fondly upon my time with her, and wondered if that sculptures had served as inspiration to her.*

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**Peter de Schweinitz** - February 17, 2020 at 09:02 AM