



Cheryl Wrangle peacefully passed away in her home on March 7th, 2024. She had a creative, spiritual and gentle nature. Throughout her life she endeavored to build community and to offer support and guidance to all those who surrounded her. The art community and all those whose lives she touched will miss her graceful and loving presence.

Cheryl is well known for her paintings of Methow Valley landscapes and scenes from her annual sojourns in Mexico. She devoted much of her early career to sculpting in ceramics, cement, stone, bronze and wood. Her art ranged from fine woodworking in the form of shapely boxes with curvy drawers to larger wood and mixed media sculptures begging to be touched, cast bronze and concrete sculptures or her almost dreamy landscapes. Cheryl always created from a deep sense of the feminine and an inner wonder of the natural world. She had a calm and refined air yet was bold and assertive in her convictions and opinions. Even in the male dominated industry of fine woodworking and the art world of the U.W. in the seventies and early eighties she was able to assert and convey her artistic vision of a female perspective. Always in tune with current events and how they can affect others she used her artistic ability to inspire wonder. She said, "that's what painting gives me -I want to be uplifted, and I hope it will uplift someone else, too." When she decided to devote her talents to painting she said she had read that it can take 20 years for an artist to develop. "I thought I'd better get busy."

Cheryl's artistic career began as a young adult while living in South Africa, where she lived for nine years, creating illustrations for literacy books. When she moved back to the states, she wanted to further her education and received her art degree from the University of Washington, with a focus on sculpting, pottery, and ceramics. Around this time in the early Eighties she was among a group including Rick Swanson and woodworking husband Richard Wrangle that founded the Northwest Gallery of Fine Woodworking in Seattle. She later received her M.F.A., with classmate and fellow Methow Valley artist Rod Weagant, at the U.W.

Cheryl moved to Carlton, in the Methow Valley, in 1983 where she was an art instructor for 11 years in Pateros focusing on painting. In 1988 she, along with a small group including artist Bruce Morrison, started what is now The Confluence Art In Twisp. It began briefly in Winthrop, then moved to Twisp as

the founders thought it important to service the community rather than the tourist industry. The first iteration of the gallery in Twisp started in what is now the Glover Street Market. Then it moved to its current building on Glover St, once used by the original Hank's Grocery Store, where it stands today. The building has a history of ownership by several community members including Cheryl and Richard Wrangle and Rich Beyer then transferred to another small group including Rick Swanson. Later with the help of a generous grant from the Moccasin Lake Foundation the community banded together to raise funds so that the gallery itself could own its own building, thus creating an enduring legacy for the town of Twisp, which is now a designated Art District in the state of WA.

For over two decades, Cheryl was leading the Show Committee in creating exhibits for the Confluence. Over the last several years of her life, Cheryl continued to dedicate her expertise, time, and energy to the Confluence as a Show Committee volunteer. She continued to help form the yearly exhibit schedule, as well as helped curate and hang new shows. The last show that she participated in was a five person exhibit which featured several of her paintings as well as a collection of her sculptures. This was entitled Okanogan Retrospective and the exhibit closed less than three weeks before her passing. She dedicated her entire adult life to the arts making space for all.

Cheryl was deeply spiritual and believed all things are connected. She played a large role in bringing artists together and creating a community of love, partnership, and belonging.