



Julie Olsson Graham, 56, of Brooklyn, N.Y., died Sept. 12, 2004. A prize-winning art student in college, she designed and co-edited the last Macalester yearbook. She earned an M.F.A. from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and had more than 20 shows of her paintings in Manhattan and Connecticut. She worked



Julie Olsson Graham

as a graphic designer for nonprofits and galleries at Curtis & Company, then as a free-lancer. Beginning in 1999 she taught innovative computer graphics, animation and art classes to middle-schoolers at a private school in Brooklyn. "She was a superb artist," wrote a friend, **Elaine Stathopoulos Strompolos '70**. Ms. Graham was a passionate artist and devoted teacher who "colored the lives of her family and friends with her wit, strength and friendship," her obituary notice said. She is survived by her husband Stephen Truslow and son Eric.



1975

Julie Graham

(A letter written to her friend soon after learning of Julie's passing)

As the days progress, in the moments between the intensity of teaching, my thoughts turn to Julie. In the darkest of those moments, I feel as if a bright star has been extinguished. And the circle of darkness that is left extends to some large, fine veil of aesthetic sensibility that hovers over all, as well as to me.

I have always been happy to know that somewhere and always, Julie was embroidering, illuminating and stretching this veil, that she would cast out to settle over us all. She had this fine tuned sense that she nurtured and shared. She was a superb artist.

As for me, I am left with memories of powerful encounters: of long talks, heated debates, serious experimentation (on the balcony of the painting studio) and goony, goofy experimentation (the time we tried to go for days strictly speaking backwards - I was Eniale Solupohtats). And I am left with the echoes of the fun and laughter. We had a lot of fun and we had a lot of laughs. Julie never failed to challenge us to be our best because she always challenged herself. We were so alive with this aura of youth and our unlimited potential. We were oblivious to our limits and only just occasionally plain oblivious. Julie had the courage of her convictions. She was intelligent, direct and honest. She was a good friend. I mourn Julie and I mourn the part of myself that she held dear.

At last, I am buoyed by the recollection of Julie's devotion to Steve and Eric. She truly found her soul mate in Steve and was so proud of Eric. She found happiness surrounded by their love and for this I am grateful.

Elaine Stathopoulos Strompolos



1976-7

Julie Olsson (Graham)



1983-1



1996-2



Julie&Class 1

Julie Graham



2001-0421 Julie Opening

VOCABULARY? ONE THING IS THE MARK. SO WHAT IS MY PERSONAL MADE BY ONE INDIVIDUAL ON ONE DAY, IN ONE MOMENT THAT IS NOT LIKE ANY OTHER (EXACTLY) ...

One of the things I especially liked was the sense of the fundamental aspects of life. To me painting & art in general should be about more than just the here and now. They should – like religion I suppose – point to something beyond themselves and beyond the mundane concerns of the everyday.

How do I hope to accomplish anything like that in my work?
--Abstraction. I believe that the abstract qualities of my paintings reflects reality, points to reality without mimicking it. I hope it gives you a sense of being in another world, Hopefully a more tranquil world? or at least a balanced world.



2003-5

What I do like about these latest things is the sense of dance. That the fast-moving strokes that I'm drawing on – as fast as I can and as random as possible (evenly random?)—do seem to go in and out of space. They float in a contained space of their own.



