

Elaine I Duillo

July 28, 1928 - July 30, 2021

Elaine Duillo passed away on July 30, 2021 at the age of 93. Beloved wife of the late John Duillo. Loving mother of Bettina (George) Wright and Melissa (Richard) Gallo. Cherished grandmother of Joshua, Chiara, Paul, Justin, Jonathan, Rachel and great-grandmother of four. Elaine was a successful Illustrator of paperback covers. In 2003 she won the prestigious Hall of Fame Award from the Society of Illustrators. An inurnment of cremains will take place at a later date.

Previous Events

Private Cremation

JUL 31 (ET)

A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc.
1380 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 423-2185
jacobsenfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Visitation

AUG 15. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Elaine I Duillo*



A.L. Jacobsen Funeral Home, Inc. - August 15, 2021 at 09:29 AM

DM

Beautiful! A life well lived.

Doreen Minuto - August 15, 2021 at 09:38 AM

WB

When I had my novel I, Cleopatra published in 1977 by Warner Books, I told the art director Gene Light that I wanted Elaine to do my cover of Cleopatra lounging on a divan. I had admired her work from other novels. Her cover was amazing. I had also requested that Ray Barber do the hand lettering. I wrote Elaine a letter of appreciation, but of course she was too busy to reply. Once in an interview, she claimed that cover was one of her favorites, and she was besieged with offers after its publication in Oct. 1977. How wonderful that she had such a long and fruitful life.

William Bostock - October 29, 2023 at 07:40 PM

LP

“ I wrote to Elaine about 25 years ago. I loved her artwork on the romance book covers. After my letter got bounced around to different departments, she finally got it. Months later, much to my surprise and delight she wrote me back. Elaine explained her process and how she added all that hair to female models. I've kept a few books just for her artwork. I have kept her letter.

Luann Pushic - June 04, 2025 at 02:41 PM

JM

“ Elaine and John both helped me in launching my Illustration career as a young artist in 1987. Elaine called several Art Directors after seeing my work. No other Professional artists were as gracious with their time, insights, and assistance as Elaine and John. I send blessings, love, light and condolences to the family. Thank you Elaine and John, your friend and student John Monteleone.

John Monteleone - May 12, 2023 at 11:01 PM



“ Elaine I Duillo

November 27, 2022 at 05:33 PM

DM

“ Joel Iskowitz
Elaine (she held a one stature in the industry) was an inspiration to me as a romance artist. She was absolutey tops in the genre and was always a graceful, supportive and lovely person to engage with. Saddened to learn of this loss.

Doreen Minuto - August 14, 2021 at 12:31 PM

DM

“ *Scott Bakal
Such a loss to the industry and her friends.*

Doreen Minuto - August 14, 2021 at 12:27 PM

DM

“ *John Ennis
Her original illustration with Fabio bare chested on the deck of the ship switched the cover-art focus from women to men. She made the publishers realize what th readers want to see.*

Doreen Minuto - August 14, 2021 at 12:26 PM

DM

“ *Terry Brown, director of the Society of Illustrators.
What a great run she had. Confident. Original. Precise. Creative.
And a lady. It was an honor, and yea, fun to have known her.
Makes me sad.*

Doreen Minuto - August 14, 2021 at 12:20 PM

DM

“ *A dear friend, mentor, and outstanding artist has passed. She changed the the face of romance illustration with her outstanding designs. There are no words to express what she meant to me and the profession. She always was there with encouragement and direction.
Some people are the leaves on the tree, when the wind comes they blow away. Some are the branches, who sometimes break, she was my roots. She has left me with a purpose in my teaching, to be there for someone as she was there for me.
My deepest sympathy to her family who she cherished.*

Doreen Minuto - August 14, 2021 at 12:12 PM

AW

“ How saddened I was to learn of Elaine’s passing! My parents were close friends of John and Elaine’s; sharing their art, adventures at The Society of Illustrators and family stories. I have missed my run-ins with Elaine at the Art League of LI, food shopping and at Lord & Taylor. Elaine always asked about my parents, who had moved from LI to NJ, and we would talk about our respective extended families. She was always so proud of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren! Her smile will be missed and prolific art career always remembered. May her memory be a blessing.
Amy-Jo Koslow Willig, Helen Koslow & Family

Amy-Jo Koslow Willig - August 13, 2021 at 09:17 PM

BW

“ 1 file added to the album *The Art Of Life: Elaine Duillo*



Bettina Wright - August 13, 2021 at 06:53 PM

KI

“ I just learned of Elaine’s passing from Kathryn Falk. 😭 Elaine’s artwork made a huge impact on my formative years, which I wrote about for my blog in 2019:

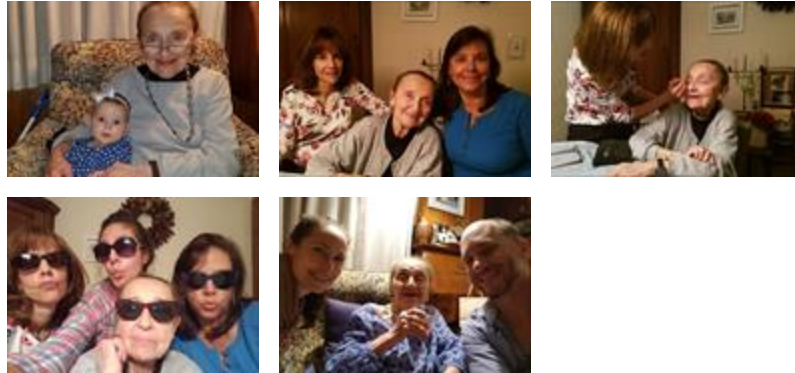
<https://theswoonsociety.com/2019/07/28/cover-story/>

Her talent touched the lives of many people whom she never met in person, but whose spirits she brightened with her beautiful gift. She will be missed, but never forgotten. ❤️

Kirsten - August 11, 2021 at 06:30 PM

BW

“ 37 files added to the album *The Art Of Life: Elaine Duillo*



Bettina Wright - August 10, 2021 at 10:54 PM

GB

“ *To my dear Aunt Elaine,
(little bit big sister, little bit mother, a lot friend). You came into my
life at 9 yrs.old, guided me through my tough teenage years, and by
your example I learned how to be strong, and still be "soft ". There
has never been any thing we couldn't talk about, and I'll miss our
chats, but you left me with Melissa and Bettina.*

*Love you Always 🙏
Your niece Geri*

Geri Bray - August 10, 2021 at 09:55 PM

BG

“ *It was always wonderful speaking with Elaine. I loved her stories of growing up, going to Pratt, meeting John, getting married and juggling her three loves: marriage, motherhood and her art. She really was a woman ahead of her time and would frankly admit to making many mistakes navigating this complicated road - especially during a time when a woman's life role was cast in concrete by many.*

She always was the most animated when talking about John, Melissa and Bettina; her love and pride for them so evident. And when the grandchildren came along her happiness increased tenfold.

She was so kind to me when my own mother was very ill and she would call me every few weeks just to check in and be supportive. I have already been missing our conversations these past few years because she could no longer remember me over the phone. I know that she is at peace, resuming her conversations with John and telling him all about the family.

I am so glad to have known Elaine.

Bina

Bina Goldstein - August 09, 2021 at 03:43 PM