



Akira "Betty" Blount

September 3, 1945 - August 3, 2013

Akira "Betty" Blount, age 67, of Bybee, passed away peacefully at her home on August 3, 2013.

Akira is celebrated as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend, a passionate artist and teacher, with national and international acclaim. She lived a full, rich, creative and productive life.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lloyd Meister and Australia born mother Joan Gibb Meister of Madison, Wisconsin.

She is survived by her loving husband Larry Blount of Bybee; son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Edwina Minar of Brentwood, TN; daughter, Rachel Minar of Greenbelt, Maryland; brother, John Meister of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; and granddaughters, Emma and Hannah Minar of Brentwood, TN.

Friends are invited to join the family in a recognition of Akira's passing on Saturday, August 10th at Larry and Akira's home at 944 Marshall Hollow Road, Bybee, TN 37713. Please feel free to stop between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Family and friends may sign the guest register on line at: www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Manes Funeral Home in charge.

Tribute Wall



“ Akira "Betty" Blount

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ Dear Larry, I just learned of Akira's passing and want to send my deepest sympathy to you and her children. I will always remember "Betty" and our Evanston days together in friendship. With love,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Costigan Friedman - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Larry, We are so saddened to learn of Akira's passing. She was such an exceptional person in so many ways and we admired her greatly. Knowing Akira brought such joy to our lives and we will cherish our memories. Please know that you and your family will r

Susie Christiansen & Dempsy Calhoun - November 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Larry - In total shock to hear of dear Akira's death. I will keep you and your family in my prayers always! My Akira doll means the world to me! Love, Denise Volz

Denise Volz - September 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I wished to meet her someday taking one of her classes..... I have images of her work and she was truly an AMAZINGLY talented lady. She will be missed by ALL. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. Janet Picciano Goldman

Janet Picciano Goldman - September 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ Please accept my condolences. I am a long-time friend and collector of Akira's fabulous creations.

Nancy Laska - August 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ I have memories of Akira working on her doll heads and hands during Board meetings. She had such a sweet spirit. My best wishes to her family.

Faye Harper - August 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ There's an emptiness in my heart for the loss of a lovely friend that so creatively shared her talent. I treasure the doll I made in one of her classes and of all the dolls I have made in 25 years, this doll has always been my favorite. I named her Winnie

Betts Vidal - August 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Dear Larry and family, I am so sorry to hear of Akira's passing. Knowing and working with her through the years at the Guild greatly blessed my life. I loved her dearly and am so deeply saddened by this news. A terrible loss for all who knew and loved

Becky (Orr) Stokes - August 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Larry and family, We were traveling when we heard the sad news. Our hearts are filled with sadness and our minds with beautiful memories of our beautiful cousin. Her talent and creativity has touched every one of us. Our love and prayers are with

Judy Meister Goodson - August 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Beautiful spirit she is...and will ever be in our hearts. She touched us all with great joy and depth of being. I loved her. *Caty Carlin*

Caty Carlin - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Larry, Chris and family, and Rachael, Akira was such a special lady and will be greatly missed. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Love you, *Michelle*

Michelle Schneider - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Condolences to Akira's family. Her immense talents and creativity in doll making will be sorely missed in the art world.

Susan Swartz - August 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Dear Larry, I'm thinking of you and you family a lot, and want you to know how sorry I am to know what you must be going through. Wishing you peace and strength. Love, *Shelley*

Shelley Thornton - August 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ To Larry, and of Akira's family - I am so sorry for your loss. We'll always remember Akira, and keep her in our hearts. -*Michael Sledjeski*

michael sledjeski - August 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I am so sorry to hear of Akira's death. She was a great artist and an inspirational teacher.

Janet Stofft Katos - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ God speed, Akira. You will be often thought about, much missed, and much loved by all who knew you. I hope Larry will find some peace in his memory of a remarkable woman and partner and that the work will go on - Akira's dolls show so keenly just who she

Baker Moorefield - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ With great love we extend our deepest sympathies.

Miles Blount & Reba Cain - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ I am sad to hear of the passing of this awesome artist. She brought a new approach to the doll/figure. these sculptures used interesting and rich materials in a novel way; and the personalities of her figures were strong and memorable. The workmanship w

Susan DeMay - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dear Larry, I am so sorry to hear about Akira. Your Friend Mike

Mike Bittner - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Peace and Blessings to "Betty's" family. Thank you for sharing her with us...a wonderful, inspirational artist/angel.

Linda Baker "OOKIE Designs" - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ *I will miss her.*

Marlaine Verhelst - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Larry, We are so sorry to hear of Akira's passing. We wish you and the family the best for the future and will remember the special times we had together. I am so glad we had the time to stop in to see you guy's this past June.*

Scott and Betty Horr - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HE

“ *HEATHER HALL UT CANCER*

heather - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *Rest in Peace Akira. The time you spent with the Canadian doll makers at Loon Lake was magical. You inspired and empowered women to find their strength and happiness through their art. Bless you.*

Linda Danielson - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CY

“ *Akira was a brilliant artist and a good soul. She will be sorely missed. I will miss her smiling face, but will hold her art in my heart.*

Chuck Young - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Don't look for obscure formulas or mystery in my work. It is pure joy that I offer you. Look at my sculptures until you see them. Those closest to God have seen them. Constantin Brancusi

Mary Carol Koester - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ my deepest condolences to Akira's family. May your memories bring yiu joy and comfort, maytime grant you peace. The fine craft community of Tennessee has lost one of its greatest members. Akira's loss is mourned , as the work she created with you Larry

teresa hays - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ I am sorry for your loss. Akira was an inspiration to many and her passing saddens me. I know her art will continue to bring joy and inspiration for many many years to come.

ellen legare - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Larry, Chris, Rachel, Edwina, Emma and Hannah. I'm so sorry for your loss. Akira was a unique and talented person and probably one of the coolest grandmothers ever. I'm glad I got to spend time with her last year and make a re acquaintance.

Adele Prass - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Akira was my favorite artist and I am the very proud owner of several of her dolls. It was such a privilege to meet her, take a workshop with her, and just sit and listen and watch her. We in the doll world are going to miss her terribly, but not anyth

Patti Culea - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss. Akira was a great artist and such an inspiration to me.*

Janet Bodin - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *So sad to know that this sweet talented soul is no longer in this world, but she leaves a legacy of unsurpassed talent. You and her family were a big part of that collaboration. I hope you find some peace in what remains behind.*

Julie McCullough - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *Akria's creative spirit was a blessing to so many. May the peace of God and friends help her family during this time. Ramona*

Ramona Bishop - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ *Always remembered for compassion, love, imagination and artistry. We were so blessed to have met the two of you and will always carry her in our hearts.*

The Eagles - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *My deepest condolences at this time of loss. The generous and creative mind of Akira will live on through all of the people she touched as an artist and teacher. It was a privilege to know her. I strive to do my best work because I was lucky enough of kno*

Christine Shively-Benjamin - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ I was so sad to hear about Akira. She was such a sweet woman and a great great Artist. I have a few of her dolls and will treasure them always. I'm glad I got to take one of her classes at Arrowmont. She will definitely be missed by all that new her. My c

Marilyn Anderson - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ We have always admired Akira both as a person and an artist. We are sorry to hear of her passing.

Elaine Fronczek - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GN

“ We in the Doll world are very saddened by the death of Akira. She was an incredible artiste and lovely person. Know that all of Doll Street Dreamers mourn her loss. We send our condolences and sympathy to her family, GLoria

Gloria Nickolis - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ I admired Akira ever since I began making art dolls. What a loss for the creative dollmaking world. I trust that her creations will continue to inspire and open hearts for many years to come.

Barb Kobe - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Akira was my friend, my spiritual soul sister, a shared heart and a great artist, who freely shared her knowlegde, her life and her vision..with me, and with all of us..Until we meet again..the thread of our lives will change, yet not pass away..In Peace

Miriam medicine Prayer - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ My sincere condolences to you Larry and your family. As a fellow doll maker we are all mourning the loss of a wonderful, creative soul. With each doll I make, the inspiration that Akira gave me will be woven through it to carry on the journey. Thank you A

Linda Misa - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Blessings for peace and all God's comfort to the family. May dear Akira rest in peace. She will be missed, as she touched so many lives and sparked creativity in those around her.

Barbara Willis - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ My sincere condolences for your loss . All doll creators will mourn her passing & remember her fabulous creations . Thanks to Akira for creating her CDs & other aides for doll artists. Her originality & creative spirit will live on for eons. Donna Sims ,

Donna Sims - August 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Thank you dear friend for bringing this fabulous part of the country to me and sharing so many of your discoveries and people with me. I am forever enriched by you... feel like a billionaire from what you have given me... a sad one though... With condolen

Mary Ellen Frank - August 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

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Mary Ellen Frank - August 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ We are so sorry to hear this. Our deepest sympathy to Larry and the family.

David and Sandie Popiel - August 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Akira "Betty" Blount

Jim Charneski - August 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM