

Bob Sinclair: In Memoriam

I can say with almost complete certainty that, outside of at his home near Santa Fe or while on his motorcycle, I never saw Bob when he wasn't wearing one of his fantastic, oddball hats – or great necklaces.

Robert Charles Sinclair (1942-2011) universally known to one and all as Bob, was a friend to many ethnographic dealers and a neighborly motorcycle enthusiast. Tragically, he suffered a traumatic brain injury and passed away about a week after an accident this August. To say that Bob's interests were wide-ranging and eclectic would be true, but also would be missing the point. He was an aesthete with a particular, idiosyncratic eye and an enthusiasm for the wonders of the world at large. With his smile framed by a great walrus of a moustache he projected a kind of calm 'joy' that was infectious.

Bob was one of those individuals who also had figurative, as well as literal, hats and, while he did not pigeonhole people, some of his friends probably only knew him in certain contexts. There was Eccentric Bob, Family Bob, Pannikin Bob, Coffee King Bob, Adaptive Reuse & Preservation Bob, Gaslamp Bob, Trolley Bob,

East Village Bob, Café Moto Bob, Ethnic Art & Collector Bob, Landlord Bob, Motorcycle Bob, Santa Fe Bob, Taos Bob, Recycled Bob, Borzois Bob, "I can fix anything but a broken hear" Bob – and more.

To the tribal art fraternity Bob was a collector of, mainly, Central and South American material. If his purchase was of the wearable type, he could be found, at some point, wearing it! Chief among his other passions was machinery and the internal combustion engine – in particular, vintage Italian motorcycles like Moto Guzzi and Ducati. His many fabulous 'out buildings' are a testament to his passions in these areas. (If you have never seen dozens of Italian motorcycle gas tanks suspended from a ceiling, like art, you haven't lived!) It is with some small measure of consolation that I now like to think he is racing in the clouds across the vast expanse of the New Mexican sky.

In lieu of flowers, his wife, Gay, and family request donations be sent to the San Diego New Central Library (supportmylibrary.org) in memory of Bob Sinclair (Library Bob!)

~ Wilbur Norman