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## Norman J. 'Bud' Goldstone 1926-2012

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## JAN ROSENAK 1930 – 2012



Jan Rosenak, wife of Chuck Rosenak, from Coral Gables, Florida, passed away on June 11, 2012. Jan and Chuck were the renowned authors of *The Encyclopedia of 20th-Century American Folk Art and Artists*, *Contemporary American Folk Art*, *Navajo Folk Art: The People Speak*, and *The Saint Makers*.

In the summer of 1986, my wife Sue and I went to Santa Fe on vacation. In a small restaurant on the Santa Fe trail, we met a local couple and began to chat. When Sue mentioned that we collected folk art, they invited us to their home to see their collection and introduced themselves as Jan and Chuck Rosenak.

Jan and Chuck generously shared their wealth and knowledge. Jan was an expert in railroad law and was still doing special projects for the government. She always let Chuck have the limelight, but she was an equal partner in all that they did and gave to the field of the arts. *The Encyclopedia of 20th-Century American Folk Art and Artists* was a seminal event in the field of American outsider art, opening up the market by listing where artists lived. A large part of the couple's folk art collection was acquired by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, ensuring their memory will be a lasting one in this field. Jan was a brilliant, radiant star. She will be missed.

George Viener

## NORMAN J. 'BUD' GOLDSTONE 1926 – 2012

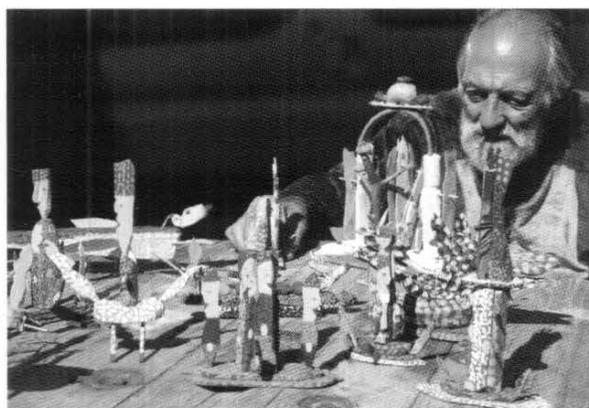


Photo taken by Seymour Rosen, 1959, just after the successful stress test that saved Watts Towers. Bud Goldstone is second from the left, in the dark glasses.

It 'was the most complicated test I ever did,' recalled Norman J. 'Bud' Goldstone, of the lateral 'stress test' he devised to prove the safety and stability of the Towers, built by Sabato Rodia (ca. 1879-1965) in the Watts section of Los Angeles. Then a young aerospace engineer, he understood that because the open construction design of the Towers made them more akin to aircraft than to buildings, they should be evaluated on different structural principles. He took leave from his position at North American Aviation and collaborated with more than twenty engineers and technicians to develop the test, which took place on October 10, 1959. After its success, the City rescinded their demolition order and, since that time, the Watts Towers have been honoured with county, state, and national historic landmark status, and are lauded as the most important public artwork in the City of Los Angeles.

Born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, Goldstone received his B.A. in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University. He worked on the Apollo and space shuttle programmes and held a patent for an in-flight refuelling system. After his retirement, he became an independent engineering consultant, continuing to advise on the Towers as well as on other large-scale art environments, and in 1997 he and his wife, Arloa Paquin Goldstone, wrote the book, *The Los Angeles Watts Towers* (Getty Publications). In recent years, with reduced mobility, he acted as the conscience of the City of Los Angeles, publicly criticising what he saw as flawed conservation techniques and inadequate resources allocated for support of the Towers. Jo Farb Hernandez, Director SPACES (Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments)

## MAURICE NOIROT 1946 – 2012



Maurice Noirot was born in Besançon, France, to a very modest family. Timid in character, Noirot was very imaginative, engaging, sensitive, and a faithful friend. In 1983, aged 37, Noirot had an accident causing him to lose much of the use of his legs. A disability pension allowed him to settle permanently in Hugier, a small village in Franche-Comté. There, he devoted himself fully to his art. His house soon became a warehouse teeming with his creations. Poet and sage, he dedicated his work to the transmutation of violence and rage into bliss. He expressed a dream of living in an innocent fairy world, surrounded by supernatural creatures.

At the end of his life, he tended to make works from wood carved with a knife, or cardboard cut with a cutter, which were painted in oil in a soft, coloured style. Noirot presented himself as a self-taught artist who learned more from the contact of children than Fine Arts school. He was also a song writer, and his creations often reveal his kindness and his modesty. A moving pre-recorded poem by Noirot called 'Testament' was played at his farewell ceremony. Dominique Sablons