



## John Kutzik

October 1, 2025

John was born at home in Montevideo, MN, on January 1st, 1936. He was one of four children born to Reinhart Michael Kutzik and Sarah Helen Weckwerth. Reinhart was born in Romania but came to the United States in 1920. Reinhart, Sarah, and Reinhart's mother spoke German, so John learned to speak German as well as English. John's mother died in 1945, and John's father remarried Zana Herrlich in 1946. Zana brought three children to Reinhart's four children and then welcomed a daughter.

John enjoyed drawing, climbing trees, building rafts, and exploring the nearby rivers. He learned to play football, baseball, basketball, and he ran track and ice skated. Athletic activities occupied much of his free time during the school year, but he also managed several paper routes, worked as a carpenter, and assisted a veterinarian in town for many years.

During his junior and senior high years, John took art classes which were rarely offered in small towns. He was the first student to achieve a National Scholastic Key Award in Montevideo for his paintings.

John received an athletic scholarship to Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, but elected to go to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis because of its better art department. John majored in studio art with a minor in philosophy and history. He also played freshman and sophomore football for

the U of M as a walk-on. John spent six years at the U of M, earning Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees.

John wed Georgianna Webb in 1961 and then accepted a position at Central Missouri State University in Warrenburg, MO. His first daughter, Kathryn, was born there. In 1965, he accepted a teaching position at Southern Illinois University in Alton, IL. In 1967, the Colorado State University Art Department asked John to join their ranks and he accepted. Their second daughter, Anna, was born in 1968. John and Georgianna divorced in 1970.

John was the CSU coordinator of the Vienna Secessionist Movement in Vienna, Austria, in 1978. He taught the summer school students there and toured Europe for three weeks afterwards.

John married Jennifer Carpita in 1982. They lived together in SW Fort Collins for 43 years. While John continued to teach Foundations painting and sculpture at CSU, they took many trips to conferences in the U.S and Europe, in their mutual disciplines. They both attended John's sabbaticals in Mexico and Europe. John brought the summer school students to Italy in 2001 and toured with Jennifer in Europe.

John successfully submitted his artwork to over 200 shows across the United States. He taught over 5,000 students during his 42 years at CSU. He retired from the University in 2009. Further information on his artwork can be found at <https://hdl.handle.net/10217/195587>.

John's retirement "Bucket List" included a trip to Alaska, a river trip from Amsterdam to Budapest, sailing up the Saint Lawrence River from Montreal to New York City, a visit to England with his son-in-law Paul (and Kathryn) Ireson, and a trip arranged by the Bukovina Society of America through Romania.

John's retirement activities included artwork, reading, exercise, and enjoying the company of friends. He worked with the Fine Arts Committee at the Foothills Unitarian Church and the Colorado Coalition of Artists. He also attended several painting courses.

John's daughter Kathryn writes: "My dad was a big thinker about abstract things, and ice cream, and beer, and German food, and food in general. He wouldn't wear cowboy boots, but he looked great in a hat. I love you."

John's daughter Anna writes: "Russian fairytales, the Bukovina, a rich, artistic mind traversed this earth seeking to document and record brushstroke by beautiful brushstroke. Forever remembered, deeply loved."

John was predeceased by his father, his mother, his stepmother, one brother, one sister, two stepbrothers and two aunts. He leaves behind his first wife, Georgianna Gault; his second wife, Jennifer Kutzik; two daughters Kathryn (Paul) Ireson and Anna (Kelly) Still; a step-grandson, Nick (Samantha) Ireson; a step-granddaughter, Abbie (Tom) Smith, two step-great-granddaughters; two step-great-grandsons; one sister, Roma Kutzik; one half-sister, Ellen (David) Pedersen; one step-sister, Lorna Kuno; several nieces; several nephews; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his honor to the Kutzik Family Scholarship (University of Minnesota Foundation, Endowment Fund No. 9161) at <https://give.umn.edu>. This Scholarship enables small town students to attend the U of M on an art scholarship. Contributions may also be made in his honor to Camp Voyageur ([www.campvoyageur.com](http://www.campvoyageur.com)) where John was a craft counselor for two seasons.

Services for John will be announced in the Summer of 2026, and will take place at Foothills Unitarian Church in Fort Collins.

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ Jennifer, John was the best of all my art professors and I have vivid memories of our conversations. He will be greatly missed and changed my life at a critical moment. God bless you. Larry Wilson

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**Larry Wilson** - March 08 at 11:53 AM

KM

“ Kazuo M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of John Kutzik.



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**Kazuo M.** - December 04, 2025 at 04:03 PM

HL

“ To Jennifer and John's family — Sending you my deepest condolences on your loss. I will always fondly remember John's smile and laugh, which was contagious! My sympathies. xoxo Heidi L.

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**Heidi Leech** - November 03, 2025 at 04:12 PM

JS

“ 4 files added to the album John Kutzik



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**Janelle Stout Smiley** - October 31, 2025 at 10:41 PM

DE

“ *It's true: John loved ice cream! I also enjoyed the way he rolled out the name of his Minnesota hometown in melodramatic fashion: Mon-Ti-Vid-A-O. It amused him that his birthplace had borrowed its name from the capital of Uruguay. (Or maybe the capital borrowed its name from the Minnesota town!)*

*Take a look at the thumbnail photo of John as a young man. We see a strong young fellow filled with vitality and wearing a broad and engaging grin. Behind him hangs a work of art. That was John: he loved creating art and he loved creating a full life for himself and those around him.*

*Doug Ernest*

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**Doug Ernest** - October 24, 2025 at 04:14 PM

PJ

“ *John was a colleague in the CSU Art Department and a good friend for more than four decades. He is remembered for his kindness, his sense of humor and for the wonderful original Christmas cards that he created.*

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**Peter & Nanci Jacobs** - October 21, 2025 at 10:22 AM

JK

“ *1 file added to the album John Kutzik*



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**Jennifer Kutzik** - October 20, 2025 at 04:51 PM

CA

*Love love! Love that photo of the two of you!*

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**camila alire** - October 21, 2025 at 01:35 PM

JK

“ *John's daughter Anna writes:  
His path travelled one way and mine, as an infant, travelled another. Artwork, cards, letters and circumstances I didn't understand wove us together. One person, Jennifer, made sure I understood there was a connection that needed to be nurtured and maintained and for that I am forever grateful. John F. Kutzik, my Father, passed October 1st, 2025. Russian fairytales, the Bukovina, a rich, artistic mind, traversed this earth seeking to document and record brushstroke by beautiful brushstroke. Forever remembered, deeply loved. - Your Daughter Anna  
I love you.*

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**Jennifer Kutzik** - October 20, 2025 at 04:23 PM

JK

“ John's daughter Kathryn Kutzik Ireson wrote:  
*My dad was a big thinker about abstract things, and ice cream, and beer, and German food, and food in general. He loved to garden. He could never decide which plants to care for through the winter and which to forsake. He wouldn't wear cowboy boots, but he looked great in a hat. Dad had his own drummer like Thoreau said at Walden, but he was much simpler and more complicated than that. He was Johnny Kootzzzzikk as he pounded his chest with glee. Now let's have ice cream, he'd say. I love you dad. I have missed you always. Kathryn*

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**Jennifer Kutzik** - October 20, 2025 at 04:22 PM

SK

*John and Jennifer were a devoted couple and I fondly remember birthday lunches with my mom and the Kutziks through the years.*

*My mom and I were honored to be invited to their wedding at Danforth Chapel at CSU, which happened to be held on my November 21st birthday over 40 years ago!*

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**Sharon Kunze** - October 21, 2025 at 06:07 PM