

## Letter from the President

Also, in this issue you will learn about one of the founding members, Carl Rantz – a WWII veteran and one of the many that resumed their education at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts after serving our country. Carl was one of the younger students present in October of 1947 when his classmates proposed the idea for The Boston Printmakers. He became an official member in 1951. Once he established himself as a printmaker, he served on the board and exhibited in North American Print exhibitions 37 times over the period of 41 years, 1954–1995.



Carl Rantz, *Distant City*, c. 1972, silkscreen Photo credit: John Polak

Image courtesy of The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury MA

From [60 Years of North American Prints](#) by David Acton: “The membership of the Boston Printmakers gradually shifted during the 1950s as the organization evolved from a familiar local club to an association of far-flung professional artists. It was still a volunteer organization with a small, dedicated group at its heart that included...Carl and Sylvia Mayzer Rantz. As The Boston Printmakers’ exhibitions became more prestigious, entries from around the country increased and the physical process of organizing shows became more difficult.” (p. 21)

That is when Carl and Sylvia Rantz became invaluable to the Printmakers. They not only managed the national print shows, they brought in gallery owners and directors who exhibited selections from the annual shows across Massachusetts and New England. Their efforts produced many print sales, and noticeably increased The Boston Printmakers’ eminence. Carl’s wife Ellen Tokaloo Rantz has written a heartfelt memorial.

Stay safe, better days are ahead. Happy holidays all,

[Renee Covalucci](#), President

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## **Carl Rantz, the Consummate Artist**

By Ellen Tokaloo Rantz

Carl Jacob Rantz was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 18, 1926, and was the only child of Sammuell and Rose Cohen Rantz. He attended local schools in the Boston area. In elementary school, he was always being asked by the art teacher to draw pictures on the blackboard and enjoyed doing this very much. His parents, recognizing his love of drawing, purchased a small desk for him to do his art work.

Later at Memorial High School, an all-male school, Carl was selected by his art teacher to attend after-school classes at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston during his junior and senior years. It was in these classes, that he met Sylvia Mayzer who would later, in the early 1950s, become his first wife.

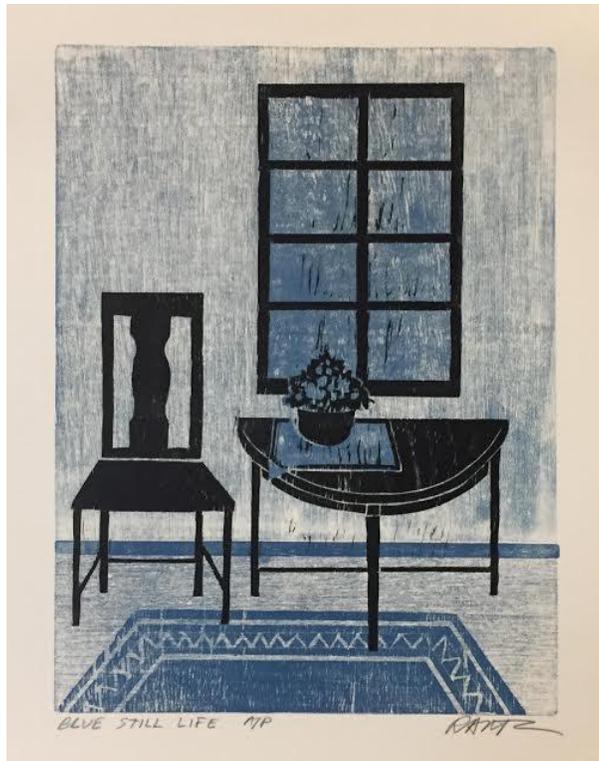
Carl enlisted into the Army Air Corps while a Junior in high school. Once a week, he would go to the armory to get a view of what basic training would be like. Finally in 1944, after graduating high school, he went to Burkburnett, Texas, for Basic Training, then was sent to Massachusetts State College in Amherst. Since the war was almost over and jobs were hard to find, he was sent to Japan on March 26, 1946 for the occupation. Carl was discharged on December 3, 1946, and went back to Boston to begin his education at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts.



left: Carl Rantz, Army Air Corps photo, Tokyo, 1946  
right: Carl and Sylvia Mayzer Rantz, c. 1948

When Carl went to sign up for courses at the Museum School, he met Sylvia in the line. They spoke, reconnected and spent the next 54 years living as well-known Boston artists and long-time members of the prestigious Boston Printmakers.

Carl and Sylvia were among the founding members of The Boston Printmakers. As the organization became established, they served on the executive board. For many years, the pair were responsible for hanging the contemporary print exhibitions at various museums or in local galleries. They were the contact people for anyone trying to reach Boston Printmakers. Emeritus member Sidney Hurwitz states that, "they were always willing to serve the organization with energy and devotion."



Carl Rantz, *Blue Still Life*, c. 1983, color woodblock print  
Image courtesy of The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury MA

In the 1970s and 80s, their big job was to help with the annual juried exhibitions. Hundreds of pieces of art work were sent to their small home at 299 High Rock Street, Needham, MA. They unpacked, recorded and made the art work ready for the jurors. Sidney Hurwitz often helped to deliver the work to the proper destination where Carl and Sylvia would hang the shows. Emeritus member and past president, C. David Thomas states, "printmakers from all across the United States owe a big thank you for all that Carl Rantz did to promote American Printmaking."

Unfortunately, Sylvia Mazyer Rantz, contracted cancer and passed away on December 1, 1993. This left Carl without his faithful partner in life and work. Carl was not alone, but was living with his son Dean and daughter-in-law Laurie when Sylvia passed. A couple of years later they moved to the Abner Barrows House, circa 1714, in Middleboro, MA.

Carl had been working for a master carpenter for about 15 years before he retired at sixty-five. He set out to learn how he could restore this new, old home with some of the antique features it once had, like replacing all the windows with the traditional ones that had no ropes but were held up with a stick. He also had the fireplace restored and brought in period furniture. Along with this new old-fashioned, historical home came his introduction to Revolutionary War Reenacting.



Carl reenacting the Battle of Yorktown

Carl and his son had been going to reenactments just after Sylvia passed, and liked the group Knox Artillery. Carl became a cannoneer. It was at a local reenactment on the grounds of the Middleboro Historical Museum that a friend of Carl's introduced him to Ellen Tokaloo, who would become his second wife.

Carl and Ellen were married on April 18, 1999. From 1999 to 2003, they traveled to Florida every year until Ellen retired from teaching art in an elementary school in Plymouth, MA. In 2005, they built a new house in Vero Beach, Florida. Carl was very happy to have a new house to continue his carpentry, adding bookshelves and other embellishments.



left: Ushers Carl and Ellen Rantz, Emerson Center, Vero Beach, FL

right: Carl Rantz, Roundelay, acrylic painting, c. 2000's

Carl and Ellen became members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach where there was an Art Wall for members to exhibit their work. Of course, Carl took on the job of hanging the art work and, eventually, Carl and Ellen were given the job to make it a viable gallery in the community in 2009. They did this for eleven years and today people from the community still remember fondly some of the first shows from back in 2014. During this time, Carl was creating many acrylic paintings which he started to do once he moved into his new Florida home. He said of his work, "I use acrylic paint, brushes, and masking tape and make very linear designs. I begin with a yellow background and then select my next colors one-by-one using tape to make the lines. I have no preconceived ideas usually. It is interesting to see the painting come together." In his "Florida Period," Carl completed about two hundred acrylic paintings.



Carl was also very active in the American Legion Post 189 in Sebastian, FL. He was a Life Member of the Legion and very active with the Honor Guard. He helped with providing Military Funerals for Veteran families who requested them. In 2019, he was one of the Grand Marshals from the Post who got to ride in the fancy convertible for the Memorial Day Parade.

Carl Rantz had a serious fall while at a dinner party with friends. He was taken to the local hospital and then to a rehabilitation facility. He passed away under care of Hospice on June 11, 2020.

