



Lisa de Kooning's Life and Death Examined by The New York Times

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by Pat Rogers

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HAMPTONS, NY-

On Nov 23 2012, Johanna Liesbeth de Kooning, known as Lisa de Kooning, died suddenly at 56 years old at her home on St. John in the US Virgin Islands. The cause of death remains a mystery. In a story published yesterday by *The New York Times*, journalist Peter Haldeman reveals the life lived by the only child of abstract expressionist artist Willem de Kooning (1904-1997) and illustrator Joan Ward (1927-2005) in the story *Her Father's Daughter: The Turbulent Life of Lisa de Kooning*.

Beautifully written and accompanied by a series of photographs of Lisa de Kooning (1956-2012), Haldeman begins at de Kooning's private memorial service held on Dec. 15, 2012 at St. Luke's Episcopal in East Hampton, N.Y. The story loops backward and weaves forward through pinnacle events and private moments witnessed by friends to reveal the person behind the headlines and benefit party photographs.

The photographs accompanying the story capture de Kooning in happy times spent in the art world or with family or friends. In separate pictures, de Kooning is beside Arnold "Arnie" Glimcher, art dealer and founder of The Pace Gallery, American sculptor John Chamberlain (1927-2011) and American painter and photographer Chuck Close.

To read the story, click here: ["Her Father's Daughter: The Turbulent Life of Lisa de Kooning."](#)

Lisa de Kooning was an active part of The Springs and East Hampton communities. She briefly attended East Hampton High School and lived, at times, in The Springs, not far from the studio of Willem de Kooning.

Lisa de Kooning supported a wide range of causes, according to a statement issued by her family at the time of her death. Locally, her support was extended to Boys and Girls Harbor, East Hampton Day Care Center, LongHouse Reserve, Robert Wilson's Byrd Hoffman Water Mill Foundation and the Springs Fire Department.

She is survived by three children: Isabel, Emma and Lucy de Kooning Villeneuve.

Willem de Kooning was an integral part of artist community in The Springs and in the Hamptons. He and his wife, Elaine de Kooning (1918-2010) lived and worked in The Springs. Willem de Kooning's work is held locally in the collections of Guild Hall museum and The Parrish Art Museum. His

painting, *Untitled XXXVIII*, 1983 is currently on view in the Parrish Art Museum's exhibition "Collective Conversations."

Lisa de Kooning was a sculptor. Her work was the subject of a solo show in 2010 at Tripoli Gallery of Contemporary Art in Southampton, NY. This was the only time her work was publicly exhibited.

BASIC FACTS: Johanna Liesbeth de Kooning, known as Lisa de Kooning, died on Nov 23, 2012 in her home on St. John in the US Virgin Islands. She was the only child of abstract expressionist artist Willem de Kooning (1904-1997) and illustrator Joan Ward (1927-2005).

The New York Times: "[Her Father's Daughter: The Turbulent Life of Lisa de Kooning](#)" by Peter Hadleman. Published March 15, 2013.

To see some of Lisa de Kooning's sculptures, visit www.tripoligallery.com/artist/lisa-de-kooning.

RELATED STORIES:

Gallerist NY: "[Lisa de Kooning, Artist and Patron Who Preserved Father's Legacy, Dies at 56](#)" by Andrew Russeth. Published Nov 27, 2012.

The New York Times: [Johanna de Kooning Obituary](#). Published Nov 26, 2012.

Hamptons Art Hub.com: "[Lisa de Kooning Dies at 56.](#)" Published Nov 28, 2013.

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