



René Martínez Peña (Renato)

JUN 28, 1953 - APR 13, 2016



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Celebrating the life of René Martínez Peña (Renato) Renato was born on June 28, 1953 in Camagüey, Cuba to loving parents, Eralio Martínez and Rafaela Peña, and died on April 13, 2016 in San Francisco, California. He is survived by his partner, Barry Graynor, 10 siblings, and his two beloved cats, Preta and Massimo. In 1980 Renato left Cuba as part of the Mariel boatlift and moved to San Francisco, where he met Barry in 1981. Renato was a natural painter. His paintings were shown in numerous exhibits throughout the Bay Area and abroad. Renato also published a book on Celeste Mendoza, La Reina del Guaguanco, in 2015. Renato enjoyed listening to international popular music, especially from Cuba, Italy, Brazil, and France; collecting porcelain figurines, plates and other objects; playing with his cats; and above all, Cuba! Four words sum up Renato's life: "El Rey del Guaguanco" In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to the Foundation for Contemporary Arts and/or the San Francisco SPCA. A heartfelt thank you for the sympathy and support our family and friends have shown to us.



Tribute Wall

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MV

Miguel Valdes posted:

R.I.P. Renato... Mis oraciones para este amigo que se va , para que esta alma descanzo y sea un ser de Luz y condolencias para sus familiares y amigos en este moment of dolor Y resignacion...

May 13 at 7:11 AM

JM

Justino Renée Morales posted:

René, 35 years of friendship was for as was almost like we where real brothers. You fought with me sometimes because I did not call very often and you demanded a lot of attention, but working graveyard shift I had little time to socialize very often, sorry for not having called more often. I know you knew that I always loved you as one of my other brothers. Justino Renée Morales

April 24 at 11:57 AM

RS

Rosa Sanchez posted:

Dear Barry, in an ancient Egyptian book new civilizations have read that in order to save from 'the punishment' of death a loved one, one must keep talking about them. I am certain that you will forever smile as you talk about Renato. And so will be doing those who crossed his path in life. His presence in our lives was no accident. He was placed there at the right time and for the right reason. And he will be, forever, near you and near those that he loved. You can be sure that everything that comes your way, from now on, has Renato's signature. Rosie

April 23 at 10:35 AM

CF

Cousin Nadine And Family posted:

Dear Barry, You know how my girls, Ira and I LOVED Renato. Although we only got to meet with you both a few times in the past our meetings were always so wonderful. I am so glad that we were able to see you both on our summer visit to California. It was amazing to see all of Renato's dolls, paintings and collectables. We will always cherish the painting he gave us so many years ago and the porcelin baby doll he gave me in honor of my two girls. May he rest in piece with his brilliant laughing smile on his face. And may you Barry go on knowing he is watching over you and with you in spirit every day of your life. Our sympathies are with you at this most difficult time. I remember what my mom always said (she should rest in peace), "Life is for the living, so you must go on living after I am gone." I feel that no one is truly gone until the last person stops speaking of them. Don't ever stop telling your stories of your times together. Love Always, Cousins Nadine, Ira, Alexa , Carly and Lacey

April 22 at 4:05 PM



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Lorenzo Periu posted:

Renato querido amigo, hermano del alma, te voy a extrañar mientras viva, jamas te olvidare'.

Lorenzo Periu♥

April 21 at 10:19 AM



Luis Alcazar posted:

Renato, your friendship and generosity will not be forgotten, I love your beautiful, colorful paintings, your love to animals. I love the wonderful and precious Italian music that you sent me, I always listening to these beautiful songs, whether I am at home or exercising at the gym, they are a delight to my ears. I have so many wonderful and funny memories the times I visited you both in San Francisco, the great, funny, eating, drinking times. Renato, te recibiran en el paraiso al ritmo de Guaguanco, la musica de tu hermosa Cuba. Tu fuistes, el que me enseyastes a tomar el ron con seven up, enugarde de Coca Cola y hasta hoy día me gusta asi. Siempre tus recuerdos estarán presentes en mi memoria. A donation in your memory has been made to The San Francisco. SPCA.

April 21 at 8:41 AM



AS

Adrian Spratt posted:

Renato wasn't an artist only, but an appreciator of art in various forms. He introduced me to the music of one of my half dozen favorite singers, Mina. He advocated for the music of Cuba, and he collected figurines. I saw Renato later in New York, but perhaps my fondest memory is of a dinner he made in 1998 for Laura and me after Barry had taken the day to show us around San Francisco. The meal was sophisticated and served with Renato's inimitable flair. Barry, Laura and I sat back and enjoyed the presentation. Renato shone not only in his art, but at least as brightly in their home. I knew Renato through Barry, my steadfast friend of forty years. I remember when they met, and it soon became obvious how much they cared deeply for each other. They came from such different backgrounds: Renato brought up and forever rooted in Cuba, Barry raised as a single child in Southern California. Renato was the artist, sometimes flamboyantly so. Barry was the quiet one. Art is hard because it favors a few unpredictably, while the kind of law Barry practices is hard because it doesn't lend itself to John Grisham drama. But for those thirty-five years or so, they shared so much. Kindness, a sense of humor and an openness to artistic expression immediately come to mind. To say an artist is childlike is a cliché, and most of the artists I know are not. Renato was. It was one of the many ways he endeared himself to us all. But the childlike among us tend not to realize how much they'll be missed. Nothing could be harder than what Barry is going through. It's up to us to give him all the support we can while also giving him the space he'll sometimes need. Renato had a gift for touching hearts. Those of us fortunate enough to have known him will remember him fondly and with a smile. Not just remember. I know already that he'll always feel present. Adrian Spratt

April 21 at 5:36 AM

DW

Deborah Williams posted:

I have two main memories regarding Renato. A brilliant artist, Renato shared his love of color and design with my son, Andrew. Renato truly inspired my son. We have several of Renato's pieces hanging brilliantly in our house. My son grew up with Renato's art, and also knew how much he meant to Renato. Renato was always so caring and thoughtful. But most of all, I remember how much Renato and Barry meant to each other, spanning a 35 year period, and how much they loved each other. Barry supported Renato's art and writing and collections and more, enriching Renato's life and talents, which enriched us all. We will miss you very much, Renato — but your art and spirit will live forever.

April 20 at 5:09 PM



Tribute Wall

René Martinez Peña (Renato)

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OD

Odessa posted:

Mom and I met Renato last year during one of his Open House Studio event. We had an instant connection thru his enthusiasm of telling us about his beautiful works of art. We were so drawn with his vivid colors on all of his paintings and he was telling us how he would just stare at the blank canvas for days and then suddenly he creates his own masterpiece. We will always remember him as the "Latino Picasso". Renato, mom and I will always remember you. May you rest in peace. So honored to have met such a talented person like you. Barry, so sorry about your loss, but please know that we are thinking of you.

April 20 at 3:40 AM

VI

Vilma posted:

I will always remember the twinkle in Renato's eyes when he told me about his collection of dolls, letters to famous people and most of all the pride when he described some of his colorful paintings, he was a kind, warm and funny guy. i will keep in my heart and mind how nice and generous he was. God bless him and help you during these hard times. sending you my love.
Vilma Celis

April 19 at 10:38 AM

CB

Cynthia O'brien posted:

I sent a bouquet of flowers that reminded me of the beautiful and vibrant colors Renato used in his paintings. I will think of him whenever I look at his paintings on my living room walls. I will also remember his kindness and warmth toward me whenever I stopped by to visit. I will miss him very much.

April 19 at 5:05 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring René by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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