

*BILL KOHN: Journey*

*November 17-December 16, 2006*

---

**BILL KOHN: A Long Friendship**  
By Peter Marcus

I clearly remember the first day that I met Bill Kohn. It was August 1967 and I had just arrived in St. Louis to teach printmaking at Washington University. I had just finished my first day of teaching, and I was getting into my car to go home when Bill walked up to me, introduced himself, and invited me to dinner the following evening. He had recently returned from a trip to India on a Fulbright Scholarship and he wanted to show me his work based on his trip. We ate extremely spicy and hot Indian food fixed by his wife Pat.

After a wonderful evening of delicious food and a lot of talk about art, we became great friends. I was very impressed with the work that Bill showed me that night. It was work on both paper and canvas. He was relying a lot on glorious photo silk screen images of India in much of the work.

Bill and I saw each other nearly every day for many years. He, Gene Hoefel, also a professor at the Art School, and I began going to the gym at Washington U in order to keep our old bones in some semblance of good shape. Seeing Bill nearly daily enabled me to get to know

him extremely well. I can think of no topic that wasn't discussed at some point, including art, the Art School, politics - both national and very local. I am pretty sure we also shared a lot of unsubstantiated gossip.

After our workouts, we sometimes went home, but often we met at Layton's, a restaurant and bar on Clayton Road, for beer and hot hors d'oeuvres. A fitting reward for our efforts at the gym, we told ourselves. This went on for about 30 years, and it was wonderful.

Until Bill was diagnosed with cancer. We kept on going to the gym, and drinking beer together, however, because Bill always wanted to have a good time. Of course, near the end, he could no longer go to the gym with us. Our routine had changed, and even Layton's closed. Too much changed.

But mostly I miss Bill so much.

Written by Peter Marcus

Peter Marcus is an artist. His work was recently on view at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. He is currently having a one-person exhibition at the Molloy College Art Gallery, New York. His next exhibition is scheduled with the Bruno David Gallery in March 2007.

This essay is a series of introductions to the gallery's exhibitions written by fellow gallery artists.