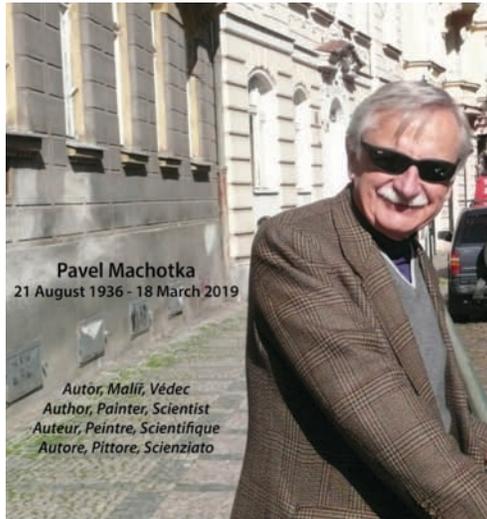


UC Santa Cruz psychologist and Cézanne scholar Pavel Machotka dies at 82

Former provost of College V (now Porter College) was devoted to the arts

By Nina Hansen

March 30, 2019



Pavel Machotka, professor emeritus of Psychology and Psychology of Aesthetics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, died at his home in Italy on March 18, 2019. He was 82.

Pavel was a Harvard-trained social scientist and clinical psychologist who joined UC Santa Cruz in 1970. James Hall, provost of College V (now Porter College), recruited him to establish the Aesthetic Studies major. His dedication to teaching about creativity, and conducting innovative research was generously rewarded by Porter College in 2014 when it established the Pavel Machotka Chair in Creative Studies.

Pavel also served as Chair, Porter College Fellows; Chair, Psychology Board of Studies; Chair, Academic Senate Privilege and Tenure Committee; and Chair, Academic Senate.

Pavel's love affair with Cézanne started at the age of 16 when he entered the University of Chicago and saw his first Cézanne at the Chicago Art Institute. That passion grew into original research and Pavel traveled extensively in France over a number of years to photograph the site motifs where Cézanne painted—in many instances discovering sites that had not been discovered previously by Earl Loran and John Rewald. He photographed the sites in color for the first time, which changed the way Cézanne's landscape paintings had been perceived.

Out of this research came his first book on Cézanne, *Cézanne: Landscape into Art*, published in 1997 (and a second edition with even more discovered sites in 2015). An avid painter himself, Pavel encouraged readers to "look hard" at Cézanne's use of brush strokes, color, and composition. A large tome with this theme, *Cézanne: The Eye and the Mind*, was published in 2009. His latest (and last) book on the still lifes, which he thankfully finished before his death, *Still Life Dialogues: Cézanne*, is currently in production.

Pavel's other books include *The Prague Uprising 1945: the Protagonists' Testimony*; *On Site with Paul Cézanne in Provence*; *Painting and Our Inner World: The Psychology of Image Making*; *Pavel Machotka: Light, Form, and Sensuality*; *Style and Psyche: The Art of Lundy Siegfried and Terry St. John*; *The Articulate Body*; *The Nude: Perception and Personality*; *Messages of the Body* (with J.P. Spiegel); *The Treatment of Families in Crisis* (with D.G. Langsley, D.M. Kaplan, F.S. Pittman III, K. Flomenhaft, C.

DeYoung). He wrote numerous articles and contributed to other books on Cézanne.

Alongside his academic and writing career, Pavel exhibited his paintings in over 30 group exhibits and 20 solo exhibits in the U.S., Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and France. He lectured and gave invited addresses at international congresses on Psychology and Art/ Aesthetics, as well as speaking at a number of Cézanne exhibits in various museums around the world.

His post-retirement educational service and scholarship included contributing articles for the American Psychological Association, serving on the Editorial Board of *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts* (a division of the APA), and *Empirical Studies of the Arts* (the journal of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics). He held membership in the Professional Review Council, and oversight committee for review of curriculum, requirements, and PhD candidacies for the Department of Pedagogy at Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno, from 2004 until his death.

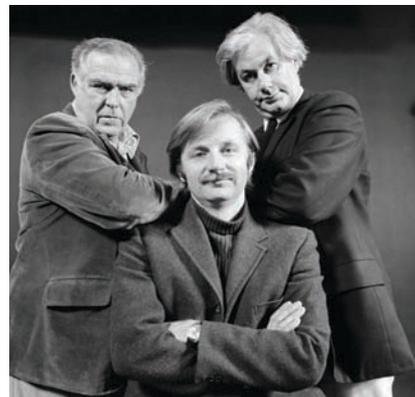
His educational and scholarly works led to his *Doctor honoris causa* appointment at Charles University, Prague (where his father had been a professor) and to receiving the Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award in 2015.

Pavel Machotka was born in Prague on August 21, 1936. The family endured Nazi occupation during the second world war, and then the crushing communist coup in 1948. Just after the coup, Pavel's father had to escape immediately for political reasons, leaving the family behind. It was too dangerous for the remaining family (Pavel, his mother and two sisters) to escape together, so Pavel was asked if he would be willing to escape with four members of his father's political party. He agreed. He once said, "I wasn't afraid for myself, I didn't think twice about it, but I was terrified for my mother and sisters." He was 11 1/2 years old.

After risking his life in this dangerous escape, he was reunited with his father in Germany. Thankfully, his mother and sisters managed to escape a few weeks later, and the family was together again. They emigrated to the U.S. in 1948 with the help of his father's colleagues at the University of Chicago where he had taught in 1934-35.

Pavel attended the University of Chicago as an undergraduate and Harvard University as a graduate. He married Hannelore Gothe in 1963, and they had two daughters, Danielle and Julia. They divorced in 1981, and he married Nina Hansen in 1989.

At Chicago, one of his professors was Grosvenor Cooper (later a faculty member at UCSC), who introduced Pavel to the piano sonatas of Beethoven. So inspired he was that he took up piano once again, which culminated in playing a concert at UCSC with Grosvenor—



Grosvenor Cooper, Pavel Machotka, and Jasper Rose. From the UCSC Archives

the two-piano Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*, with Jasper Rose narrating.

From 1957-1965 he was a Teaching Fellow and Lecturer (and then Instructor) at Harvard on Social Relations, working with Gordon Allport and Erik Erikson. In 1965, he left Harvard and moved to Denver, CO, to become Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Colorado Medical School in the Family Treatment Unit. He participated in a ground-breaking program, led by psychiatrist Frank Pittman III, that focused on the dynamics of the family.

After five years, Pavel wanted to return to academic life and his true passion—undergraduate education. He loved teaching small seminars, interacting with students, even participating in student senior projects. His students inspired him to do his best for them, and many lasting friendships have resulted.

“The best mentors help to move you across a threshold of initiation, and Pavel most certainly did that for me, helping me move my nascent and inchoate thoughts about art, about the human psyche, into the realm of the serious and the adult. ...I take Pavel with me whenever I walk in a gallery or look at the world through the lens,” writes Andrew Penn, a former student and close friend.

Of the hundreds of responses to his death, the main thoughts have been about his generosity, his elegance, his devotion to justice, and the immense presence he had in peoples' lives. Friends, colleagues, and students write that they remember his worldliness (he spoke four languages fluently), how kind he was, and “his zest for life and art, and the twinkle in his eyes,” said Eli Hollander, professor emeritus of Porter College and his life-long friend.

His friend and colleague, PhD. Erich Mistrik of Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, wrote “Pavel provoked deep feelings and I will never forget him.”

Pavel and his wife, Nina, hosted many dinners and occasions at their home in Santa Cruz for students, new faculty hires, university staff, and many friends. They loved to cook, garden, play tennis, watch films, write, play piano and flute duets, and travel. Their love of travel led them to the small village of Montone in Umbria, Italy. There, in 1992 in the countryside they discovered an old ruined farmhouse whose field stones and broken wooden rafters called out to them.



Nina and Pavel 2017

They bought the ruin, thus beginning the greatest adventure of their lives—to renovate an old farmhouse and move to Italy *per sempre* (forever). Their *per sempre* dream came true when they moved to Bacciana in 2000. “We built this house together, as we did our marriage and partnership in life, so our *per sempre* dream will continue with his memories living with me in the house,” Nina said.

Pavel is survived by his wife of 30 years, Nina Hansen; his former wife Hannelore Gothe Royston and their two daughters—Danielle (husband Jim Farley and their two children) and Julia; his son Jerome Camus and his three children; and his sister Hana Marritz (husband Eddie). He is pre-deceased by his sister Georgia Johnson. A memorial will take place later this year in Prague, where Pavel will join his parents and family members who lie in rest there.