



Ms. Barbara McKenzie

July 22, 1934 - December 1, 2025

Daughter of Scottish immigrants Leslie and Euphemie McKenzie, Barbara Ann McKenzie was born July 22, 1934 and raised in Mount Vernon, New York.

She graduated from the University of Miami and was a member of Phi Pi Psi Sorority, Delta Thi Chapter, then went on to earn her Doctorate of Philosophy degree from Florida State University.

In the late 70's to early 80's, Barbara was a couple decades older than the students she taught at the University of Georgia, but mingled freely amongst them with her camera and was considered a kindred spirit amongst the collegiate music and drag scenes in Athens and Atlanta. Among the bands she photographed were R.E.M., Oh-OK, Tone Tones, Limbo District, Pylon, RuPaul, and many others. By all accounts, Barbara may have been the most thorough visual documentarian of this time period. Her photos are in the process of being preserved and archived through the Chunklet Music Preservation Project, Inc. in Atlanta, GA.

Apart from teaching photography and literature, she also wrote and photographed "Flannery O'Connor's Georgia" and wrote many reviews of various art and gallery shows for publications such as The Georgia Review, Contemporary Art/Southeast, Art Papers, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Southline, Atlanta Weekly, and the Athens Observer.

After leaving Georgia for a quieter life, she moved to Tryon North Carolina, and then eventually to Durham where she started a successful ceramics studio in her home and was recognized with a featured piece in Ceramics Monthly Magazine. She taught pottery classes at The Durham Arts Council and the N.C. State University Craft Center for many years.

She was an artist and teacher, observer of humankind, and our dear friend and mentor. Barbara passed away on December 1st, 2025 at the age of 91.

"These things I know
how the living go on living
and the dead go on living with them
so in a forest even a dead tree casts a shadow... "
~Laura Gilpin

Tribute Wall

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“ *Barbara loved the ocean. She learned to sail as a child on Long Island Sound (New Rochelle).* ”

Amy Radack - December 05, 2025 at 10:49 PM

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“ *3 files added to the album Barbara's clay creations* ”



Amy Radack - December 05, 2025 at 10:43 PM

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“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



Amy Radack - December 05, 2025 at 10:27 PM

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Starworks event, Star NC 2017

Amy Radack - December 05, 2025 at 10:29 PM