

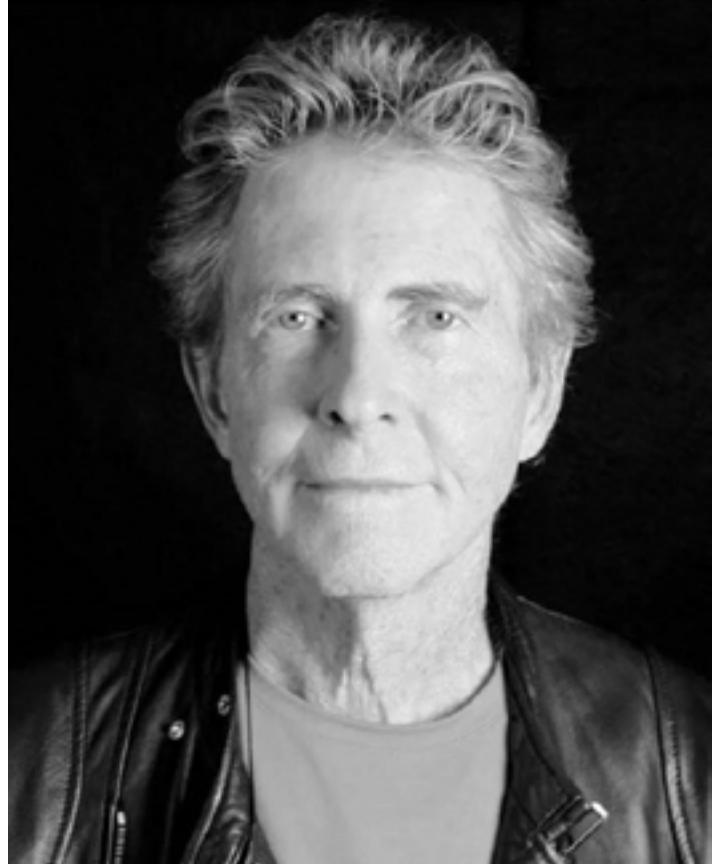
The Cordage Institute Mourns the Passing of Rollin Stirman.

Rollin H. Stirman, a long-time member and friend of the Cordage Institute, passed away peacefully in Miami, FL on September 20, 2018. Rollin lived an incredibly rich life filled with joy, love, and passion that he shared with everyone he met. He discovered paradise in 1954 at the age of 13 when he moved to Miami, FL from Bucks County, PA with his dad Rollin, mother Corabel, brother Charles and sister Corabel. Rollin was born in San Diego when his father was proudly serving in the U.S. Navy. After moving to Miami, he immediately fell in love with the city and all it had to offer, and no offers of work in other parts of the U.S. could pull him away from his beloved city.

Rollin graduated from North Miami High School (Class of '59) and then went on to study at both Miami Dade Junior College and University of Miami. He initially studied chemistry and mathematics. When faced with the decision between continued education or military service, he reenlisted at UofM and started his lifelong love affair with art.

Rollin worked his way through 9 years of college by learning the craft of trimming trees, which remained a passion of his throughout his lifetime. After finishing college he started his first company, Yardbirds, specializing in landscaping, working often with renown landscape architect John Seymour.

By 1975, the recession had hit and during this tough time, his business began to struggle. Jim McLamore, a client and founder of Burger King gave Rollin some advice: "You're a brilliant landscape artist but you need a Jewish business partner to be successful". As fate would have it, later that summer he met and instantly fell in love with Kandi Kaplan, it has been said to be the greatest love story ever told. Kandi was working at her family's business, Miami Cordage, but was interested in branching out and together the two started a side business, Ceylon Bamboo. He culled bamboo from a job removal site at Deering Estates and together, with Kandi's knowledge of macrame and cords from Miami Cordage, they created their first Bamboo Macrame Planter Kit and sold them through the Burdines stores.



Rollin started work at Miami Cordage in the late '70s, it was shortly thereafter that the business burned to the ground during the McDuffy riots of 1980. The business relocated and began to thrive once more and in 1989 Rollin and Kandi owned the majority of shares in the company and decided to start manufacturing fiber rope. At the same time, they acquired Florida Wire & Rigging Works and moved into the current location where the company still thrives.

In 2000, Rollin went through heart failure due to contracting rheumatic fever as an infant. He had a triple bypass but was told he would need a new heart in 5 years. In 2006, he got his new heart at the University of FL Shands Hospital.

For the past 18 years, you could usually find Rollin at concerts, parties, restaurants, and bars happily sketching people and their environment in his black manuscript book. In all, he filled 150 manuscript books with these lively drawings and stories. His talent as an artist had a broad scope including many mediums; paint, sculpture, metal, ceramics, etching, and wood.

Rollin is Survived by his wife Kandi, his children Jason Hoffman, Edwin Stirman, Katie Stirman & beloved daughter in law, Fran Hoffman.