

## **A Sweet Life: Celebrating Nancy Peppin**

This exhibition honors the late Nancy Peppin, a Reno-based artist and steadfast supporter of the arts who passed away in 2015. Known for her great sense of humor, Peppin made a name for herself in the region as a graphic designer and watercolorist.

Peppin's favorite subjects to paint were Twinkies—the popular snack cake with a creamy white filling—and her obsession eventually led to national acclaim with an article about her work in the *New York Times*. She was first inspired to paint Twinkies in 1975 after seeing artwork by Andy Warhol, who demonstrated that even a Campbell's Soup can could be an object of art. "He showed you a new way of looking at a familiar object," said Peppin. "That's what I'm doing with Twinkies. I'm having people look at Twinkies in a brand new way and in an entertaining way." Although Twinkies occupied most of her time, she also made work on subjects ranging from the natural environment to pop culture.

Peppin was born in Oakland, California and earned a Bachelors degree in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1966, and later a Bachelor's degree in art from University of Nevada, Reno. She also worked as a video graphics designer for International Game Technology and as a designer for *Sunset* magazine. In the early 1980s, Peppin taught many art classes and was an employee of the Nevada Museum of Art, designing many of the museum's newsletters, catalogues, and other print material.

Today, Peppin's artworks grace the homes of friends and family throughout northern Nevada. Upon her death, Peppin generously left a significant gift to the Nevada Museum of Art to support the acquisition of artworks for the Museum's permanent collections.