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By Timothy Malcolm

Jan Sawka died Thursday a

Times Herald-Record Published: 4:31 PM - 08/10/12 Last updated: 5:09 PM - 08/10/12

Famed Polish visual artist Jan Sawka died Thursday at age 65, according to a family statement.

Sawka, a visual artist of many genres whose work had taken him to the Museum of Modern Art and 60 major museums across the world, suffered a heart attack at his High Falls studio and home Thursday.

"He was this kind of person who you work with who was so nurturing, and you always learn something, and he wasn't impatient," said Sawka's daughter Hanna. "He had his point of view but you could talk with him, and it was very open that way.

"I loved working with him."

At the time of his death, Sawka had completed a multimedia project called "The Voyage," which will accompany Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart on tour in 2013. Sawka had previously designed the backdrop for the Grateful Dead's 25-year anniversary tour, a 10-story collection of colored canvas

Sawka's "The Tower of Light Cultural Complex" monument proposal for Abu Dhabi, drawings for the Jerusalem Peace Monument, won an American Institute of Architects excellence in design award.

The family states that a memorial exhibition at ACA Galleries in New York City is being planned. A public memorial in New Paltz is being discussed.

Click here for a story about Sawka by the Times Herald-Record. In April 2011, Red Eft Gallery in Wurtsboro celebrated Sawka's work with an exhibition.

View Sawka's Museum of Modern Art collection here.

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