

17 October 2001

Dear Kit,

Well, here it is - at long last - the trade edition of our "Of Birds and Texas." Scott and I are pleased beyond our most optimistic hopes. What is really interesting is that the book you have in your hand is at least 95% the same design that I submitted to UT Press - including the cover!

They had originally wanted a smaller format with a certain number of the birds reproduced in black and white. I made an impassioned plea for an all-color book, and a larger one too, with a heavier weight paper stock. They agreed to all this without argument. So what you see, is the book that Scott and I have dreamed about.

In addition to all this, the UT Press put together a beautiful two-page advertisement in their Fall catalogue and then a stunning six-page mailer all in color to book stores and collectors. The first edition has sold so well that the editors are now planning the second edition.

Scott and I have purchased 1,000 unbound copies which we are having custom-bound and which will be numbered and signed by Scott and me. We are selling them for \$350 per copy, and this will allow us to make some money from the not-for-profit UT Press.

Kit, we have already assembled the team for producing our next book. It will be essentially an artistic profile of Scott's and my landscapes, portraits, and still lifes, along with a selection of our bird paintings, our designs for the Bass Performance Hall and finally a number of our Aztec drawings and paintings. It is this book and not our book of birds for which I have the highest hopes. Birds, as you know, are not our main artistic interest and never have been. We really do not want to be tagged as wildlife artists - which will probably be inevitable with the success of the bird book.

I have three good authors committed to writing the text. They are Ted Pillsbury, the ex-director of the Kimbell Art Museum, Michael Thomas a New York novelist and art critic, and Dave Hickey who is one of the most widely respected observers of the contemporary art scene. Scott and I will provide some initial commentary and will write remarks on each of the illustrated art works.

Scott and I would like to title the new book "From Time to Time, the Art of Scott and Stuart Gentling". Michael Thomas has suggested that we title the book simply "GENTLING". I really have not made up my mind and will try to remain open to suggestions. If the new book can be as beautifully done as the bird book, I really believe it can go a long way toward explaining Scott's and my rather unusual art interests, and it hopefully will show how interrelated all our interests really are.

Kit, let me know what you think of our bird book. The UT Press not only wants to do a broader essay on our work but also