

18 August 2002

Dear Kay and Ben,

I realize that I went a little overboard in giving you some background information on our painting "September 1st," but I'm glad I had the opportunity to commit my memories of our trip to the Bush ranch to paper. The time I spent writing was perhaps more than I had planned, but it is, I guess, my way of thanking you for your interest in our work and to express Scott's and my deepest gratitude for all you have done to enhance the lives of those like us who live in this town and love great art. As artists we have been especially blessed by having the Kimbell Museum but a few minutes away. I have wanted to write you for a very long time to simply say "Thankyou."

I do believe that nobody who has not personally witnessed the labors that are spent to create an important institution like the Kimbell can have any idea of the work and worry involved. As artists for the Bass Performance Hall Scott and I had a unique opportunity to observe at first hand the work of Ed Bass as he labored like a galley slave for six or more years to bring that dream into reality.

Although there are always a few major decisions that prove crucial to a project in the long run such as a choice of a director and an architect, an accomplishment like the Kimbell Art Museum was, I have no doubt, the product of thousands upon thousands of time-consuming "little" decisions. And to think that you have been laboring like Ed Bass for almost forty years! Your achievement with the Kimbell Musuem is so splendid, that, like other great works of art, it might seem to some to have been effortless and even inevitable.

Scott and I know better. There are always a thousand ways even the best of intentions can go awry. That you pulled it off with such taste and imagination and saavy has placed all us forever in your debt. Scott and I just hope that our little gift can in some small way express our deep gratitude for all that you and rest of your family have done for us and for this city. Thankyou again.

Sincerely yours,

Stuart Gentling

PS. Scott and I would be honored if you would accept a copy of the recent University of Texas Press edition of our folio, "Of Birds and Texas" which was our labor of love. It contains our commentary on your color plate of the Cardinals. The book also contains a few good stories. The cardinal painting was the last or the next to the last picture that we created for our book. All the original bird paintings from the book belong to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. While perusing

one of my old sketch books the other day I came upon this early conceptual sketch for the cardinals. It was done before Scott got involved, and it is interesting for me to see how my original idea was changed by Scott into the image that finally appeared as plate XII. Tis but a bagatelle, but I hope you like it.