

9 August 2003

Dear Harlan,

In order to complete our extensive remodelling of our studio-gallery as quickly as possible, Scott and I have reluctantly decided to sell two paintings which might interest you.

These are two large landscapes that we created at the request of President and Mrs. Bush and which are currently hanging in the family quarters of the White House.

The landscape by me is titled "Sanctuary". Scott's painting is called "The Cathedral". They depict scenes from the Bush ranch, the "Western White House" at Crawford, Texas and are the direct product of the same trip to the ranch that resulted in Scott's splendid portrait of the president that is now in your collection. Infact all three paintings were created to hang together.

Each painting measures 36" X 42" unframed, making them the two largest watercolor landscapes we have ever done. As you can see by the enclosed photographs, the two landscapes go perfectly with President Bush's portrait. (By the way, the photos do not do the paintings justice. They are much richer in color - more vibrant).

My "Sanctuary" depicts two small Inca Doves drinking water from a pool located at the entrance to the Bushes' favorite piece of countryside on the ranch, a place with a beautiful waterfall in the rainy season called "The Cathedral." The first family, close friends and important world leaders actually celebrate Sunday church services here when the weather permits. Scott's painting is a unique depiction of the president in a rare moment alone by the dry waterfall at the Cathedral. It is for him a very special place. I really believe that such an unusual presidential painting, actually a presidential portrait, is without precedence in American art.

Both Paintings now hang in the White House solarium in the family quarters - a room where the president spends time by himself when he can. (He told me that it's the only room in which he is allowed to smoke his cigars ). Mrs. Bush told us that he especially wanted us to paint something for the solarium that would remind him of home at the ranch perhaps two paintings of central Texas birds or landscapes. What we ended up doing was a kind of combination of both. By the way, President Ronald Reagan used the solarium to recover from his near assassination.

Our landscape paintings have actually been at the Crawford, ranch, because they were delivered to President and Mrs. Bush last November when they were enjoying their Thanksgiving vacation there. They flew back on Air Force One with the Bushes when

they returned to Washington. Mutual friends who have seen the paintings hanging in the White House solarium tell me how pleased the president is to have these views of the ranch to talk about to important visitors. Mrs. Bush has said the same in two thankyou letters she wrote to Scott and me. We just know that our paintings must have provided the president with a few minutes of welcome escape during the many crises of the Iraq war.

Harlan, Scott and I going to ask \$65,000 for my painting and \$75,000 for Scott's landscape with the president at the Cathedral waterfall. We really are not enthusiastic about selling the paintings. We would rather keep them because of their personal connection between us and President and Mrs. Bush and their historical importance. We really want to finish our studio-gallery remodeling, however, as soon as possible in order to hopefully have a special opening next November. Some day soon we do hope to host you here in Fort Worth so that you can see for yourself what we have done. Of course it's nothing on the scale of what you are doing, but it is really charming and people love it.

Business in the last year has been excellent inspite of the economy. Infact it has been the best of our careers and we have more than enough commissions to complete the building project. We simply cannot finish them soon enough to finance its completion in time for a hoped-for November opening. This is the only reason we are offering these special paintings for sale at this time. The paintings do seem a perfect fit for your collection - and you personally - with your love of history and objects with personal associations with famous historical leaders and since they were painted to hang together as a kind of triptich.

If you are interested, there will be some minor complications with the purchase. First of all, the paintings are not technically loaned to the Bushes personally though the loan was made at their request. Our loan contract (a copy is enclosed) is with the White House curator and does not expire until February 2005 at which point the Bushes, if they are re-elected, might want the paintings to remain for another four years. This of course would only increase their historical importance. If you purchase the paintings and want delivery as soon as possible, Scott and I will simply not renew the loan agreement with the White House and you would take physical possession as soon as the paintings are returned.

If Scott and I could have our way, when February 2005 arrives, we would like to have two new paintings for the White House solarium. We would then have two paintings with a genuine White House provenance that we could also keep as a permanent part of our own personal collection.

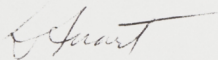
If you do acquire these paintings, you will be given in addition to a copy of our White House loan contract and our bill of sale to you, the two original letters from the Bushes



discussing and praising your landscapes. Scott and I have also written an extensive account on how these pictures came into being which we have gleaned from our journals. ( I have just finished typing up Scott's account of our trip to Crawford, our afternoon touring the ranch with the president as our chauffeur and guide, and how your portrait of President Bush came into being. This will be sent to you, as I promised, as soon as I proof the piece. ) There will also be included a number of photographs which, when added to the other materials will give you a unique documentation for all three paintings. Again, as you can see from the enclosed photos, they really look wonderful next to each other. It was really exciting when we briefly displayed them together in our studio.

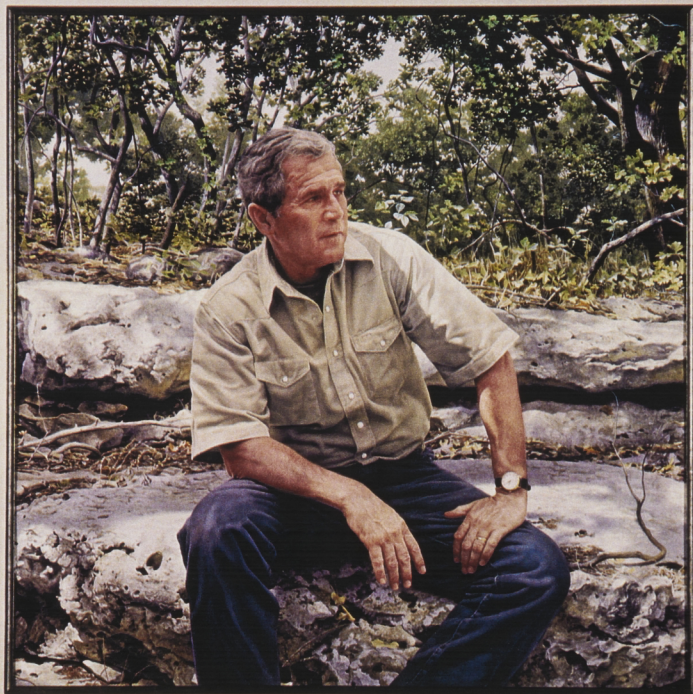
Harlan, I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Like most sane people, you are probably out of town for August. I certainly would be, if it weren't for our remodelling project. When it is finished I really do believe it will be the most beautiful small place in Fort Worth to entertain clients and to show our art. It is only to complete this project in a timely manner that Scott and I are even considering the sale of our White House landscapes. If you are not interested, we will probably withdraw them from sale. It is really just as much in our interest to hold on to these pictures and simply take the extra time needed to finish the gallery. Do let me know what you think. Until then, sir, I remain

Sincerely yours,

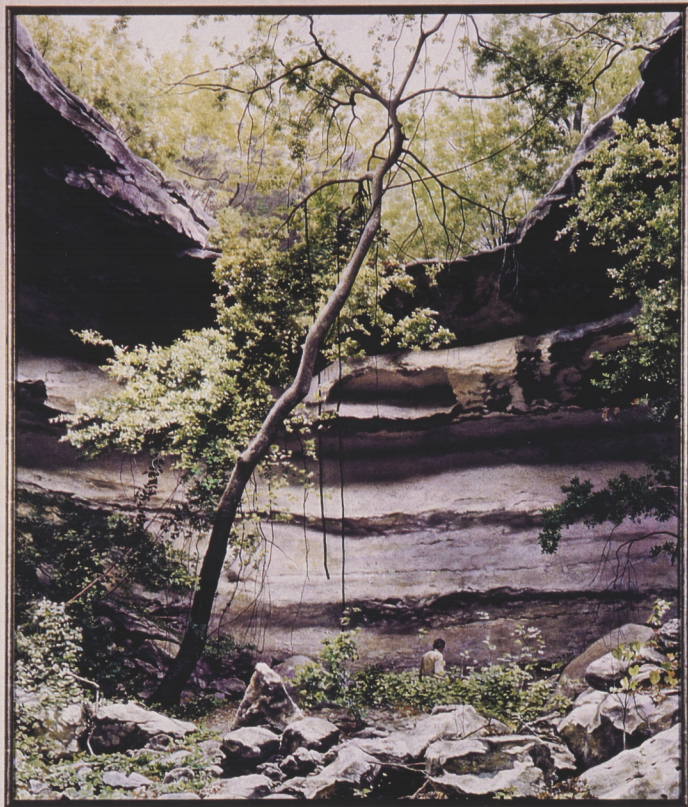
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott", written in dark ink.















1. Scott from within abf Jan 31