

address:

15 January 2005

Dear Julian:

I really enjoyed our telephone conversation the other night and I am glad that we are "communicating". I simply can not believe that two years have passed since I was commissioned to do a still life to accompany your wonderful portrait by Scott.

To be quite frank, one of the most difficult aspects about this picture is that I have tried to express too many ideas within it. I promised you an ambulatory work. I also promised myself that if possible - and the editor at the University of Texas Press were willing - I wanted this painting to be the cover of our next book, "From Time to Time".

The new book will cover all of Scott's and my art over the decades - the portraits, still life and landscapes, of course, but also our birds, our ^{later} paintings, project paintings, our costumes, Bob's quilt designs and other projects. To construct a painting for a book cover that would incorporate as many facets of interests as possible has been a frustrating exercise. I have begun and then painted several times only to end in frustration and dissatisfaction.

The painting that I am currently working on (it is ~~only~~ ⁱⁿ the planning stage at this time) will be somewhat less ambitious and more doable although it is still a very complex piece with symbolism on many levels. It will also be as casual as close to a casual biography as I can get.

Jim says our fingers cross. The finished work will be exactly the same size as your

portraits by Scott. The frame has already
been made and is in my studio.
Although I will try for an earlier
delivery date, please allow me
six months for completion. Once you
see the finished painting, I think you
will appreciate the time it has taken
to produce. I need the painting to be
done as soon as possible so that
I can propose it for the cover of our
fortieth anniversary book.

When I'm finished, I also have
a special gift for you that I hope,
will have made your wait
worth while.

Until then, Julian, I remain ...

Your most obedient and humble servant,

mention
money