

Dear Jamie,

I was saddened by the news of your father's death
and have felt a strange sense of emptiness, almost it
ever since as if the loss had been ^{a more} ^{one} ~~more~~ personally ^{me} than it
actually was. I can't say that I knew him: well as a person
as an artist
conversations were few and short and yet he spoke to
me often in the medium closest to him - his art. Its quirkiness
and insight, its universal breadth, his sense of the strength
and fragility of time itself, those moments between moments,
he caught with ^{such} a fierce and delicate poetry like Haiku
poems that grow within by sheer contemplation. These are
still with us.

Jamie, after your visit to Fort Worth when
unfortunately you saw me at my absolute worst

and then your wonderful Catalog Days, I wrote you
a long letter which I never sent, probably out
of respect for the both of us, but I would like to
establish a contact with you now - and yes even
talk about awful ^{things}. When my brother Stu, died I felt
marooned, yes that's the word and my mirror

continually tells me I'm more like old Ben Gunn than I want
to admit, but I can also say along with him, "Where's the gold,
says you? In Ben Gunn's cave, says I" and gold there
is. Though still a work in progress I am rising Phoenix -
like from the ashes you saw me wallowing in. I put
that terrible time behind me and even forgave myself for
it but I do apologize to you. I hope you can forgive me as
well.

No 1. *Gloe*

I did a painting shortly after Stu died,
of a still life in the school house room where you all
met that July 4th 2004. Again it was a "portrait" of
your father in which I set myself the challenge of
saying as much as I could with a minimum number
of elements in the subject. There is an emotional tone
to this work that says it all, but with Andy and Stu both
gone it says even more now. I call it Andy.

Stu once told me a funny story of an exchange between
your father and him which you may even have witnessed.

Rather out of the blue Andy asked Stu, "Well, what are you working
on now?" Stu answered, "I'm working on something really
interesting, but I'm not going to tell you what it is." Then Andy
said "Well I'm working on something really interesting too, and I'm
not going to tell you what it is."