

22 April 2004

Dear Gossetts,

Well, our small Spring show is over, and I can at last catch my breath! The exhibition was a somewhat unique one. Only sixty people were invited, most of them Fort Worth big-wigs who rarely come out to non-museum art openings. Scott and I were truly amazed that so many showed up. Frankly, I can't help but think it was because of our successful open house party last November which was a party only and not meant to be a sale.

That open house created quite a buzz in town and everybody was curious about what we had done with our new studio and wanted to see for themselves. Sales were good but not spectacular. I'm afraid that our paintings had to compete with the studio itself for attention. You could certainly tell that the people were delighted to be there.

My landscape with the Mesquite Tree is out on approval to a client who usually keeps what he takes home. I did not show "Road from Gossetts", because it was not quite finished. (I am going to re-title that painting "House Quail" after what you told me, Paula. So, "House Quail" is yours. If you liked the Xerox of the small study, you will love the big painting!!!!

If I understood our phone conversation the other day, You said that you wanted either the "Mesquite" or "House Quail" - one or the other if either happened to sell at our show. Although the Mesquite is much more lyrical and idyllic than the xerox, I can't help but think that "House Quail" is your sentimental favorite.

If I understood you correctly, Paula, you and Bob also wanted the painting of the Nopal cactus with Quail as well as the view of the gate, roses and the back of the house, which I going to title "Three Fences." I haven't even started that picture yet. Ironically when I did the small pencil studies that you have, that particular subject made me want to do it first. Scott stopped me because he wanted to paint it, but he has been so busy completing commissions that he hasn't had the time to do the painting. He still wants to do it, however. Both Scott and I think this will be a unusual picture, something special. I think it will take about a month to finish the Cactus and Quail painting which is the most complicated of all the subjects. The "Three Fences" ought to be finished in two months, perhaps less if Scott does the painting.

Since these pictures are to hang in your New York apartment, I wonder if you want to frame them yourself or would you like me to do it here and then ship them to you? It would probably be more fun for you to simply unpack the pictures and put them on your walls. It is, of course, easier to ship them unframed, but I will do what you prefer.

The price for "House Quail" is \$12,500. There is not sales tax if shipped to New York. The price for "Nopal" is \$14,500. The three fences may be more complicated than it looks, but I'm inclined to ask \$12,500 for it also.

Thus, you have commissioned the following:

1. "House Quail" 24" X 32"	\$12,500.00
2. "Nopal" 24" X 32"	\$14,500.00
3. "Three Fences" 24" X 32"	<u>\$12,500.00</u>
TOTAL	\$39,500.00

I do realize that the trauma of Tax Day is barely past. Scott and I are about to begin what we hope will be the final phase of finishing out our two-story studio and library wing. We would of course be delighted if you might be able to pay for both "House Quail" and "Nopal" at this time. I will certainly understand if you can't. However we are paid, it will probably be easier to ship them both together in about a month or so as mentioned above.

In closing I want to say again that I really believe you will be delighted when you see the big paintings. Scott and I are very pleased and we especially like knowing that the five paintings hanging at the ranch show a completely different mood and time of year from these new works. All in all, what we have done has turned out to be an interesting chronicle of a small but very special piece of Texas.

Sincerely,

Stuart Gentling

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