

Portrait of John Truelson

John Truelson, a good friend from early childhood on commissioned me to paint this portrait upon learning that he had pancreatic cancer. I knew him very well. - His hard headedness, quick wit, and tickling sense of humor ^{was treasured} often at my own expense but it was the kind that always had me laughing right along with him probably because he was always so right on target. He knew that I allowed no one to view a portrait in progress so I worked furiously since ^{I knew that} that type of cancer ^{was} a quick killer. Unfortunately he died ~~without~~ the very day I finished it ~~and~~ ^{He} ~~so~~ never saw it.

Some months later when I showed it finished and framed to his parents it was an awkward and moving moment for all of us. Through the tears they told me that I had done something that ^{had} ~~gave~~ given them ^a great comfort in their grief. I really had caught him and some of his many facets but what is perhaps the portrait's strongest quality is its ability to make one feel ^{that he is} ~~that~~ in the living presence of the sitter.