



ARTIST STATEMENT

I want to write this to explain the work. I don't want you to read it as a sentimental ploy to get sympathy. The work happens because life happens to us. Through all the trials and fits of joy, life is giving us chances to be grateful. I am grateful for the life I had, and have. I am alive and open to what is now. I have been asked to write about the meanings of the work. I tried. Sorry.

What I can do is remember the feelings.

I remember seeing Vita as woman, wrinkling into a beautiful elderly compassionate soul. I can remember the feelings of sitting on the studio sofa watching spring arrive and us celebrating our last spring together. Happy we had it to share.

I can remember my step children in their 40's dealing with the prime mover of our family... their mother, friend, and joy giver, taking instructions as to what they were supposed to have of her vast collections of books, photos, and writings; the light and love in their eyes the whole time.

I remember not being able to lift Vita one night because my arms no longer had strength to do so....so we both slept on the floor in front of the fireplace. It was too painful for her to move. I cried as I held her because I was not able to give her a comfortable bed.

I remember the doctor crying when Vita gave him an amber necklace and ear rings for his wife, and thanking him for his care and honesty about her dying. The we all cried, and were happy too.

I remember the confusion and anger when the explanations did not answer my questions, and then expressing that anger in paint to be rid of it.

I remember wanting to hide, to be alone, away from witnessing my own confusion and inadequacies in dealing with the process of dying.

I remember all of the family having a final dinner around her, Vita dressed for her final journey in the center, and us laughing and toasting her life.

"How could the paintings not be abstract and expressionistic? What images would show this without being sentimental?" I was stealing as much beauty as I could from what I was experiencing. Sometimes there was very little to go around.

Now my life is about sorting out and the resurgence of life energy with new goals and relationships . It is about painting some landscapes and anything else that softens the edges my age is gradually filing down.

RESURGENCE is what I feel. So let's begin...

Dale Witherow