

Graves Country
15 North Cherokee lane
Lodi, California 95240
Ph#209 473 7089
Ph# 209 368 5740 (gallery)

graves@gravescountry.com

www.gravescountry.com

O1 Roff



March 3, 2010

March is here! Trees and flowers are blooming everywhere. This is a beautiful time of the year!

First: Robyn, we are so happy for you to be finished with Chemo! And we are so happy that you are feeling better. I am looking forward to the coffee and scones that you promised this Saturday!

I must apologize to Robin Knowlton and to my readers for not mentioning this before. Robin has one of the nicest art galleries in Northern California! It is the Knowlton Gallery located in Lodi. You must check it out. Lodi is so fortunate to have her gallery! Please look <http://www.knowltongallery.com/>.

So much happened in February.



I met the wonderful Expressionist Artist, Vanda Hawkins of Arizona. I found her on ebay under VanHawkArts. I spent the entire day and part of the evening just studying her work; I love it, particularly her Gypsy portraits. She is presently painting two portraits of Gypsy children for me.



One of my discoveries in folk art is Buddy Mitchell of Alabama. I could talk

with Buddy all day long. He and I share great memories of the Mose Tolliver family. He knows them much better than me. The great thing about it is that he has bought from them for 30 Years and is now selling some of the early Mose Tolliver paintings. Here I can buy a Mose Tolliver and know it is not a forgery! This is Mose Tolliver's "Self Portrait with hair".

Buddy was in the Alabama government and worked with Governor Wallace. He is semi-retired and now does consulting. The stories that he can tell!



I just purchased a Reverend Finster Angel from Harry Ankeny, owner of Eastwest Studio in Georgia. He is a father struggling to raise his little boy. His wife recently passed away from cancer.

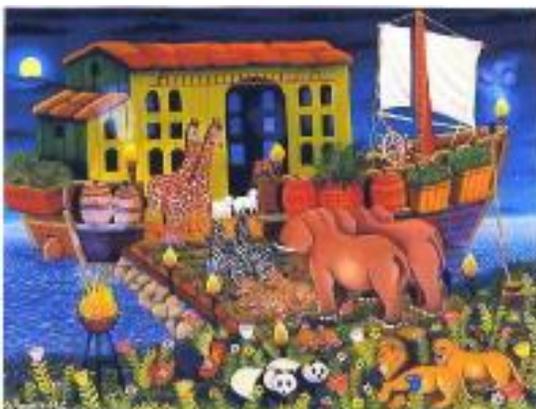
How much I respect this young man! He and I spoke together for quite a while. I wanted to get to know him before I sent a \$2,850 bank check for the Angel. What a great person! He

really touched my heart!



Now Marion Crow, Joe Adams of America Oh Yes, and I really have something in common! All three have little or no vision in one eye! This woman, this Marion Crow is such an artist!

We welcome her back into the gallery with open arms. Please check out her paintings on our website! Marion Crow of Frostburg, Maryland, we are so happy to have your paintings again! This painting is titled "Freedom's Road". Marion is very interested in the Civil War. Maryland is on the Mason-Dixon Line and I believe it was both North and South! Wow-a gorgeous painting!



And speaking of great artists, I am saddened to write that Branko Paradis suffered a major Pulmonary Embolism but glad to write that he is recovering

as reported by his wife Carole. We wish them both the best! Great people!

This painting is 30" x 40" and is "Noah's Ark 4 At Dark". I wish I could capture it in all its beauty. I am just not good enough to capture the image perfectly.

I feel that galleries and artists were recently done an injustice by a video encouraging People to "bargain" with the gallery owners and artists. Apparently these "experts" have not the slightest idea how some galleries and upcoming artists operate. I am frequently "offered" or even told that I have a "high" mark-up so I have room to play with my prices. That is so untrue. You are 100% free to ask what I paid for a painting, better yet, ask the artist. My mark up is somewhere between 20% and 50%. I have very little room to negotiate. I have rent, website, bookkeeping, some labor, and high shipping costs to pay. More often than not, I pay for part of it out of my retirement and Social Security checks.

For the amount of time the artist put in, their art is a true bargain. Lets take Marion Crow for example. Marion's eyesight has been bad for a long time. She spends hours on a painting, even days. She will then sell me the painting for \$250. or so. I will pay her shipping, frame the painting, and sell it for \$400. or so. There is just no room to "bargain". (Of course prices vary with the size of the painting, frame, etc.)

Please remember that I have been doing this for 30 plus years and I pay cash for every painting I have in the gallery. I work with artists whom I am proud to represent. Yes, some of them sell on ebay-that is a good place to get started. These artists are not flea-marketeers and my gallery is not a flea-market booth.---Gosh, I didn't realize how strongly I feel about that!



Steven!

And speaking of that, I Steven Chandler comes to mind. His work is outstanding, yet he is still faced with people contacting him and trying to buy his paintings for much less than he is asking! This guy is a really good artist folks! And yes, you can find him on ebay! Georgia Red Mud.

The cutout painting of me that you will see below was done for me as a gift from Steven. Thank you

And a major Thank You to Steve Pattie and to Steve Slotin for rendering their opinions on a painting that I almost bought. I so much appreciate your help

----And Sage Pattie, we hope to see you soon. We thank God for your recovery from cancer!

And to grandson Myles Corbin in Afghanistan, darn it, I shouldn't have watched The Hurt Locker (or whatever its called). Grandma Arlene and I sure love you, kid and don't get yourself blown to smithereens! (Grandma wouldn't watch the movie!) Come home safely in April!

Good-bye until April. -----

OlRoff

