

❧ A Personal Note from the Artist's Brother ❧

As far back as I can remember, David and I shared the common belief that art can change lives in positive ways that nothing else can. He proved that truth as he saw the impact that art made in the lives of inner city students he taught. I once asked him, "What is art?" He answered me, without hesitation, "Art is therapy!" When David moved to Florida; unable to take his lifetime of art with him, he gave it to me. His natural question was "What will you do with it?" At that time, I did not fully realize what an honor and a responsibility had been placed on my shoulders. Nor did I realize that my responsibility extended well beyond my brother and myself. As I began to study these paintings that I had grown up with, they 'spoke' to me in profound ways as testaments of the human spirit! As they brought healing to my own soul; I realized how unique and powerful my brother's vision as an artist really was. I further realized that his art could potentially affect the lives of many others for good. The realization dawned that I was not a possessor but a steward of a body of art work that truly belongs to others whom, as yet, I have not met. My love for my brother as well as people whom I do not even know drives me onward. I am inwardly constrained to get David's work "out

there." Now at last, through the manifold kindness of the Southern Vermont Art Center, I have begun the long journey. I may safely say that it is both my own and my brother's desire that you who have come to this retrospective exhibition, be the first (and hopefully not the last) of those who will realize that David's art really belongs to them. It is my sincere hope that you will be blessed not just in seeing but in beholding the beauty and truth of the art works of my brother, David.



David Joel Pratt  
(1926 – 2008)