



The Gib Singleton Newsletter

"I'm not decorating somebody's living room. I'm not decorating somebody's garden. I'm decorating somebody's heart."

So Long, Compañero

We haven't wanted to do this newsletter. Haven't wanted to acknowledge the hole Gib's passing left in so many of our lives. But as Gib liked to say, 'There it is, man.'

So . . .

Gib was hospitalized with pneumonia on Tuesday, February 25. He was so weak he didn't think he could get into the car, so we called an ambulance.

Once in the hospital, he seemed to rally. His daughter, Shelly, came in Wednesday night and by Thursday afternoon, we were making plans to bring him home. Then he suffered an event in the night, and on Friday the doctors told us he was done. We took him home because Gib always said he wanted to die in his own bed.

Paul Zueger rushed down from Denver to say goodbye, and when he walked into the bedroom, Gib opened his eyes and pulled himself upright. He hugged Paul, said, 'I love you, man. I'll see you on the other side,' and laid back down. He passed peacefully with friends and family around him, and his little dog Muffin on his pillow.

While we believed and prayed that

Gib would recover as he had from so many other crises, he knew he was leaving. His last two drawings in the little watercolor notebook he carried everywhere were of the Grim Reaper over his hospital bed, and meeting Jesus on Calvary.

In fact, we think Gib chose to leave. He always said, 'If I can't work, I'm out of here,' and he was losing that ability as the COPD advanced. And on some level, he was excited about exploring the great mystery of death.

Now What?

Gib had known since his time in hospice a decade ago that life was fleeting. 'I know I'm living on borrowed time,' he used to say. Acting out of that awareness, he made arrangements with Paul and the foundry to produce a series of previously uncast waxes, and to point up several pieces to lifesize and monumental.

In accordance with Gib's wishes, over the next few years, some 30 pieces will be pointed up, and as many as 50 new castings will be produced. A new coffee table book with a more detailed biography and

Gib's own commentary about many of his works is in process. And some of his favorite pieces will be scaled down to go with the book.

The next question is, what can we do to help secure Gib's legacy? The hard reality is, artistic brilliance is not enough to be assured of a place in history. It takes promotion, a powerful narrative and, most of all, exposure to a wide audience.

We know that people are profoundly affected when they see Gib's work. So our goal is to expose more and more people to Gib's work, and to his wisdom. We'll be rebuilding his web site, adding stories as we go through hundreds of hours of interviews, and providing more interpretive materials.

We'll work with museums, private collectors and public institutions to arrange exhibits of Gib's work, and with writers and art historians to document his legacy. And we invite you to participate in any way that feels appropriate to you.

Gib touched so many lives in so many ways. He lives on in his work and in our hearts.

Vaya con Dios, Cowboy.

My Brother's Keeper

On one level, the title of this piece is a reference to the Biblical story of Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve, from the book of Genesis. According to the Bible, Cain murdered Abel, then lied about it when God questioned him, saying 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?'

But on another level, the bronze reflects Gib's deepest belief that the essence of humanity is caring for one another. 'I'm concerned about the future of humanity,' Gib said. 'We're at a point in history where we don't know what we're doing or where we're going, and that's a dangerous place to be.'

'But I think on the positive side, after 9/11 we all began to ask those big questions. Why are we here? What do we believe in? What's our purpose? With everything that's going on around us, I think we're looking for something that gives strength to our lives. For something that makes sense in this crazy world, and gives us meaning. Art can deliver that, and that's the art I do – and the art I need to do for myself, too.'

In describing this bronze, Gib said, 'I see this piece like it's on a battlefield. Kind of like the trenches in World War I, but more ethereal. Because it's a battlefield of the spiritual world that moves into the physical world that we live in.'

'My brother's keeper comes from the spiritual world. It's an angel of God who comes down to take care of us and deliver a message from God. And that message is to stop killing each other.'

'In a battle you know, you pick up somebody who's wounded and help them. You pick up your friend – and even your enemy – and help him. I

know of situations where two guys are fighting each other – an American and a German – and the German gets hit by a bullet or a shell, and the American goes over to help him, even though they were trying to kill each other a minute before.

'Right now, we're not smart enough to stop killing each other. You look at the news and it's all about war and disasters and destruction. But with all of that, I'm hopeful. Maybe I'm just old and crazy, but I think we're starting to learn to live with each other.'

'You look at those disasters, and when you get past all the scary stuff, you find people in the middle of it all acting with courage and compassion and love. Being in the worst of it somehow brings out the best in us.'

'There's just something about death. We're all going to experience it and we're all going to go through it. And we're going to help each other through it. So when you really get down to it, we are our brother's keeper. And if we can just remember that, we can pull this thing out.'



My Brother's Keeper
Bronze, Edition of 25
31" x 12" x 14"

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF
GIB SINGLETON
BREAKFAST, SAT. AUGUST 23, 9 - 11 AM
A Memorial Service will be held from 8 - 9 AM
at the Gib Singleton Museum of Fine Art
RSVP REQUIRED, 505-984-5099
Galerie Züger | 120 W. San Francisco St. Santa Fe, NM 87501 | galeriezuger.com