

**T**he large format painting *Riding Out Another Texas Storm* includes a lot of personal history and ingrained Texas folklore. Texans grow up with daily exposure to extreme and often sudden weather changes. Hard rain and lightening storms are quickly followed by scorching heat followed by intense cold followed by wonderful days and nights of clear, cool, unhumid weather. And in central Texas we were lucky enough to be close by and constant companions to wonderful lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, swimming holes, fishing holes, grottos, public swimming pools and secret springs.

This painting reflects the weather and Texans' resiliency, grit and resolution. And family. My parents worked all their lives to support too many kids and debt and with hardships of every kind. My Mom and Step Dad finally got free of the family home and debt long after all the kids were grown and had left, some to never return. They scraped together enough funds to purchase a long mobile home. The plan was to tow it to Florida and live the life of ease on those sunny shores. They got as far as a hill in Pflugerville, about 2 miles out of Austin, and spent the rest of their lives there. They seemed happy.

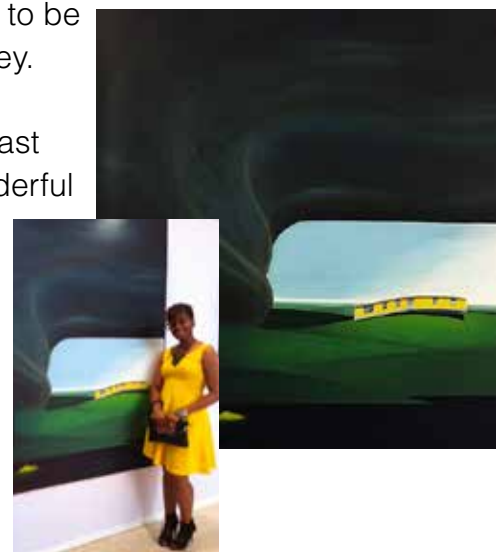
The painting frames the whole family as re-united, growing up together, and happy in that old trailer. Shown are "Ms. Caffey" and Howard at the breakfast table window. In another window is imagined Jessie Lee, my older step sister, and 2 younger half brothers David and John. In the next to the front window is pictured my older brother Ted. "Of course", I am imagined in the front window.

Lord, that family did ride out many a Texas storm. Some family "storms" are way too painful to remember, much less write down. And did you ever notice how we seem to subconsciously try to rebuild our original family? (That won't work.) And do you know the Texas term - Walk Away? As in, "She just walked away one day".

The home and impending storm are pictured along side a calm lake/stream/river with the yellow fish just showing a fin before going deep again. The home seems to be "taking off" like a big yellow plane. The lead figure seems to be the pilot and is trying to take everyone along on the journey. What fun ...and agony.

The 72x68 inch oil on canvas was included in the very last Texas Hunting Art Prize Show as a finalist in 2016. A wonderful photo was taken by Pat Piland of the work and the young woman in a yellow dress with the artist just off camera.

And so it goes...



### *Riding Out Another Texas Storm.*

72 inches x 68" x 2". • 2014 • Oil on canvas. • Made and exhibited in Piland's Spring Street Studio and the final Hunting Prize Show in 2015 in Houston. • Stored in Page Piland Storage Unit in Bellaire, Texas in 2021. • Piland Biography/ C.R. - *29 Stories* discusses the works in detail. • See photo of the work in that book written by the artist in Bellaire, Texas. 2021. • Signed by the artist on the back of the canvas and the stretcher bars.