



## *Ron Gordon, Artist*

Born in Memphis Tennessee, raised in rural Mississippi, Ronald Mark Gordon is keenly aware of his southern heritage. The organic and cultural influences of "sense of place" are evident upon meeting him or viewing his paintings.

*The artist believes that; "All art, from primitive drawing, to the most esoteric contemporary form, exists to tell stories. Viewed on a cave or gallery wall, educating or entertaining, inspiring or provocative, the language chosen effects the telling."*

*"I am a story teller. The people who encourage, promote, view the work, critique, and give their patronage are participants with me. Speaking to their eyes is my privilege."*

**Gordon's work shows a wide range of visual dialects**, which began in childhood experiences with art. Ron started oil painting at ten years old with his Grandmother, who was a talented primitive painter. Through his formative years he won awards at juried shows, sold paintings, designed parade floats, and edited the school yearbook. Ron was awarded Eagle Scout at age 14 and worked at the local Boy Scout Camp for 4 summers as the First Aid and Camping Instructor.

**Gordon holds a BFA from the University of Southern Mississippi and completed graduate hours toward a MED in Art Education.** Ron worked his way through school holding various jobs: ER Orderly, Retail Salesman, often selling paintings or painting signs. He was given a graduate fellowship to produce graphics for the Public Relations Department at USM.

**Gordon taught Public School Art** in Saginaw Michigan for three years and has worked in a variety of educational programs from pre-school to adult education as an art, photography and crafts instructor.

**Ron Gordon moved to Houston Texas in 1979** to accept a position as a Graphic Artist and to raise his family. Over the next several years he would work as a Free Lance Graphic Artist and Illustrator for Oil and Petro-Engineering firms.

In 1986, Gordon, answered another calling and entered the ministry. **He served as Head Master of a Christian Academy and as an Associate to the Senior Pastor.** When Ron resigned from the Academy after ten years, he was uncertain of his future, but, certain of his faith and that he would paint again.

Art projects began to "come his way" almost immediately after leaving the Academy. **In the spring of 1998 he was awarded a large contract with the Houston Zoo to do the murals for the remodeled Bird House.** Upon the successful completion of this huge task, Gordon returned to painting as a muralist and studio artist. **The following year he would paint the Koala Exhibit murals for the Zoo and the "Kronzer Portrait"** (now on permanent display at The South Texas Collage of Law).

**Working with designers, executives, display companies, and private patrons, Ron has produced an impressive body of work.** In the past eight years he has provided an extensive flow of art services for patrons and clients who commissioned him to execute artworks in numerous styles, techniques and medium. He is a consummate landscape and still-life artist. *(A partial client list is available on request.)*

**At present, the artist lives and studios in the warehouse district of downtown Houston. Ron Gordon is a professional artist, providing custom pieces primarily by commission, though his contemporary paintings and textural studies are attracting a significant patronage. He has had successful gallery exhibitions and is moving closer to his goal of producing an in depth series of paintings and assemblages for exhibit in the coming year.**

### **Non-Commissioned Paintings and Assemblages for Exhibit:**

**Ron's passion for paint, color, visual texture and detail combined with inner vision and a commitment to craftsmanship bring a unmistakable excellence to his work.** Typically on hard board, in vivid acrylic hues, his work is at once captivating. Compositions are often defined by a strong horizon line in the upper third of the picture plain. Lines and shapes thrust upward or move in arches leading the eye through fields of rich patterns and visual texture.

**Energetic, sometimes whimsical, sometimes dramatic,** the compositions of his paintings are compelling from a distance; though, on closer inspection the artist provides a visual feast of brush work and detail. Stenciling dots, screens or fabric patterns, and overlapping these, Gordon builds rich fields of color, line and repeated shapes. Often the boards are sanded, scraped or scratched to reveal multiple layers. Glazes, washes, scumbled areas, all bare evidence to the evolution in the color, shapes and design of each piece.

*"I've preferred working on Masonite or plywood veneers, since I started using acrylics in the 70's because I can abuse the ground I'm painting on without weakening the support; particularly when I am removing color to create clouded or distressed passages or when I'm cutting through a wet area with a ridged tool. I still love canvas but prefer it for oil paintings, portraits, figurative studies and the like."*

*"A painting interests me most when it has a certain tension: explosive and stable, strong and still contemplative-some familiar rhythms with occasionally unexpected notes."*

*"If it doesn't speak to me- I'll paint it out. I am the one responsible- the work will be around after I'm gone. It (the work) should stand on its own; no matter how obscure these hands may remain."*

### **On His Textural studies:**

*"Visual elements are strongest when they are isolated." "The Texture tiles are an example of studying one element to the subordination of all others. The forms are deliberately archeological, organic and without obvious cultural symbols. The contrast of modern references with ancient and the distressed and patina finishes assist the theme I gravitate towards in much of my work: "Decay and Renewal". I am moving toward a new series, in this on-going study that will incorporate a different color pallet and stronger contrast of relief."*