



A Letter from the Artist

A 38-year mystery, solved! Thanks to Bern Young from ABC Radio and the incredible support of everyone who shared, commented, and helped spread the story, the artist behind the very first painting Terri Lew collected was found. The search ended with this heartfelt letter Bern received from the artist:

Hi Bern,

Thank you so much for getting in touch. It would be wonderful to speak with both you and Terri over the phone if that suits. I'd really love the opportunity to thank Terri personally for the impact she had on my life.

When Terri bought my painting, it was a tough time at home and my dad was raising me on his own, and her belief in my work gave both of us a huge boost.

Looking back, I don't think Terri just bought a painting. She gave a young artist confidence at exactly the right moment.

After that, my dad took me to every art exhibition he could find. It became such a happy time for us. He encouraged me endlessly and somehow always managed to find more paint, brushes, and art supplies.

For both of us, Terri's support made the dream of becoming an artist feel a little more real. When I eventually moved to New York, Dad was still my biggest supporter. Even just a couple of years ago, when Parkinson's had progressed and he could no longer write, he dictated a letter to a nurse for me that said, "Please don't worry about me. You just keep painting in New York." He was proud right to the end.

Dad passed away last year, which is one of the reasons this means so much to me. I'd love the chance to tell Terri how much her kindness meant. I'm also so happy to hear about the wonderful things Terri is doing in the arts. She sounds like an incredible woman, and I'd love to hear a little about that too. Thank you again, Bern, for helping reconnect us after all these years. I'm really grateful.

*Warm regards,
Petrina*