

## ARTIST STATEMENT

### Transition: Why the look and feel of this work is so different

#### Fall 2020

In a world gone Sci-Fi, where chaos reigned, exacerbated by King Tech(nology)...talkin' about:

- Political Surrealism (alternative facts???...really??? What even IS that??).
- The rise of the Alt Right.
- Cops killing black folks with impunity... (What??? aGAIN???)
- A raging pandemic with no hope of a top-down centralized plan of action.
- The struggling economy; And on and on...

*Much. Too. Much!*

Despite my efforts to remain balanced - to Be the eye of the storm, the accumulative effect of the daily onslaught was taking its toll on me. And I could see it in my work. It lacked the (physical) gusto that fuels the energetic gestural output required to make good non-objective abstract paintings. My creative reservoir was seriously depleted. To continue to make work, a shift was needed.

And so, I retreated into a peaceful, soft, meditative process. I sought Form, Boundaries, light values.

**in pursuit of Quiet** - A series of 4 paintings.

Three of them are exhibited here. Check the Elder website for the 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### January 2021

I began working on the 5<sup>th</sup> **Quiet** painting. However, during the process, I felt a shift taking place. Several Thoughts crept into my Spirit and began to inform my mark making:

- 1- the January 6th insurrection,
- 2- the persevering Great American Dilemma "*now that we've freed them, what do we DO with them?*",
- and 3- "We MUST Keep Them OUT"

The outrageous and shocking nature of the insurrection highlighted the degree in which Fear undergirds every scheme to retain Power and Control by ANY means necessary. It is and has always been a blight upon the history of humankind. In America, racial diversity is accelerating, especially in the younger portion of the nation. Our collective voices are being heard, translating into votes. They are losing grip. And They Are Afraid.

My marks became increasingly active, my palette changed to blacks, white, browns, and beige. SKIN. With my brushes heavily loaded I dug in with passion. The release of anger, outrage and frustration was freeing. *But there was also Triumph: despite centuries-long sustained efforts - We. Continue. to Rise.*

**the reason for their Fear** - A series of 4 paintings (so far)

Two of them are exhibited here. Check the Elder website for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

BEllis, May 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BEllis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.