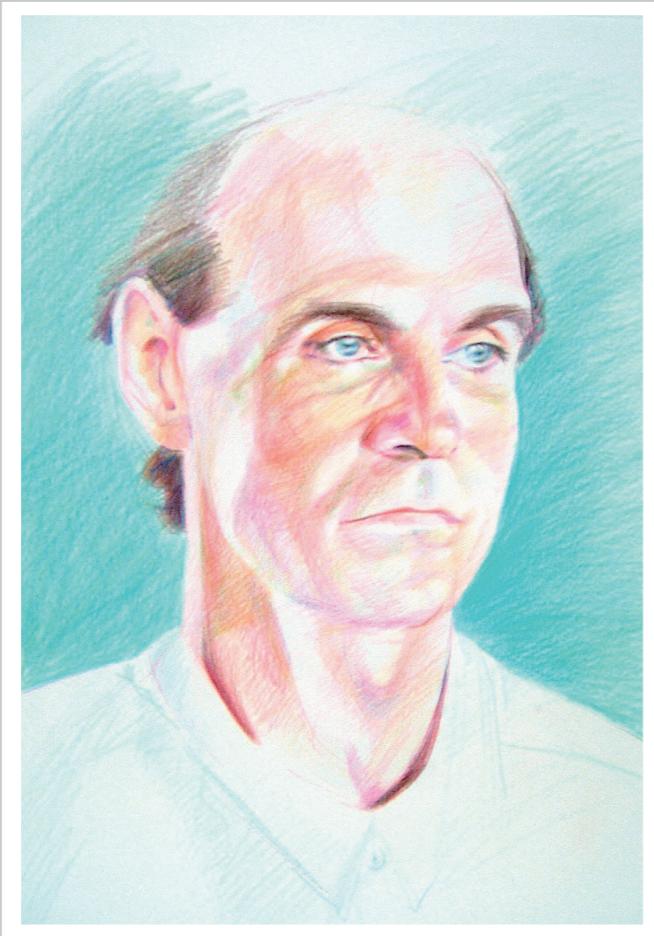


The James Taylor Collection

A Private View



Mandy Farmer

Back in 1998, James Taylor embarked on a European tour with his band that became the focus for an entirely new kind of introspection

This was to be a period of time that would prove to be a pivotal point in his career and personal life. Known chiefly for his confessional and soulful songwriting and vocals, James was facing a future of change and to some degree, uncertainty.

Following the untimely death of his friend and long term musical collaborator, Don Grolnick, the recent passing of his father and after decades as a key figure in his career, the departure of his manager Peter Asher, James was walking a path of introspection and re-evaluation alone. He was on a journey that would take him to a series of challenging crossroads. During this phase, James in an uncharacteristic moment agreed to sit for a series of portraits whilst on tour that were to reveal the nature of the man behind the well-honed public facade.

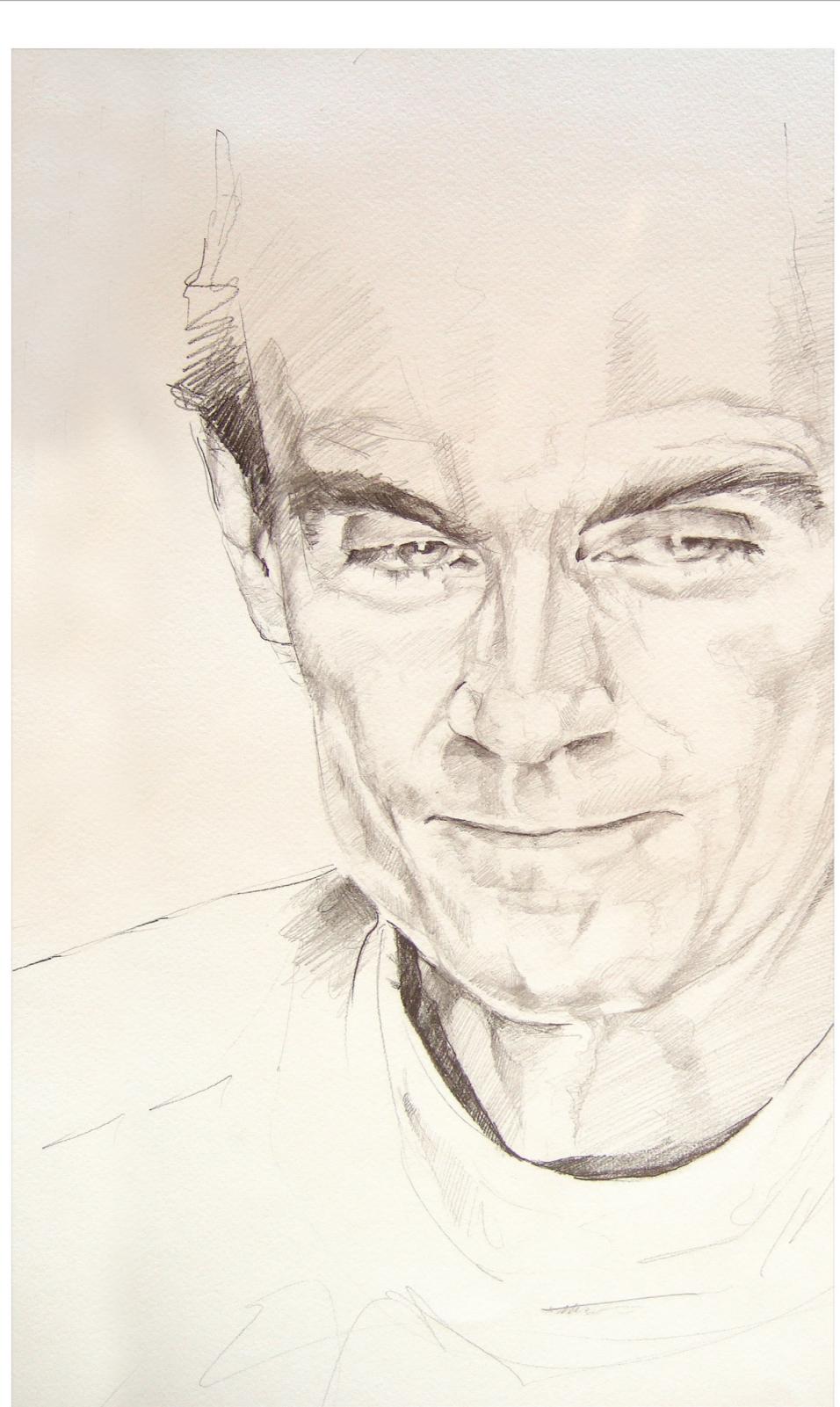
The James Taylor Collection is the result of these private sessions and consists of a series of drawings, preparatory sketches, watercolours and the heart of the collection, a life sized oil painting that embodies the life of this troubadour in his natural habitat.

The main piece of the collection is named after a line of one of James's early songs from the album Mud Slide Slim, "Here we are again Holiday Inn, same old four walls again, I'm on the road again" It depicts him sitting barefoot in the confines of yet another anonymous Holiday Inn bedroom. Wearing the almost monastic well-worn clothing that was his uniform, this is a portrait that through its sheer scale creates a vivid initial impact but then steals quietly into your consciousness as the complex nature of the man is revealed in his direct gaze, body language and the movement of broken brush strokes.

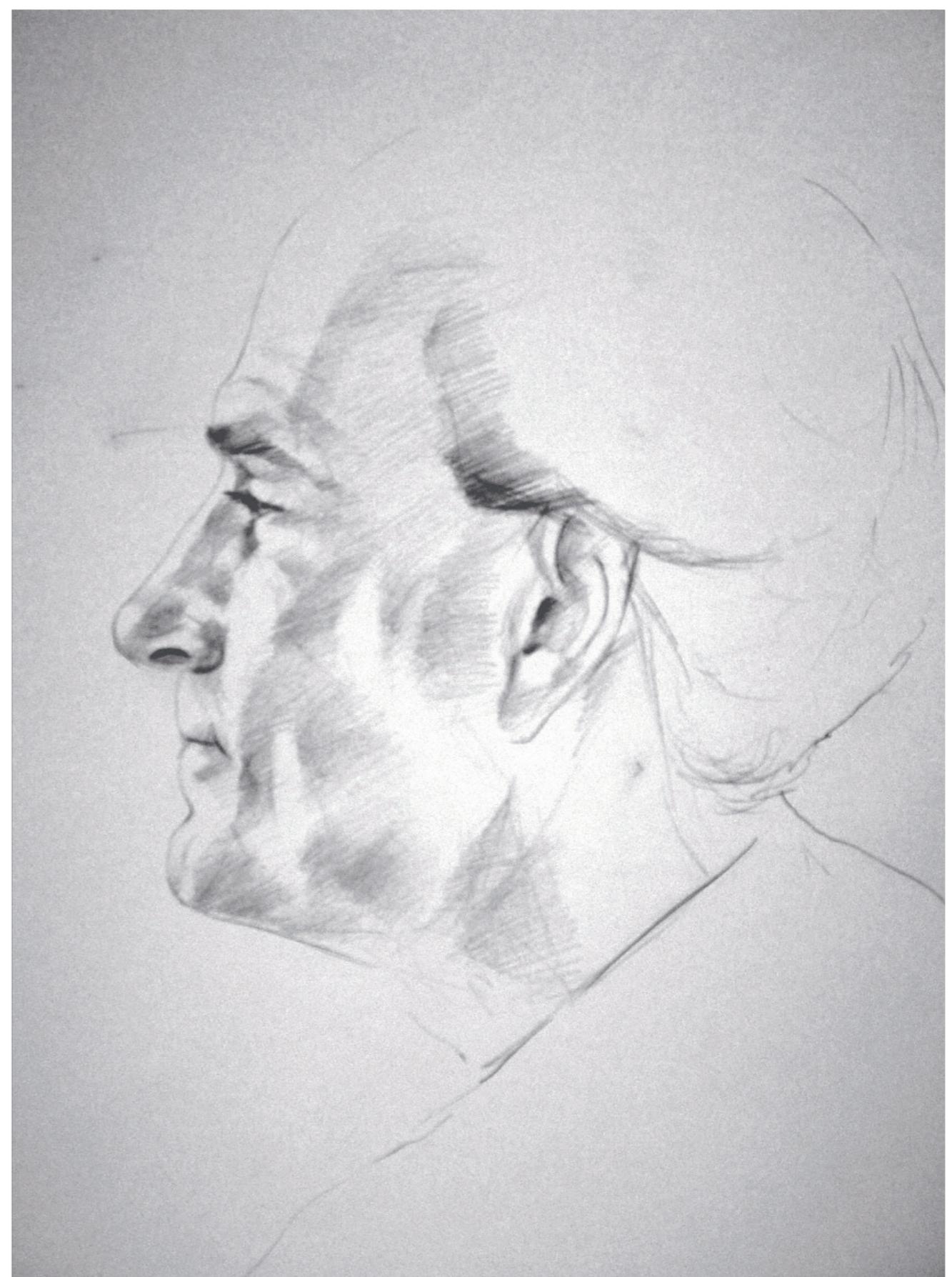
Following an exhibition of the collection at the Birmingham Symphony Hall in England to mark the anniversary of his return, James then invited Mandy Farmer to join him on his One Man Band Tour and exhibit the works to a wider audience. Echoing the ethos of a new, more intimate tour, the exhibition allowed the public an insight into an essentially private side of his life. More importantly, it became a touchstone for legions of fans that had grown up with him in the baby boomer generation and beyond. With James providing a soundtrack to their lives, they had shared the trials and tribulations of the passage of time and changing values through the decades.

In a touching testament to the immense amount of love and respect held for James, the exhibition gave many of them an opportunity to recount their own stories that have been so beautifully punctuated by his songs and were often reflections of the struggles that have been faced and overcome by this most remarkable of musicians.

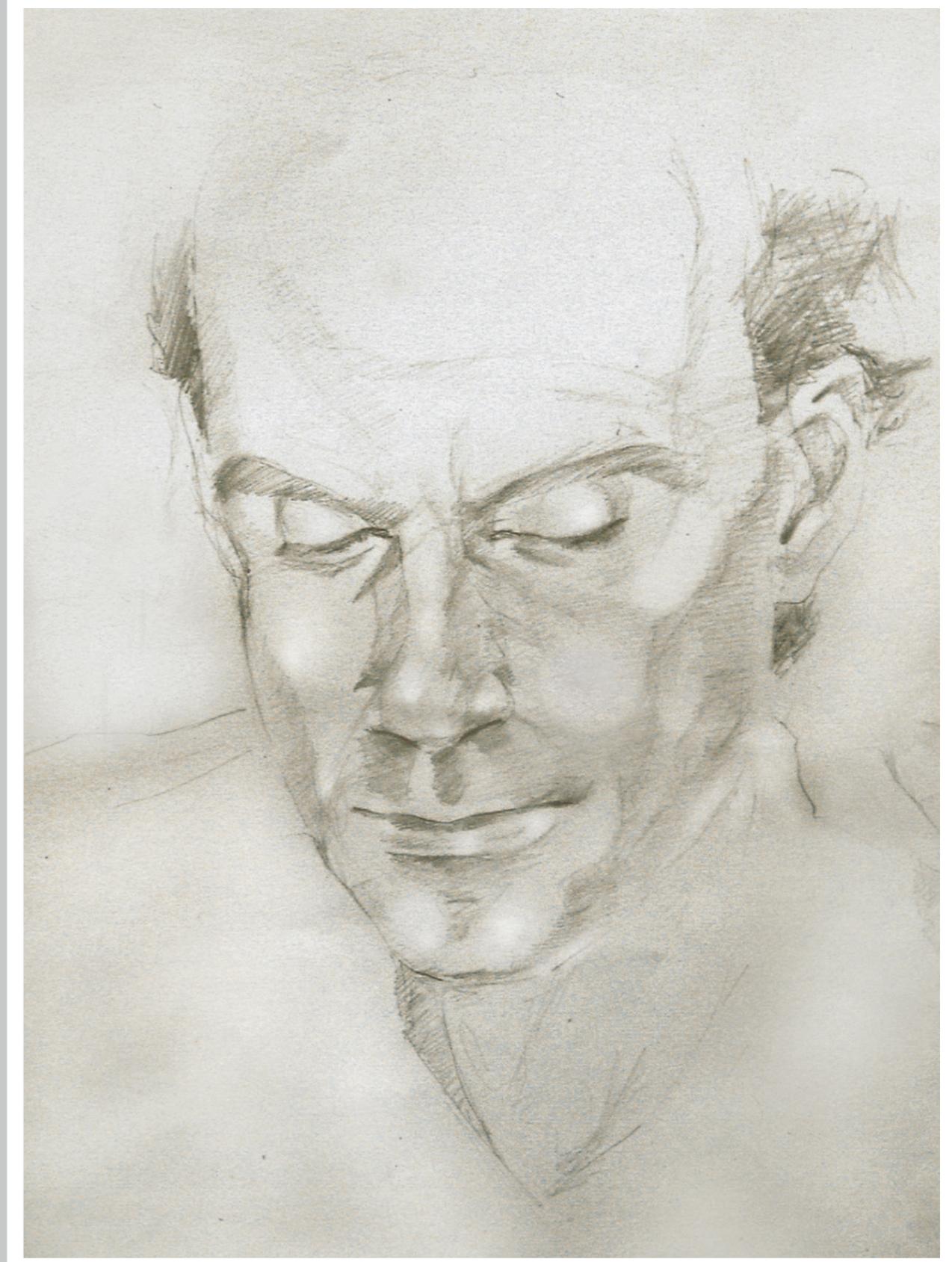
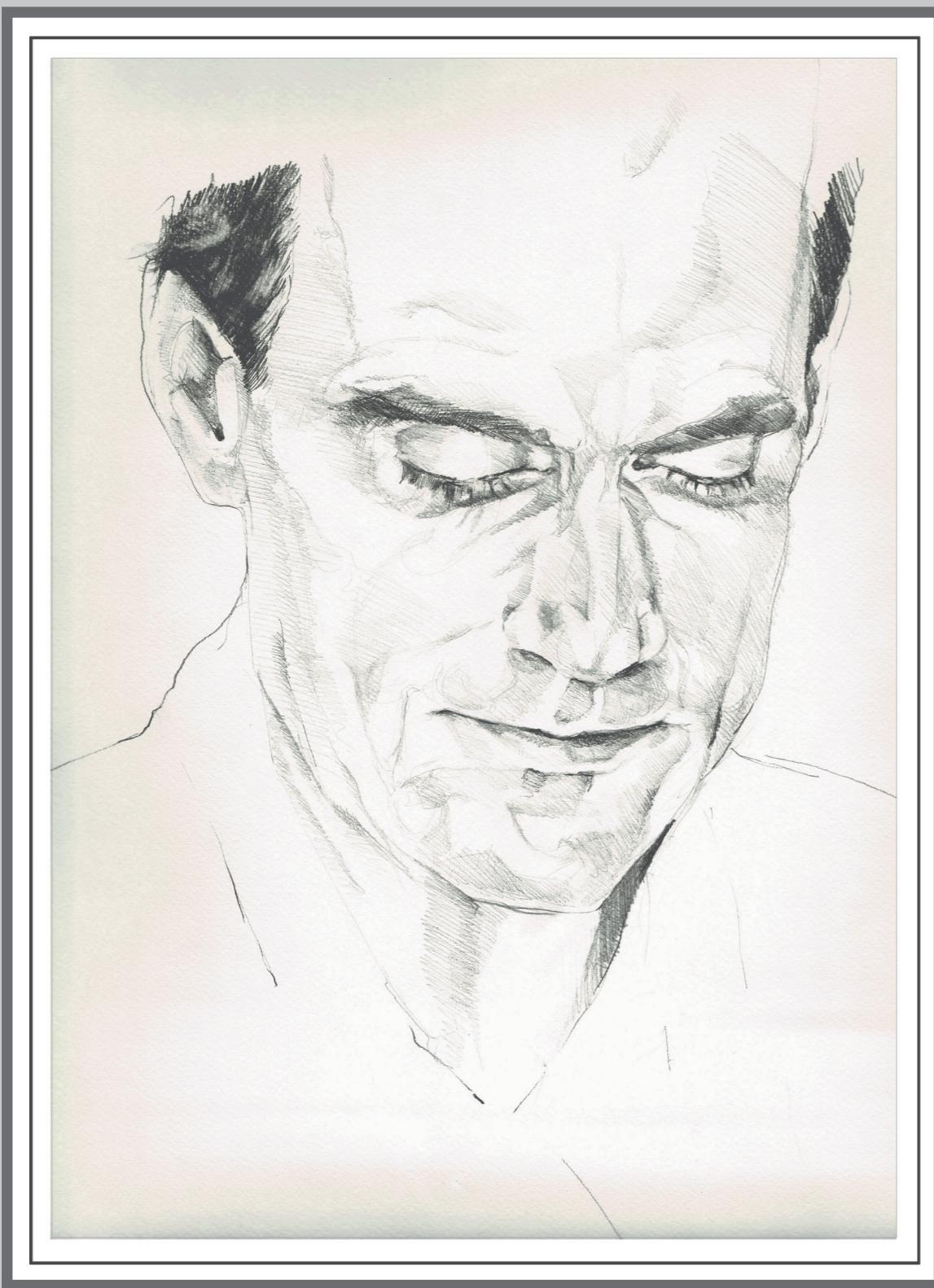
Mandy Farmer witnessed the enormous healing power of positive emotion James Taylor and his music continues to create within the lives of people and was privileged to have been part of the transformative process by creating a body of work that bears witness to his graceful presence in this world.

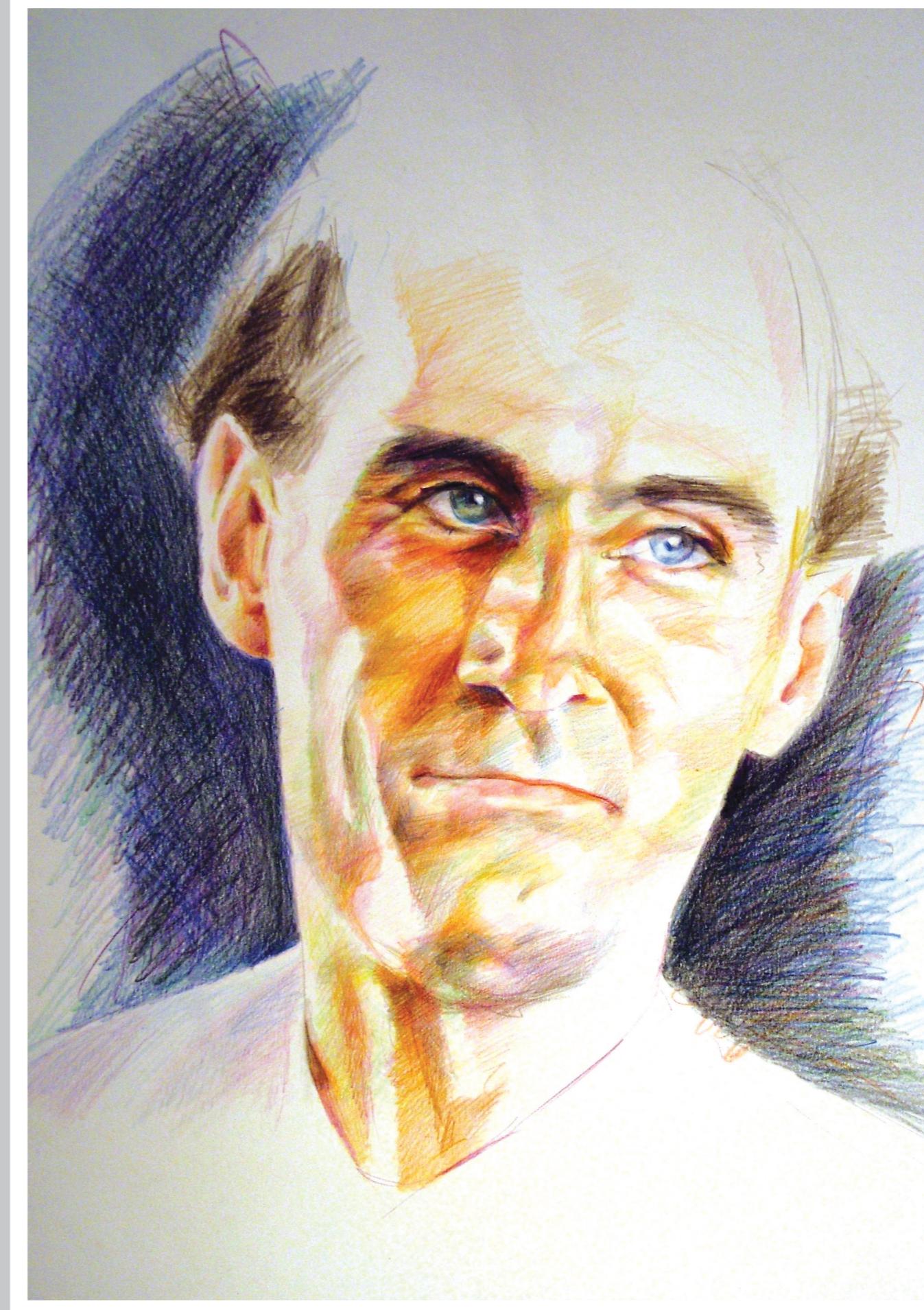


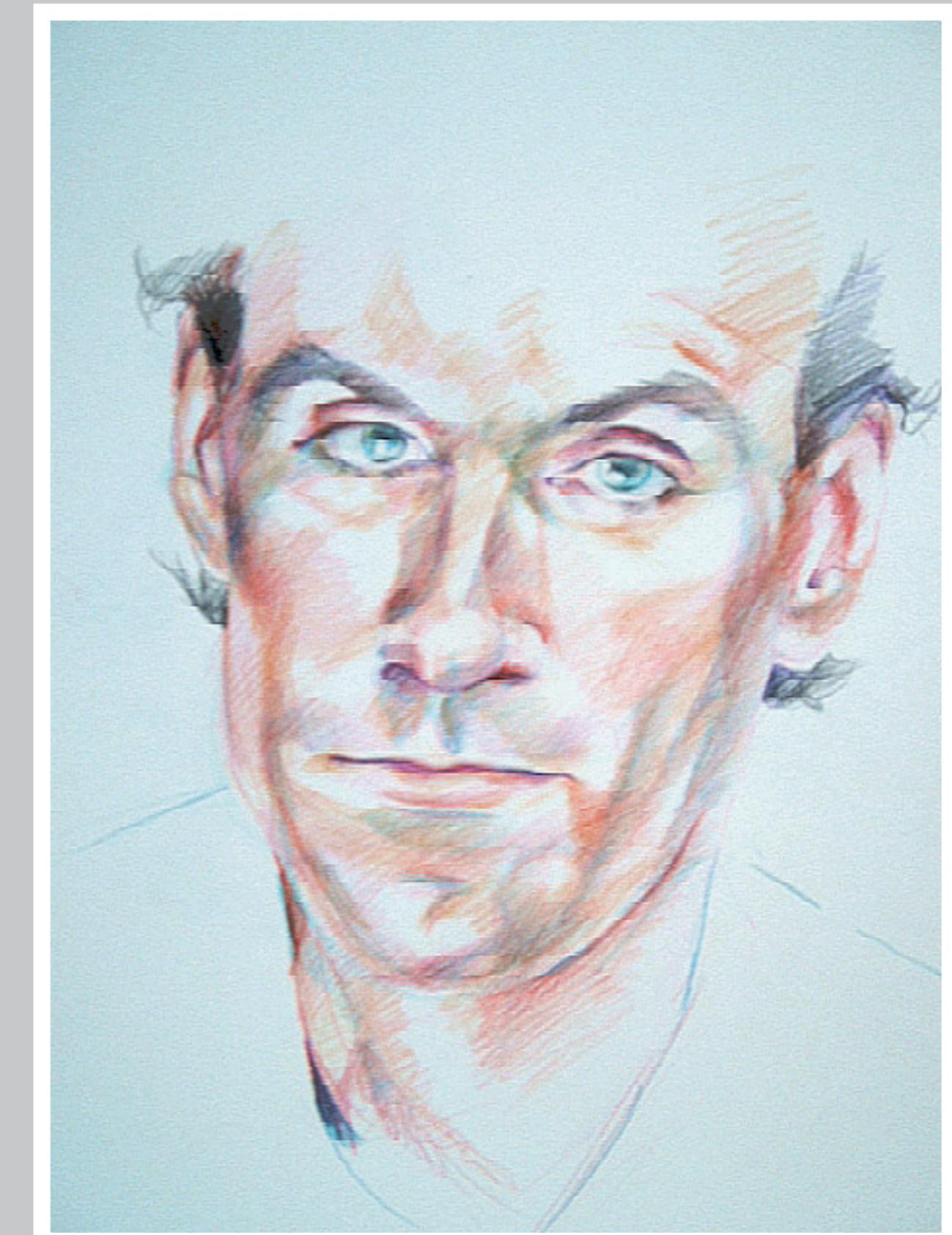
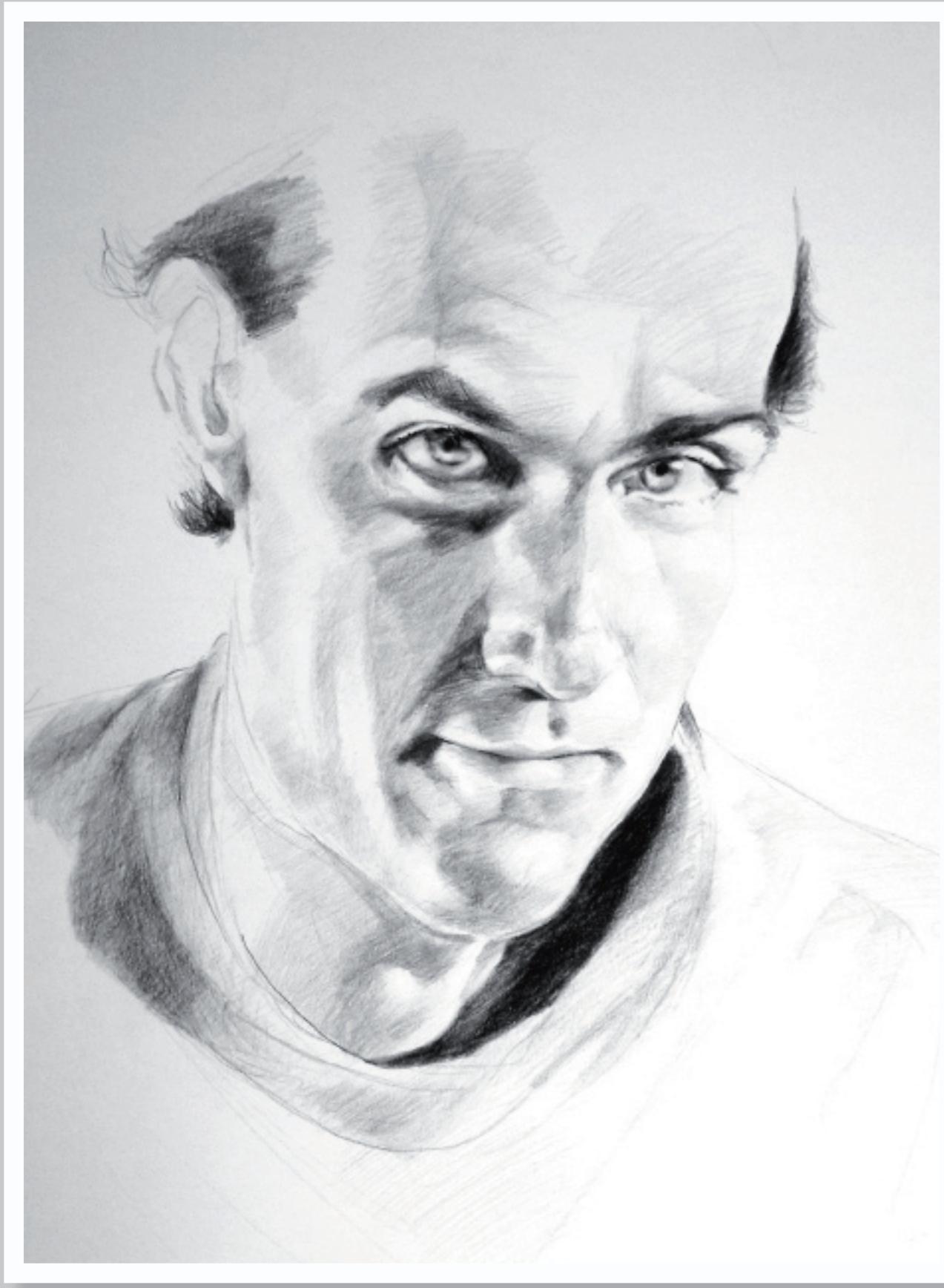
Sketchbook James Taylor

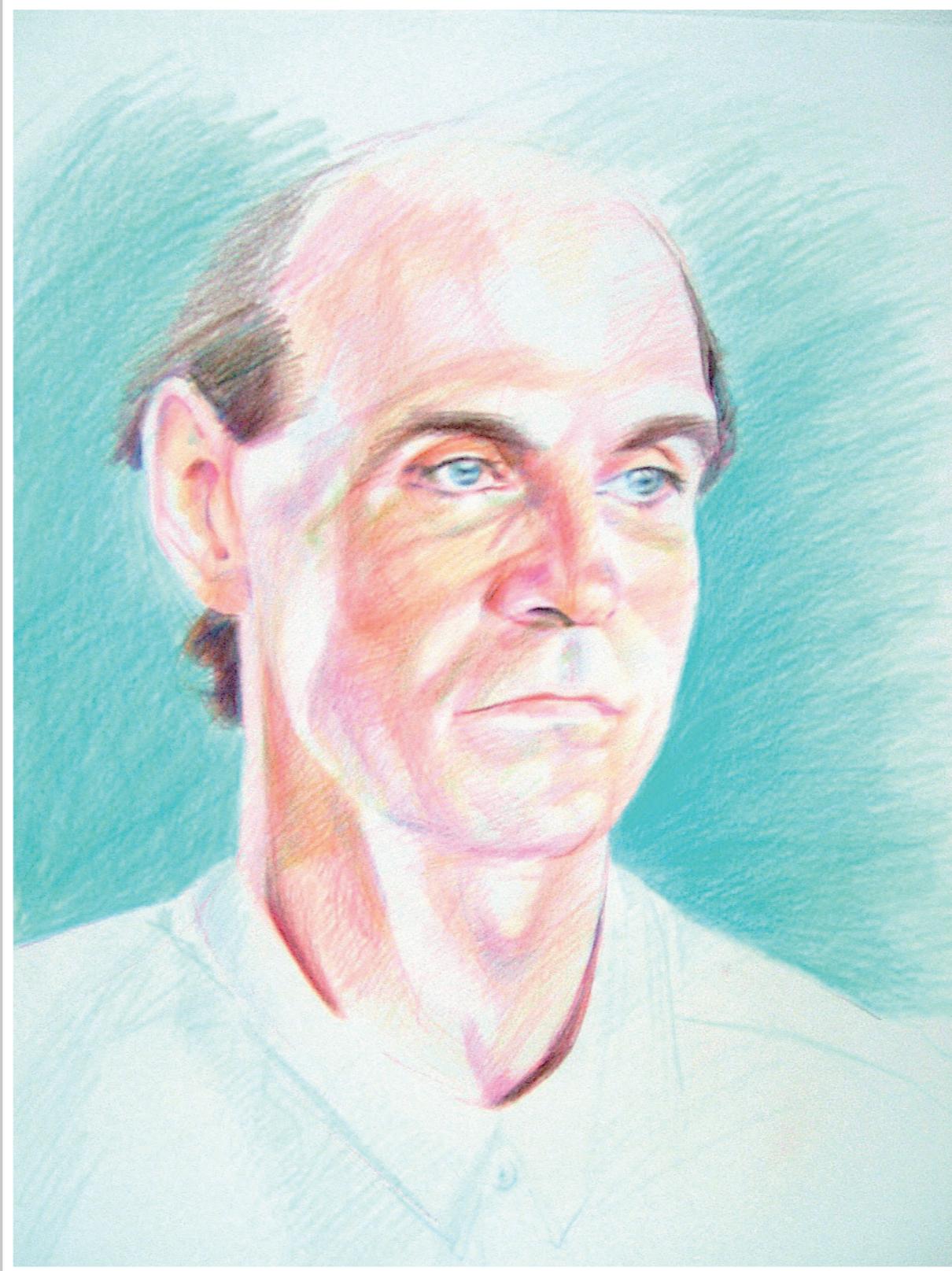


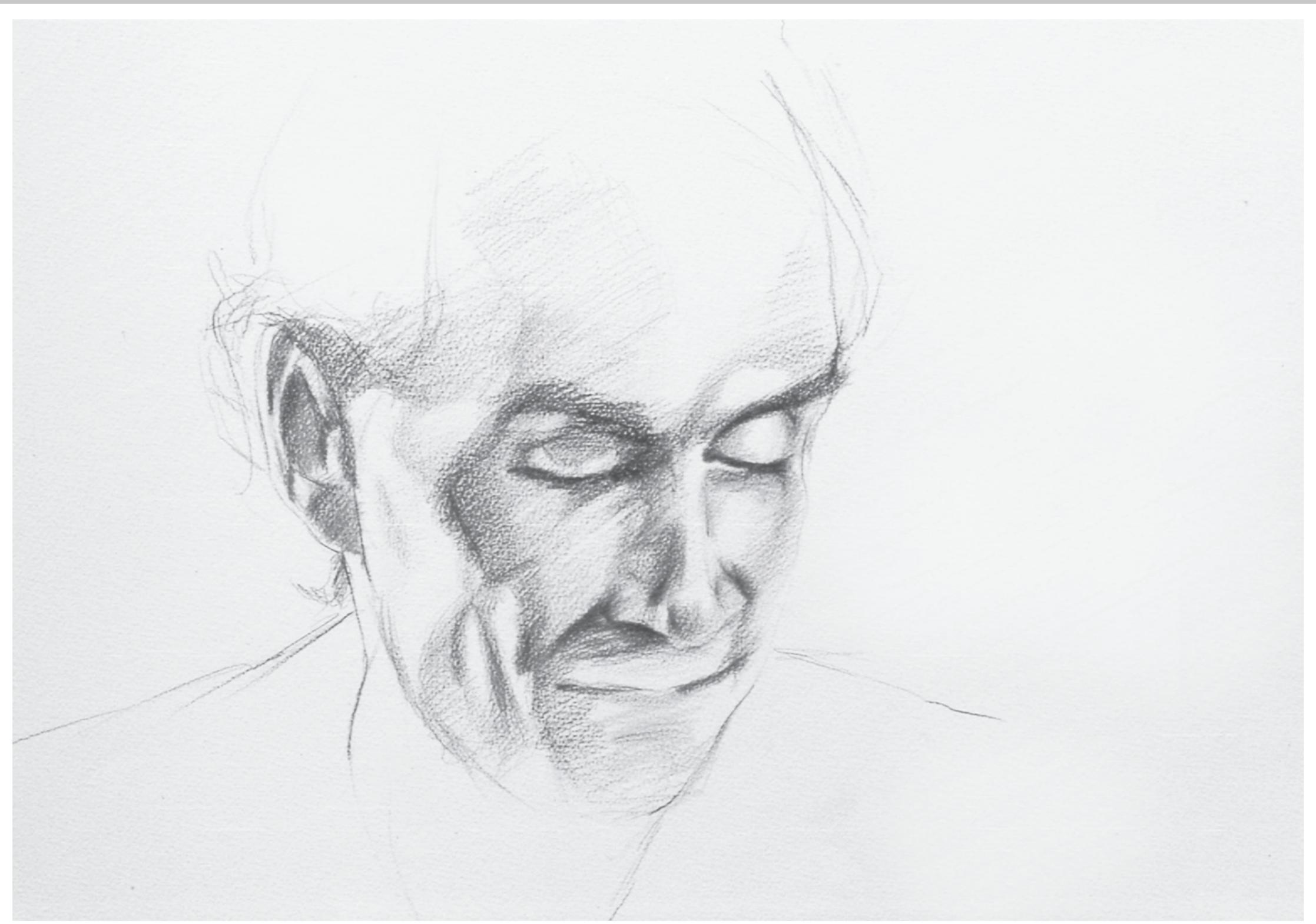
Drawings & Sketchbook Studies

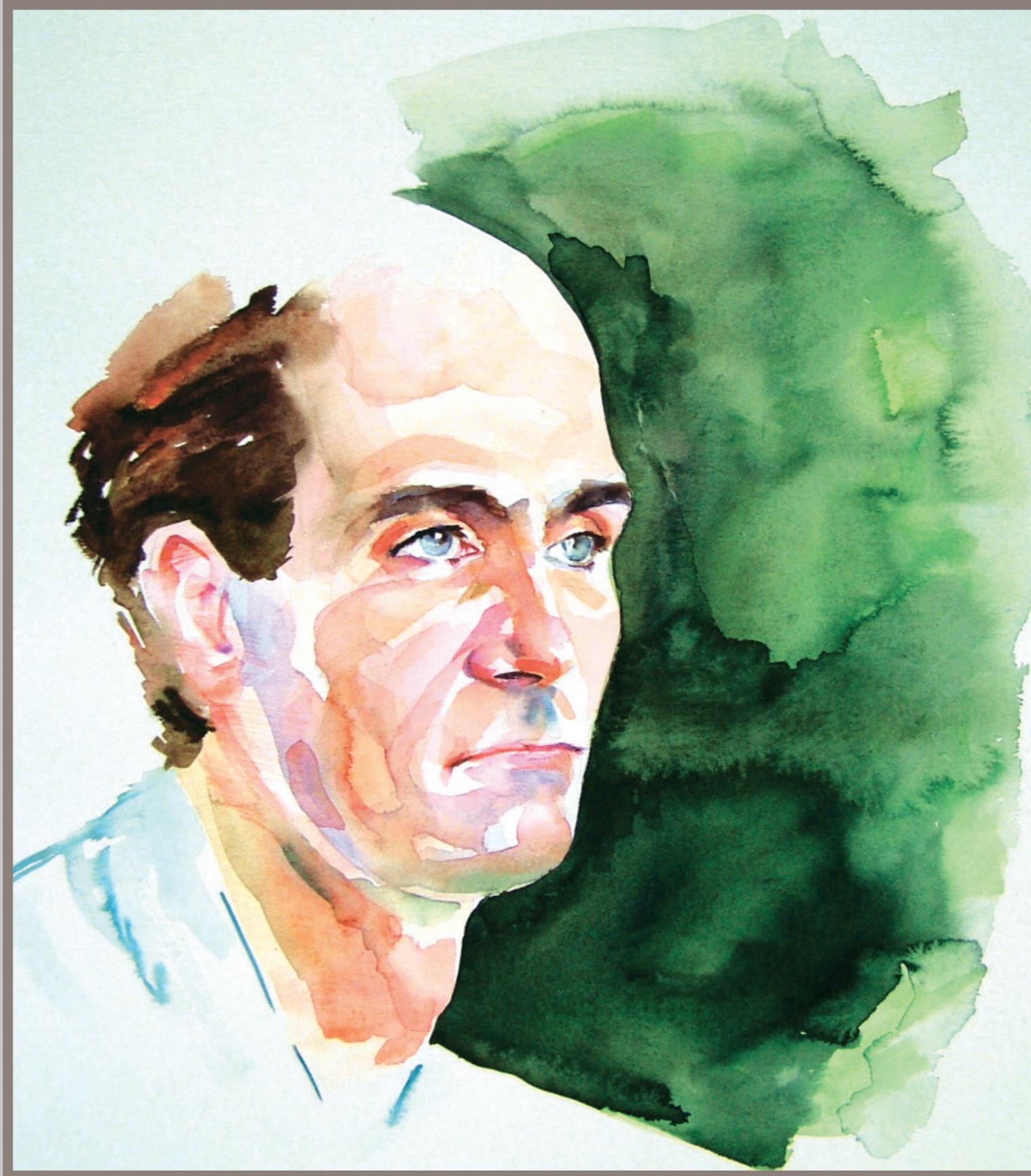






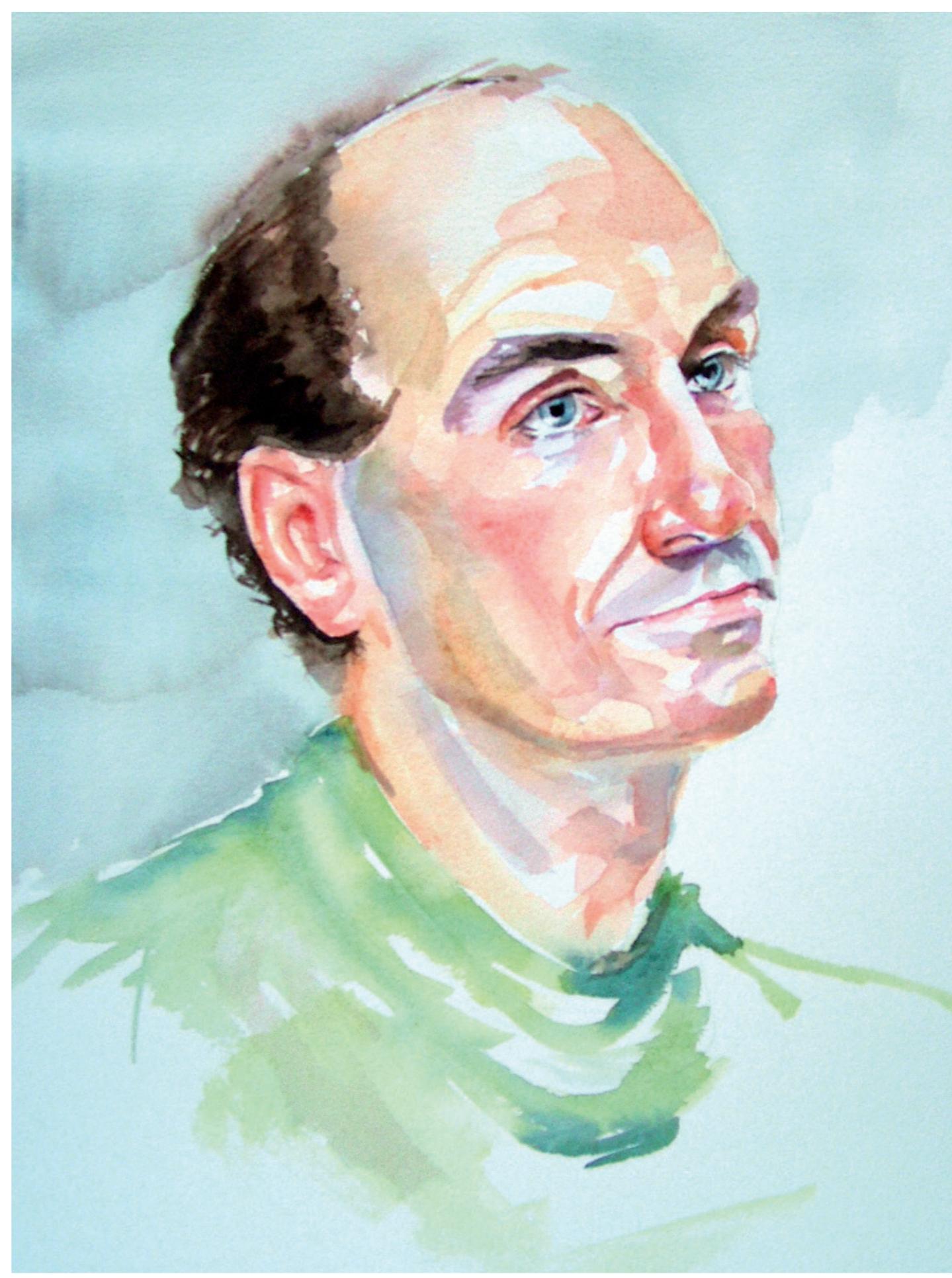


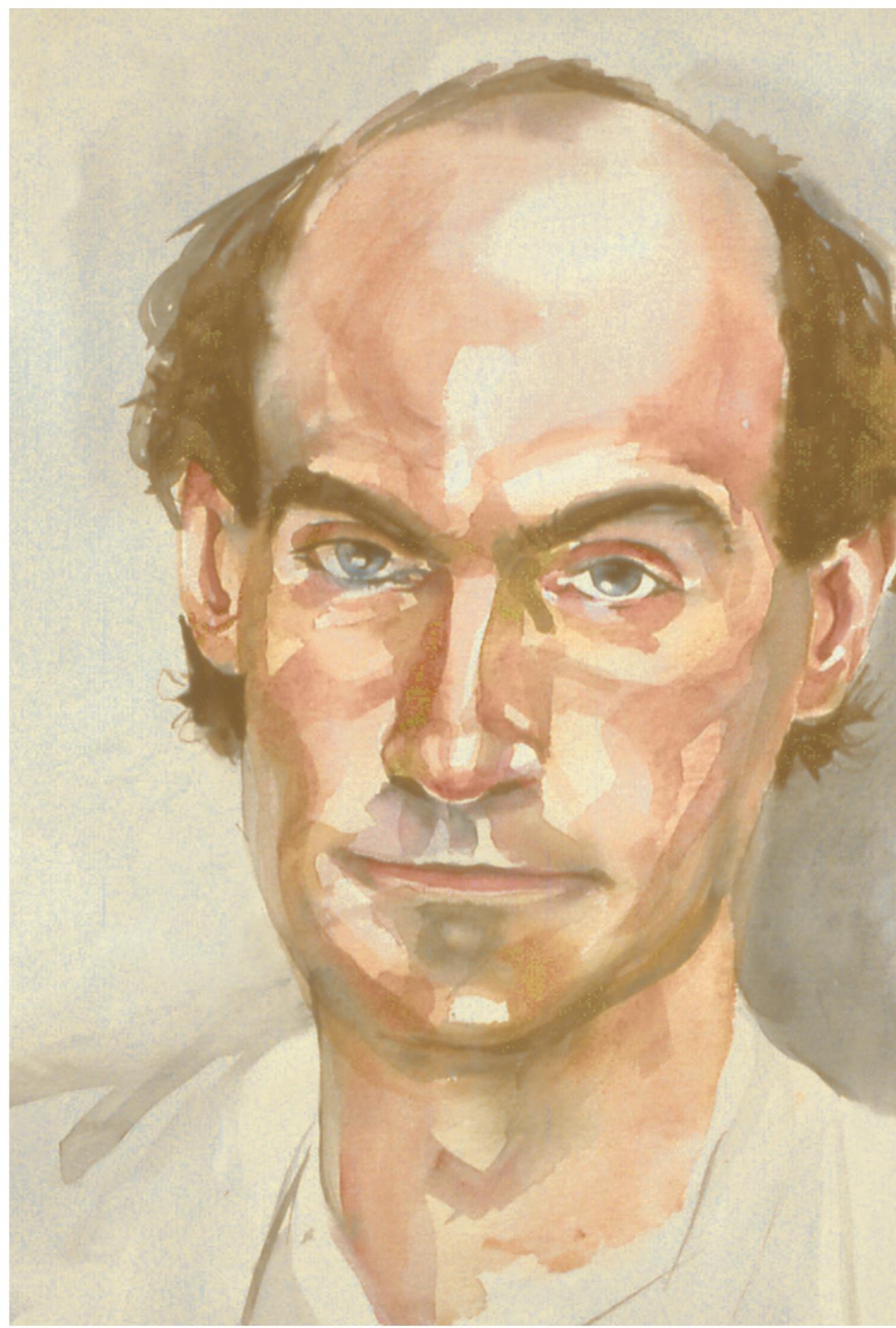


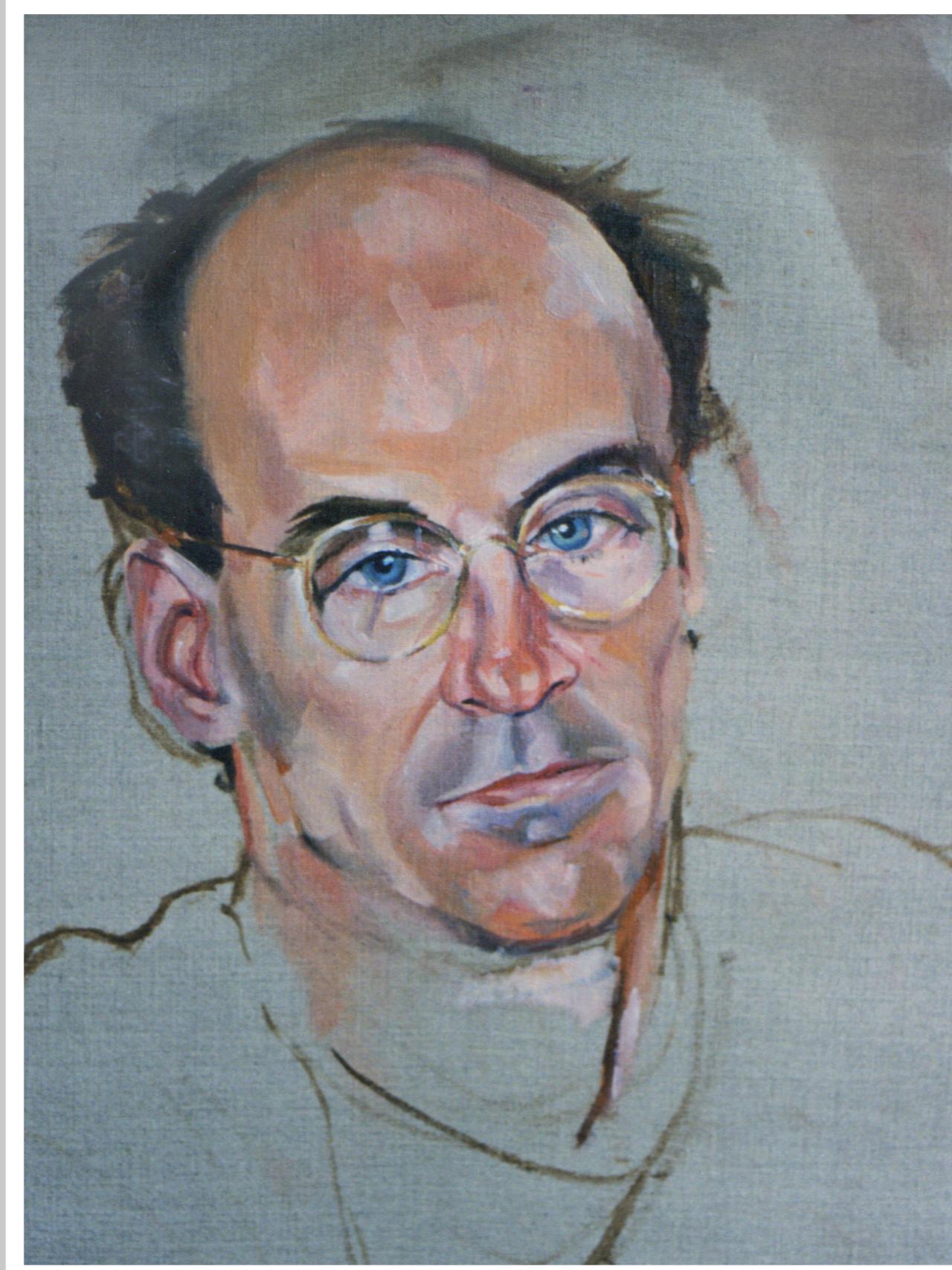


Watercolours

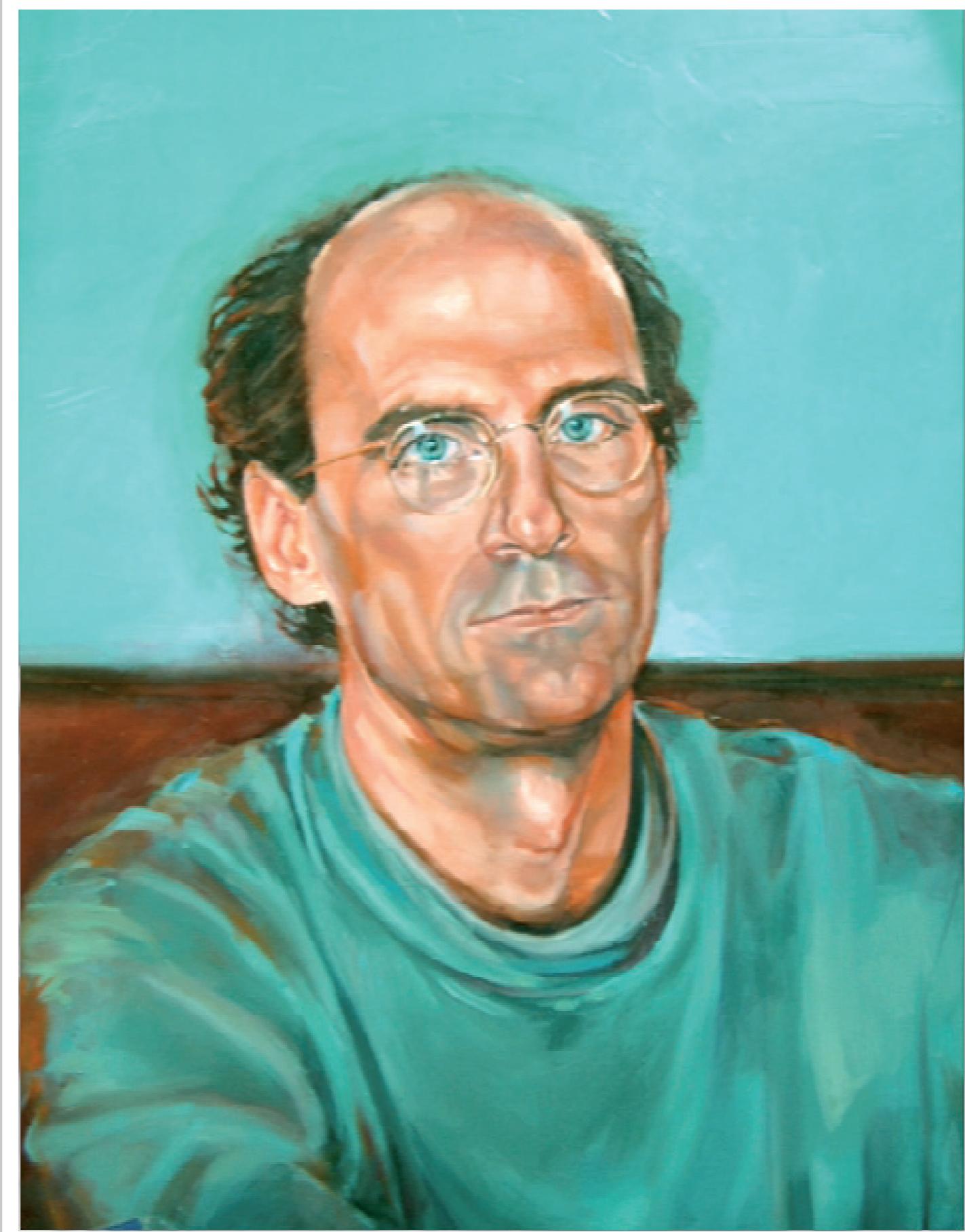


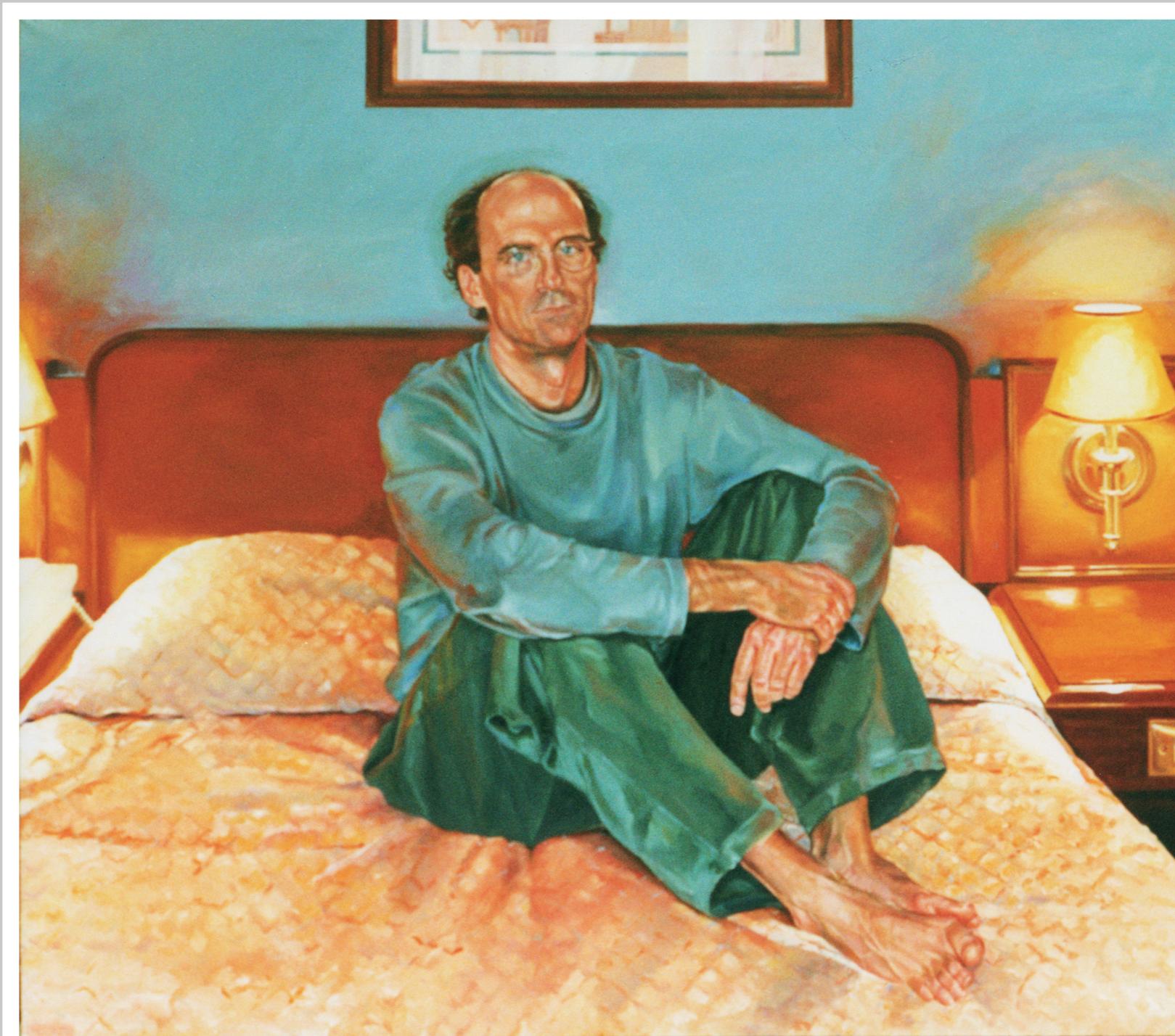






Prep Oil Sketch



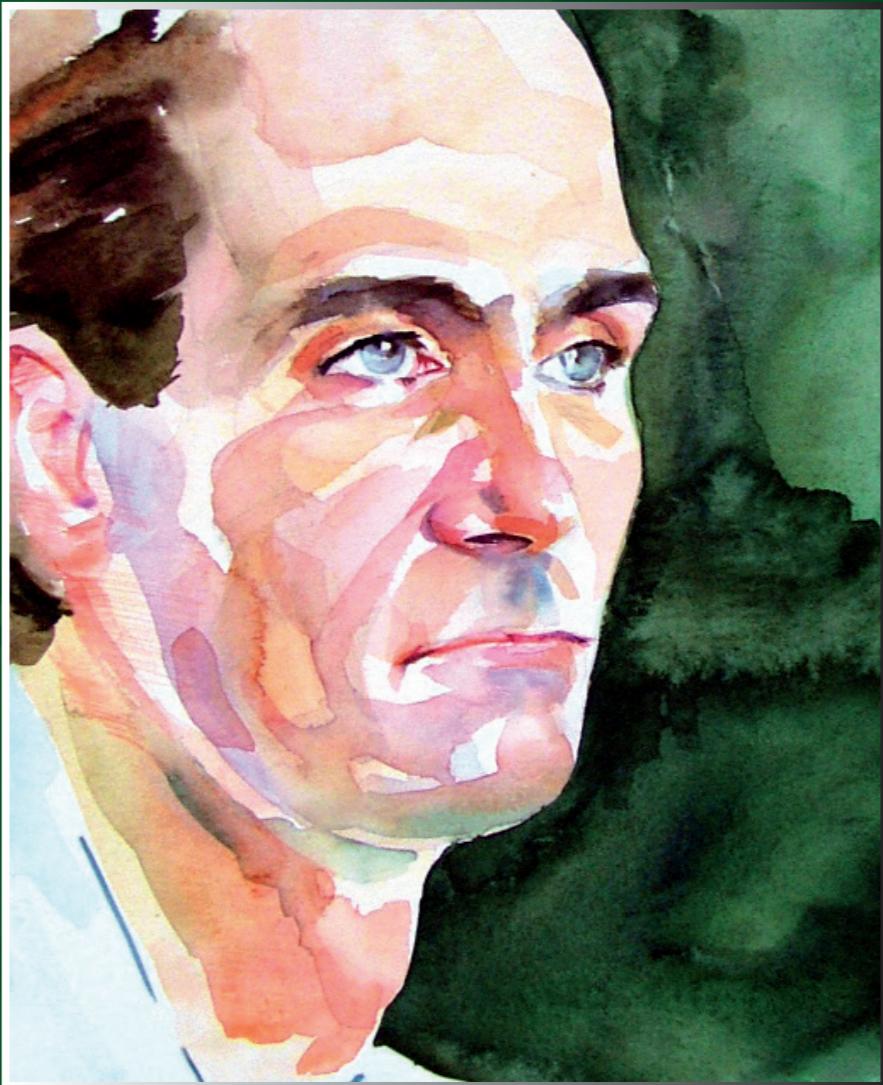


"Here we are again, Holiday Inn"

Oil on Linen

7 x 6 . 4 Ft

THE JAMES TAYLOR COLLECTION



Exhibition of original paintings and drawings
By Mandy Farmer

*"Portraiture deals with illusion and allusion and the redefining of and quest for truth,
much like the way we conduct ourselves in life.
It tries to hold up a mirror to its subjects and all of the complex facets of a personality.
It seeks to get to the centre of some essential truth. The essence of man, the heart and soul."*

*This work is the result of time I spent with James Taylor whilst he was touring.
Hotel rooms, soundchecks, backstage areas, his natural habitat.
It represents a series of moments in time, a time out of time, but above all I hope,
a sensitive record of a remarkable Artist on a small part of his ever-continuing journey."*

For any further information on any aspect of
The James Taylor Collection and for all sales, exhibition and
commission enquiries, please use the contact details below .

email : enquiries@mandyfarmerartworks.co.uk
telephone : ++44 (0) 7976 005787
web : www.mandyfarmerartworks.co.uk

All works copyright Mandy Farmer Artworks 2014

No parts of the contents of this file may be reproduced, copied or stored by
any mechanical or digital means without prior permission of the Author and Artist.
All rights reserved

All materials used by the Artist are archival quality.

