## DANNY DOUGHTY | VISIONARY FOLK ARTIST | EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

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Today just about everything is gone for Danny Doughty — his mother, father, brother, marriage, relatives, probably some other people, too. Fortunately, his high schoolaged son is around, and Danny weeps for him because he knows growing up isn't easy. The devil himself danced through Danny's own rural childhood, which was filled with the hideous and macabre: abuse of every form, undiagnosed learning disabilities, horrible neglect. Today his ghastly youth is practically the only thing close to him that hasn't died. It comes creeping back, so Danny paints.

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He paints scenes of the uncomplicated, quiet life he wishes for himself if he could be born again and start over. He paints the proud but voiceless African-American women of his youth who were so kind and hardworking and nurturing, and he paints them in the brilliant colors of respect and royalty, not the faded field clothes they wore then. He paints scenes of celebration and love as a contrast to his own broken upbringing.

Danny's work has been purchased by collectors around the country and world, not because it matched a sofa or the wallpaper, but because his rich colors and eloquent settings tell a story of happiness, safety and simple pleasures. His art conveys what Danny wanted for his own life and sustains him. He paints because he must. With everything else gone, Danny Doughty creates living scenes that keep him alive.

- TED SHOCKLEY

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