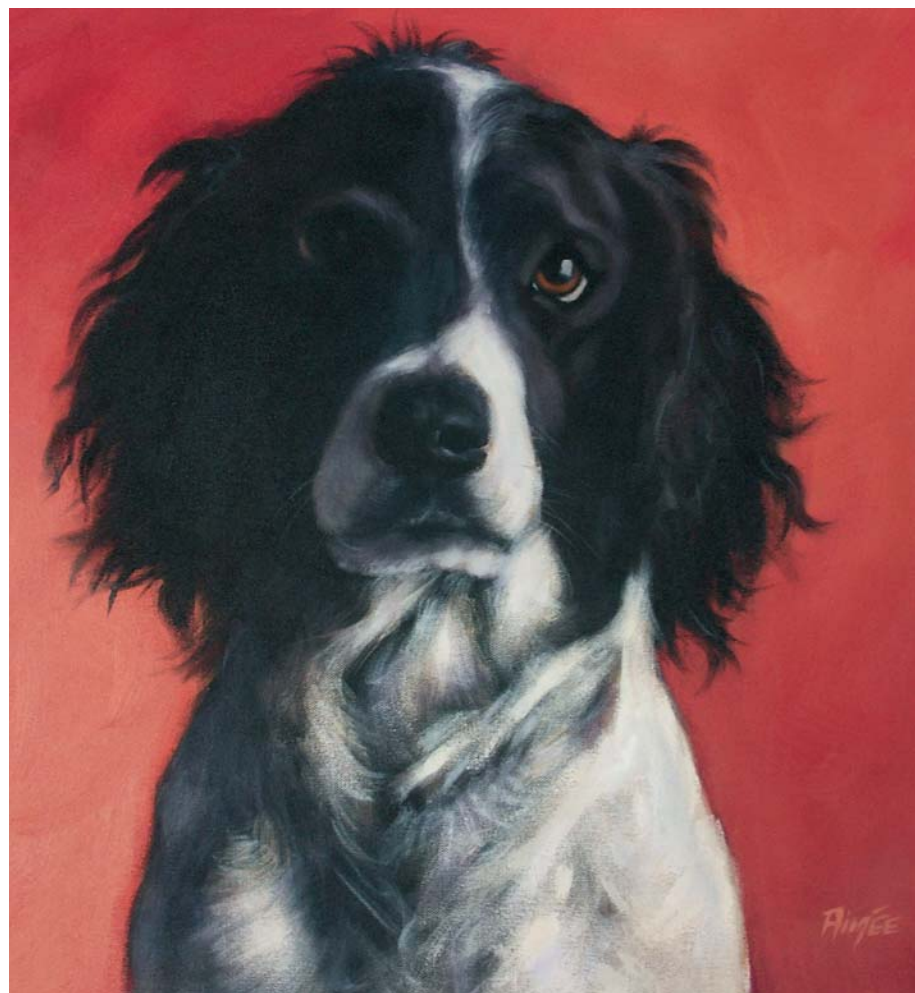


Pet Art

Because we avidly read overseas upmarket pet magazines--Modern Dog, Bark, New York Dog, Animal Fair, Urban Dog, Hollywood Dog, Bird Talk, Reptiles, Companion Parrot Quarterly and the like--we are exposed to quite a few artists and photographers. Their work runs the range from pastels and watercolours to wild acrylics, pop-art photo treatments and a variety of stunning visual treatments of animals.

For this issue, we approached a number of artists and were surprised at the response--we got more than twice what we could fit and the first article here was a hard choice. We intend to follow this up in our next edition with more imagery and include some of our homegrown artists we've unearthed.



"Checkers" (2004), 20 x 20 inches, Acrylic on Canvas (above)
By Aimée Rolin Hoover

When I was a struggling artist years ago, I asked an older friend if he would prepare my income taxes in exchange for a painting of his two dogs. He was nice enough to say yes. When he saw the painting, he became overwhelmed and actually cried. It was enormous validation as an artist. Because I loved animals I thought, what if I could do this for a living? So I gave it a shot. My style is realistic with an edge and I use acrylics on canvas. I take great care with each portrait to honor that animal's individuality.

Aimée Rolin Hoover
Pet Portraits by Aimée
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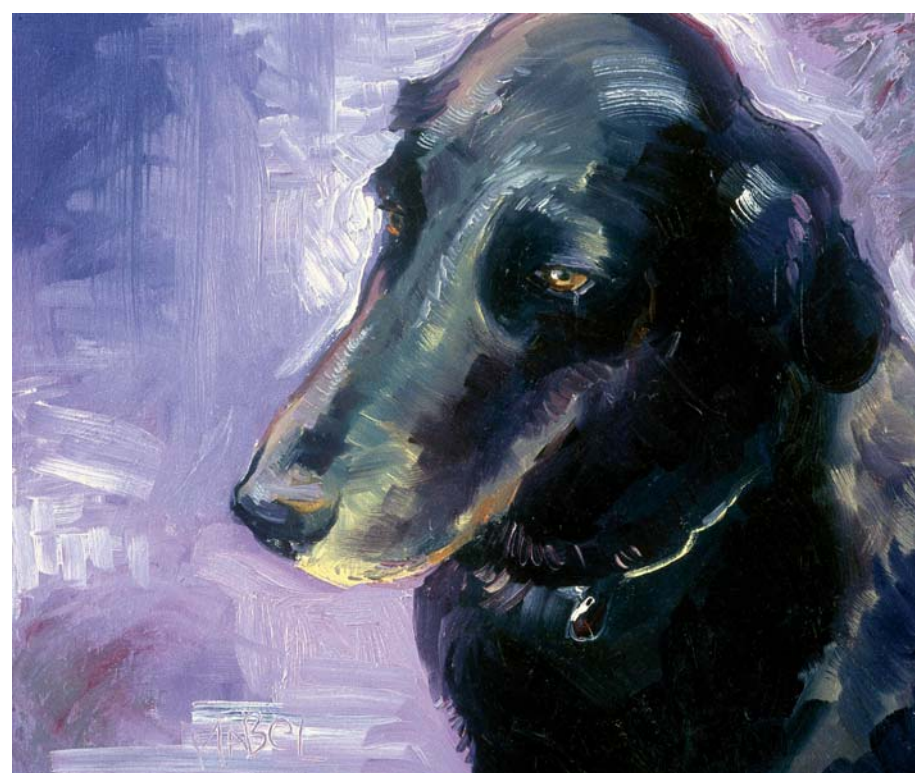
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"Mabel", 16 x 20 inches, Oil on Canvas (above)
By Jessica Whiteside

Jessica has exhibited her work in various cafes, salons, and galleries around San Francisco since 2001, and continues to peruse her dreams of being a successful Fine Artist and Children's book Illustrator. Being an active member of the San Francisco art community is a very important part of her life, and she actively seeks out organizations and artists to help promote the arts. She is currently a member of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and is currently working as a volunteer in the galleries of The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Jessica Whiteside
jessicawhiteside@hotmail.com; www.jessicawhiteside.com

My Dog's Brain (right)

By Stephen Huneck

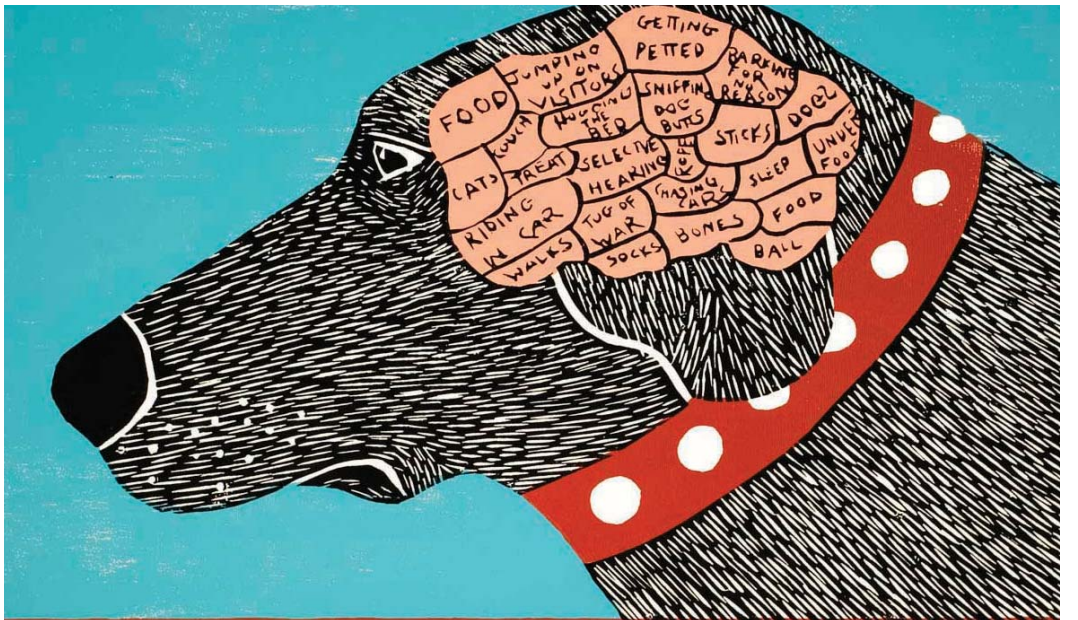
Stephen's philosophy is "Do what makes you happy." "I love my dogs so I portray them in my art." His works are inspired by his Lab, Sally. He has published children's books as well as the humorous "My Dog's Brain". All are filled with his colorful woodcut prints.

Huneck has also built a Chapel for dog owners and their pets, to celebrate the bond between them. "It is the largest artwork of my life, and the most personal" he says.

Indeed, Stephen has carved out a niche in the art world as a sculptor with a playful twist. "People love what I do. It's fun, it's genuine and it's true."

Stephen Huneck

dogmountain@huneck.com; www.huneck.com



MY DOG'S BRAIN



Great Dane (above)

By Jen Raynes

Jen Raynes, a renowned artist, will beautifully portray your dog or cat with her hand painted acrylic portraits. She emerged as an artist publicly in 1995 and has had her paintings in numerous art shows, has won awards, and has had her artwork showcased in the "Safari wildlife gallery" in San Francisco. She is a self described surrealist-realism painter of fauna. The objective is to combine the colors to obtain the "aura" or personality of your pet.

Jen Raynes

jenraynesstudio@aol.com; www.jenraynesstudio.com



"Hondo Mesa Gothic" (2004), 30 x 40 inches, Oil on Canvas (above)

By Catherine Massaro

Catherine Massaro lives in the Hill country of Texas, USA, where she works out of her studio inspired by the natural surroundings of this special part of Texas. Her love of landscape painting and canines led to a unique expression of a body of work she calls DOGSCAPES. Working in oils, watercolors, pastels, and printing techniques such as woodcuts, linoleum, and monotypes, her subject matter includes all manner of ranch animals from goats to longhorn steer, and of course her beloved dogs. Catherine's animal portraits are especially coveted for her unique ability to capture the special expression and attitude that makes every animal 'one of a kind'.

Catherine Massaro

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"Goodfellow's Eye" (2002), 30 x 30 inches, Oil on Canvas (left)
By Lisa Graziotto

The first drawing I did was at 18 months old, object: a dog.

Many years later: still drawing dogs (and cats) among other things.

I have always been an artist, but it wasn't until recently in my career that I started painting animals. My style is original. When commissioned to paint an animals' portrait, I try to put the subject in an environment that is unique and often the portrait tells a story about the pet.

I love what I do... I get to stay home in my PJs and colour!

Lisa Graziotto
artistlisa@sympatico.ca; www.thehowlingcanvas.com

"RAWSHOCK" (right)
By Dee Shapiro

Dee Shapiro was one of the founding members of Central Hall, the first women's cooperative on Long Island, where her work has been bought to the attention of Nassau County Museum in Roslyn, New York and the AIR Gallery in NYC. She soon became affiliated with the Andre Zarre Gallery in New York City with whom she has exhibited since that time.

She became part of the Pattern and Decoration Movement, exhibiting at P.S.1 in Queens, NY. in 1977. After experimenting with pattern paintings within a grid and perfecting a textured technique she became enamored of the geometric intricacy of architectural designs, which led to the creation of small horizontal oil paintings of cities.

Along with painting, Shapiro writes and publishes essays and poetry in small presses. She has been an art editor, photo editor and continues to teach Art at Empire State College.

Dee Shapiro
info@deeshapiro.com; www.deeshapiro.com



"Here, kitty, kitty...", 15 x 9 x 9 inches, Clay, acrylics, enamel, string
By Elaine Brewer-White (bottom right)

Elaine Brewer-White has been working as a clay portrait artist just outside of Vancouver, British Columbia for over 20 years. Recently, she started accepting animal commissions - primarily dogs.

"I use a lot of color and humor in my work. I want it to celebrate life. I realized that dogs naturally portray that attitude - they know how to live in the moment and love life!" Sometimes her portraits are of dogs alone, and sometimes with their owners. Elaine works with her clients to include personal details, and even title dedications to create a unique focal point work of art.

Elaine Brewer-White
ebrewerwhite@telus.net; www.ebrewerwhite.com



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"Archie" (above)
By Todd Belcher

Pet portraits have become a specialty for Todd Belcher, a custom portrait painter with an established reputation for his original artwork and professional illustrations.

The Jimmydog Design Group was founded by husband-and-wife team Todd and Stephanie Belcher in 2002. Todd, custom portrait artist, and Stephanie, creative director, joined forces to create a company to pursue their creative talents. Jimmydog also reflects its founders' love of animals through the custom pet portrait specialty, the many dedicated efforts for animal welfare organizations and even the company name.

Todd and Stephanie chose the name Jimmydog Design Group after their beloved dog, Jimmy who filled their lives with joy. Jimmy had been rescued by the Belchers after being abandoned as a puppy. Sadly he died in 2003 at the age of 12. Now the Belchers share their home with two more rescue dogs, Freddie and Joey.

The Jimmydog Design Group
Todd Belcher
todd@jimmydog.com; www.jimmydog.com

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"Three Westies", 16 x 36 inches (below)
By Laura Sotka and Holly Klay

Two Sisters, two different parts of the country, two different artistic styles, sharing one main thing. The love of dogs. All dogs. Every shape, size and personality. It is this love that shows in the exceptional quality and artistic detail that is exhibited throughout all their pieces. Although Laura and Holly are utilizing distinct styles and media, each is creating an original piece of art that reflects their passion for dogs.

WHY DOGS? "I never had children, so my dogs are my kids. Yea, I'm crazy about them. I choose homes based on how large the backyard is, if a doggie door can be put in, etc. Travel is sometimes out of the question because 'what about the dogs?' I have one that stays at my side 24/7 (which makes bathroom breaks a little embarrassing). I haven't taken to dressing them up yet, but who knows- if that perfect outfit comes around... They are my joy, and I could not imagine life without them." ~ Artist Laura Sotka

Dog Art Dog
Laura Sotka and Holly Klay
dogartdog@msn.com; www.dogartdog.com

