

Other Subjects

17 PORTRAITS OF KIDDOS, ADULTS (INCLUDING OUR WEDDING PORTRAIT AND AN EARLY SELF-PORTRAIT) THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY BELOVED PETS AND OTHER UNIQUE SUBJECTS

FAMILY AND FRIENDS • INCLUDING OUR WEDDING PORTRAIT



Austin at Play ~ 11.2010

Our middle son Kevin gave us our grandson Austin Lee in November, 2008. The first boy on the grand-kiddo scene, I pictured him here in this painting as a true child of this era - playing with one of the dozens of toy cell phones that he received for his very first birthday. Mesmerized and completely focused, the toddler almost forgot there was a birthday party going on with dozens of aunts, uncles, his cousin Addison and kids of all ages gathered to celebrate with him. I created this portrait of him for his proud papa Kevin when Austin had just turned two.

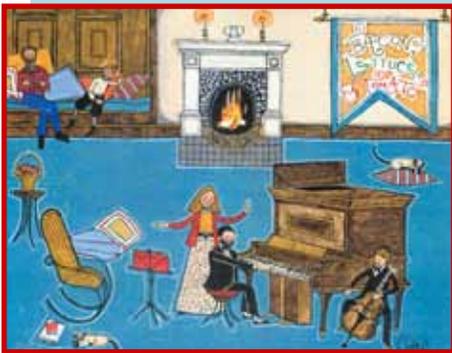


Baby Bunny Addition (Easter Portrait) ~ 10.2008

Doug and I were just delighted when God sent our sweet grandbaby Addison Lee to our family - the first of several sweet kiddos we love to spoil. Born to our oldest son Matt and his wife Heidi on March 14, 2007. Our grand-baby Addison Lee Ward, had just turned one and was all dolled up for Easter Sunday that Spring in a butter yellow lace-trimmed frock purchased for her by another grandma, jeweled Mary Jane slippers and fuzzy white bunny ears when they all arrived for dinner. Of course, we had another Easter basket filled with chocolate eggs, bunnies and other goodies for her. Doug added a yellow rubber ducky into her loot - and of all her treasures, it was her constant companion the entire evening!

Bacon, Lettuce @ Tomator (Legendary Jazz Trio) ~ 2.1977

This early artwork celebrated "Bacon, Lettuce and Tomator," a jazz trio made up of Paul West, Gail Clements and Rolf Johnson. I created the painting as a birthday gift for sweet Gail. The trio delighted dozens of music lovers during the 1970s and 1980s in venues all over King County. Specializing in clever lyrics and harmony similar to the then extremely popular Manhattan Transfer ensemble, this popular trio filled a special niche in the local music scene. When my sister and I first discovered them, they were performing at the Terry Avenue Freight House nightclub in a vintage railroad car. Their stage was the platform at the south end of the bar. Every set of eyes in the packed place was glued to these three talented musicians - all of whom could carry a tune very nicely! Remarkable was their age span - Rolf was in his early twenties, Gail in her thirties and Paul, his mid-forties. Over the years, we all became close, socializing together during their off hours. I dated hugely entertaining Paul West for several years and "Songbird" Gail became a lifelong friend to my sister Marilee and me. Sadly, both Paul and Gail passed away in the early 2000. *Highlight* - Charles's Wysocki's "Hotel Slatt's Music Room" inspired this artwork of Paul and Gail rehearsing a song while Rolf waited on the window seat.



NEW! Manito Splash Pad (Addison @ Austin) ~ 3.2020

(Crossover with the Spokane Collection • Inland Northwest County & State Parks) This area of Manito Park between Division and Tekoa off 25th Avenue has always been a playground for children. The folks who brought their youngsters here in 1910 found only two swings constructed of power poles by first Park Superintendent Charles Balzer as there was no money for play equipment at the time. In 1913, Park Superintendent John Duncan upgraded this parcel by planting lawn. For decades, people without children seldom visit this section of the park. Over the years, a wading pool was installed (now demolished), more swings, slides and parallel bars. In 2009, a plan was considered to add a Splash Pad to Manito - a huge challenge as the South Hill was liberally peppered with basaltic rock, often only 6 inches beneath dirt's surface. But the project was completed, as shown in this painting that pictured two of our grandkids Addison (age 8) and grandson Austin (age 7). Both kids visited the Splash Pad in 2015 at different times, but as these two have always been close, I pictured them together in this piece. *Highlight* - In 2001, this was the first playground in Spokane to install play equipment with a ramp and elevated play areas for children in wheelchairs.



Precocious Jared Petras ~ 2.2012

For over a decade, I worked as a senior graphic designer for a company that delivered business-based music to clients all over the world. During most of those years, I shared office space with a co-worker who ended up becoming a marketing assistant, a huge help to me - and a dear friend to me! A few years younger than me, Jennifer Jasper was a true sweetheart and we've stayed friends over the many years even though our lives took us in different directions. When my husband and I married, Jennifer helped me hugely on our wedding day by volunteering to take over as coordinator the day of the event. A whiz at this sort of thing, Jenn was absolutely indispensable! Several years later when Jenn met and married John Petras, I did all of her stationary wedding items - invitations, programs, thank you notes, place cards and everything she needed for her special day. John had a son he brought to the union, but Jennifer and John also had a little boy together. All boy and "a mover and a shaker," this little guy was always on the go! *Highlight* - After coming for lunch one Summer afternoon at our home in Sammamish (yes, lots of photo opportunities!), I painted this portrait of Jared and gave her the original artwork as a very special "milestone" birthday gift.



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The Ward's Wedding Party (Echo Falls Country Club) ~ 8.2014

To surprise and honor my husband Doug four years into our marriage on our anniversary, I painted this portrait of our wedding party (L to R): Attendant Doug's oldest son Matt Ward; my youngest sister Peggy Barton in the emerald green blouse; Doug's closest best buddy and lifelong golf partner Ric Metzger (who blessedly recovered from heart surgery in time to be in our wedding party); my Matron of Honor, Robin Westbrook; the beautiful bride me, my sweetheart Doug; my Maid of Honor sister Marilee Simpson in the red blouse; Doug's Best Man brother Tom; my sister-in-law bridesmaid Jan Simpson; and Doug's middle son attendant Kevin. *Highlight* - I bordered this portrait with the same spring blossoms that filled our bouquets and decorated the setting that day at Echo Falls Country Club in Monroe, WA on April 15, 2000.



INSPIRATIONAL IMAGES • INCLUDING A PORTRAIT OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

NEW! Mary Queen of Heaven ~ 3.2020

This portrait of the Blessed Mother as a young woman was inspired by a reading during Mass on the annual August Liturgical Feast of Mary's Assumption. The reading described her Coronation as the "Queen of Heaven" - with the Virgin Mary standing on the moon surrounded by saints and angels (four of the them pictured here), wearing a crown fitted with a dozen stars. Using details from the wondrous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I added the dark blue ribbon around her neck that signified she was a "virgin who was with child." *Highlight* - This piece is filled with shades of blue, as the color of Mary's mantle was reputed to symbolize the Kingdom of Heaven.



Reach for the Stars ~ 4.2001

For over a decade when I was first married, I was part of the Human Resources/Training/Store Operations Team at the Eddie Bauer Headquarters In Redmond, WA near Microsoft. When I started working with Karen Karila, the wonderful woman who managed part of the team, she had been with the company for decades. In 2001, Karen adopted two little ones, a boy and a girl, from a struggling relative who just couldn't handle parenthood at that time in her life. Karen became an instant single, yet very dedicated mother. This little painting "Reach for the Stars" was a special baby shower gift I completed for the family. *Highlight* - Celebrating diversity, as Karen and her new toddlers were African-American, this artwork portrayed children of many different ethnic backgrounds climbing all over a happy moon reaching for the stars as they danced by in the sky. while the stars danced by.

CUTE CRITTERS AND PRECIOUS PETS WE LOVE

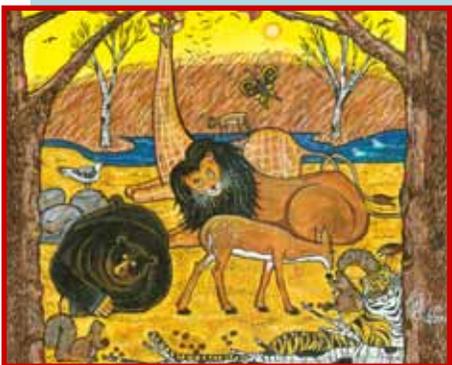
Furry Friendly Felines ~ 8.1999

Kitties galore! My sisters, Marilee, Peggy and I have been kitty lovers since we were youngster. If you look carefully in this fine art, you'll see glimpses of me and my two sisters and me lounging on the window seat in the background of this portrait. All three of the kitties pictured in this piece were very independent - blessed with their own distinct personalities. Peggy's was the calico named Chloe, who spent most of her time exploring out-of-doors and could never been called a lap cat as she was a truly skittish creature. Marilee's was the white one, Betty Kitty, who yearned to be outside as well, but lived her life as a "condo-cat" because my sister's first floor condo at the time had some very strict CC & Rs. My big black furry kitty, KC, had always been perfectly happy living his life out as a "house cat." He loved nothing better than napping most of the day in the sunlight that shown through the sliding glass doors of my high-rise condominium. Sadly, our three furry friends all passed away within months of each other. *Highlight* - What huge holes they left in our lives! I created this painting as tribute to all the happiness they brought to the three of us Simpson sisters.



The Friendly Forest ~ 2.2000

This was a portrait I created of several furry woodland creatures who would rarely be seen in the same setting together - especially in such a calm and peaceful atmosphere. And that's the point! The critter in this friendly forest - including two bushy-tailed squirrels, a seagull, a roly-poly brown bear, spotted giraffe, curious lion, baby fawn and a striped tiger - have all miraculously made friends with one-another and are happily gathered in this painting - thus its fitting title. Inspired by an image I found in a Charles Wysocki coffee-table book, I created my own image of the incongruous setting as first birthday present for my Godson, Scot Simpson. *Highlight* - My creative sister-in-law Jan Simpson had decorated his bedroom with a jungle theme that carried him through his toddler years.



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Kindred Spirit Kitties (Cat Whisper Lane) ~ 4.2017

My sister Marilee has always been a dyed-in-the-wool kitty lover. For as long as I can remember, her home has always included a little furry feline or two. As noted in the title of this painting, when I created this artwork, the street leading down the gentle slope to her cottage in Kenmore was named "Cat Whisker Lane" - perfectly fitting for her two buddies Cookie (the black and white one) and Lady (the tabby) pictured here. Sadly, Marilee lost Cookie a few months before I finished this painting, was planned to be a special gift for her "milestone" 60th birthday in April 2017. All the tulips growing that Spring inspired the lush garden background in this piece - fitting as my sister has always had a VERY green thumb! In December 2018, Lady quietly passed away as well during the Christmas holidays. *Highlight* - This painting became a special memorial piece honoring these two sweet furry friends in her household.



Miko's Winter Wonderland ~ 11.2017

My sister and her sweetheart Ronnie purchased a small cottage on Cat Whisper Lane on a double lot in a cozy community north of Seattle in the mid-2000s. The two had been apartment and condominium dwellers for decades, so moving into a house with a big yard was an adventure for both of them. Hugely anticipated by my sister, a very avid legendary gardener, it was a dream come true! She worked wonders with the property - which also included a tulip-shuttered garden cottage on the property's back yard. Ron's dream had been to add a little dog to the household, so in Autumn of 2017, Miko Amici joined the couple - bringing joy, companionship and his delightful energy into their world. *Highlight* - I painted this Winter portrait of their little pooch enjoying the light snowfall as he sat on chair in their back yard as a surprise Christmas gift for Marilee and Ron.



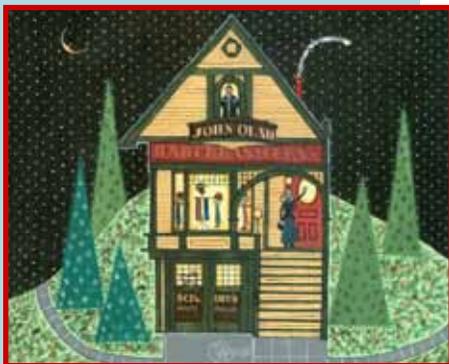
Peggy & Jeff's Pooches ~ 5.2016

Although a steady stream of pets of all types have "ruled the roost" at sis Peggy and her husband Jeff's various homes over the years, when I decided to paint portraits of my siblings family pets as Christmas gifts in 2017, those on hand in this family were a little fluffy friendly Shih Tzu named Tabasco (who had survived so long that he had completely lost his sight in both his eyes) - and a very large German shepherd named Jada with boundless energy. These two were the exact opposite, but spent several years as roommates nonetheless, looking after each other in their own way. The two have provided the family with companionship and love as well as both comical and serious moments. *Highlight* - When Tabasco fell off the high bank into the lake a huge drop below one summer, Jada barked her head off until she got my sister's attention that the poor little blind pooch was in serious need of rescuing.

UNIQUE IMAGES IMAGES CREATED FOR OTHER PROJECTS

The Happy Haberdashery ~ 5.2016

This fun little painting was inspired by a large Charle's Wysocki painting I found in a coffee-table book. For a short while I dated one of the very best dressed men on the planet. John Olah knew his way around the men's department in every fine department store and specialty shop. He was always immaculately pulled together. Ralph Lauren was his favorite designer and John wore him well! As his birthday was approaching, I used Wysocki's "The Haberdashery" as a diving board and pictured myself waving to John in the second story window of the colorful Victorian structure. John's pooch and constant companion "Scruff" looked out from the Beauty Parlor window where he waited to be groomed while John shopped. *Highlight* - Needless to say, I had the best time creating this fun, whimsical, tongue-in-cheek birthday artwork for John.



Jolly January Day ~ 11.1977

I finished this "simple" Winter portrait of an imaginary half-timbered Tudor home covered in snow when I was about three years into exploring the very friendly, yet intricate "Americana." Both Grandma Moses and Charile's Wysocki were huge inspirations. Early on I discovered "Evening Sled Ride" in one of Wysocki's popular Americana Calendars and that inspired the "Jolly January Day" pictured here. Not perfect by any mean and certainly not heart-warming - as I found real settings were much more appealing and fun moving forward. I also learned that adding people I loved to my scenes added "heart" to my artwork. But this artwork was a satisfactory early step and encouragement enough to continue my effort in this genre - early steps in the right direction!

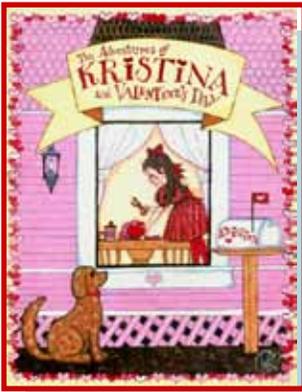


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Kristina's Valentine's Day Adventures ~2.1989

In the late 1980s, my friend Mária Naeseth introduced me to a newly divorced guy who had been a pal of hers. His most disappointing challenge was not being able to spend time with his sweet young daughter the way he had when his marriage was intact. His wife remarried - and she, her new husband and Kristina moved nearly half way across the state, so when it was his turn for visitation, it was a several hour drive to collect his daughter for time together. A truly doting father, he asked me to help him create a storybook with artwork starring his daughter that he could give to her as a special birthday gift. This was the cover art showing Kristina daughter creating paper heart garlands with her golden retriever Goldie keeping her company. He chose hearts as the theme as Kristina birthday fell every year on Valentine's Day. Needless to say, she was delighted with his thoughtfulness. *Highlight* - Decades later at a Sammamish Art Fair in Western Washington, Kristina visited my booth there. Now a young woman, she realized from my display that her special birthday storybook had been had been created by me and introduced herself. A delightful surprise!



Patti with Her Painting, "A Jolly January Day"

In 1986, as my career as a fine artist was getting underway, I tried my hand at painting a self-portrait. It pictured me (all dressed up...really!?) working at my easel with a early 1977 paintings, "The Jolly January Day" on the wall behind me. This was really the only one I painted for many years as when complete, I really didn't like the results and did not consider it a success. Even in my early days as a painter, I believed that portraits, "self" or not, should reveal the heart and soul of the subject. I worked from a couple of formal photographs on this initial "self" piece, and even though I've always tried to be a warm, engaging and other-conscious person, none of that came through in this piece which looked stiff and cold to me. About 15 years after my first effort, I tried this genre again with more success - choosing the photos I worked from more carefully, sometimes taking them myself to try to ensure I captured the right feel. I found this process was something like building a house - If the foundation wasn't solid, it was impossible to build a great house!

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