

Tip #59

More on Painting Man's Best Friend -- and Woman's!

Our pets are like family—we love them dearly and sometimes we take them for granted, when we're looking for a subject to draw or paint. They make marvelous models, though, and they're always available for a small modeling fee--say a dog chewie or a pat on the head. Maybe a romp in the snow...

They're excellent practice, too--try gesture sketching out on these sometimes-so-kinetic creatures. (If that's too frustrating, work from one of your own still photos, always an excellent resource!)

Art 59-1, Sarah Squirrel

If your model is concentrating on watching something, you may be able to get a rather complete sketch, if you work fast - otherwise you may need to wait till she's sleeping! This is my sweetheart's dog, Sarah, watching a squirrel - and watching me eat!

Art 59-2, Winston and Oliver

Sometimes even when they ARE sleeping, they're wiggling! Winston and Oliver just kept moving, so I went for their overall shapes and added details each time they returned to something resembling their original pose. Watercolor pencil with just a touch of water to soften the lines worked well for these long-haired dogs!





Art 59-3

Art 59-3, White Pup

You can't draw what you can't see, and if you try it won't look right. These longhaired dogs have almost hidden eyes, so just suggest that part you CAN see. Again, this is water-color pencil just touched with water to give form to the shape of the face.

Art 59-4, Mack

If you prefer, you can work from a photo, if it's clear enough. In this case, I used acrylics to paint a friend's dog, as a gift for his wife, and used a drybrush technique to suggest that wonderful, luxuriant fur.

See more on painting dogs and other animals in my North Light book, *Drawing and Painting Animals* available from Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com>) or from your favorite art supplier, or directly from North Light Books (<http://www.artistsnetwork.com/nlbooks/>) - just type Cathy Johnson into their search box!



Art 59-4

Be sure to look for my NEW CDs for artists in my Cafepress store, http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson., and watch for my fine arts auctions weekly on eBay, <http://members.ebay.com/aboutme/cathyjohnsonart>.