



For the Love of Dogs



Self Portrait with Holly ■ Oil on cradled panel ■ 16" x 20"

by Polly McGrory

For the first time in my life, I'm without a dog. I look back on the last 50 years and see the parade of canine companions trotting by my side. High-stepping Afghans with their billowing feathers, prancing down Nauset Beach, loving the freedom of being off the leash. There was really nowhere they could escape ... the Atlantic bordered one side, and the sandy cliffs rose on the other. In all, I had 6 Afghans, 4 of them rescued dogs, and half the fun of owning them was the reaction of passers-by, wide-eyed at these strange creatures with the wild hairdos and curlicue tails.



Then I fell in love with a sweet little long-haired Mini Dachshund belonging to a friend. I debated for months over whether to add a Dachsie to Luke and Greta, our Afghan pair. Would they shun her? Would they think she was prey? Would they run over her in pursuit of a squirrel?

I needn't have worried. When I finally found the perfect Mini, I named her Schnitzel. The big dogs ignored her. One morning, as we sat at the kitchen table having coffee, she woke up. She quietly padded over to where Greta lay sprawled on the rug, and weaseled her way

in between Greta's furry paws. Greta lazily opened one eye and glanced at Schnitzel who looked worried. Greta leaned over and touched Schnitzel's nose, then stretched her long legs and went back to sleep. Schnitzel was overjoyed, and snuggled up close to Greta's tummy.

On a glorious Fall day, we went for a walk on the Cape's bike path with Luke, Greta and Schnitzel in tow. A handsome silver-haired gent came

strolling toward us, admiring our trio of long-coated companions.

"Ah, I see you have three Afghans," he said with a chuckle. We laughed all the way home. After six months of running with the fleet-footed hounds, Schnitzel definitely though she was a member of that species. She kept up with them on daily sprints around the yard, and on trail hikes through the Cape's many nature preserves.

Our next addition was Daisy, a feisty Mini Dachshund with a silver-dappled black-and-tan coat. She and Schnitzel were fast friends, and always good for a laugh a day. But the girls gravitated toward me, and Wolfie was kind of left out. After the Afghans were both gone, we moved to Maine, and added Max to the mix. No doubt about it ... he was his Dad's dog, bosom buddies, inseparable companions. But Dachsies are addictive. Can never have too many. Along came Holly, a little movie star from Kentucky. She was gold with great dark eyes and unbounded energy. We roamed the fields and beaches and towns of the Midcoast in all seasons with our short-legged quartet. They're all gone now — even Wolf's beloved Max, who died this past July. But all of my dogs are still with me. And the memories are the best movie ever.



Work in Progress



My sister Anne and her husband Tom went to Ireland in June. They had a delightful visit to a pub on the Dingle Peninsula in the Southwest, and sent us a great photo. I thought it would make a nifty painting, I especially liked the sweet face of the dog as he looks at his friend across the table who is about to pat him. I'll add another photo of the finished product.



Wolfgang's Latest Masterpiece



Medomak Afternoon

■ Acrylic on gessoed panel ■ 18" x 24"

Our storefront neighbor Amanda presides over the divinely scented soap shop next to our Gallery. She is also a pretty clever photographer. She comes up with nifty scenes around town, and she's awfully nice about lending them to us for inspiration. Wolfgang's latest work, completed a couple of months ago, portrays the bend in the Medomak River as it catches the afternoon sun sparkling across the water. A nice woman from New Jersey came in and bought it last week as a reminder of her favorite town in Maine!



THANKS to Frank for filling our Gallery with the sweet sounds of his mellow guitar.



Golden Girls

Josie and Sophie Davis stroll on stage, a matched set, tall and slim in royal blue floor-length gowns. Long golden hair tied back. Four more players for the sextet are seated. Sophie steps forward and introduces the first piece, variations on "Simple Gifts". The familiar folk theme danced through the six instruments like a summer breeze

wafting its way through a patch of colorful flowers. The next piece, a contrast in both mood and complexity, was Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence", his passionate valentine to the lovely Italian city that he fell in love with in 1890. The music begins with a powerful six-handed blast of harmonizing strings. It is fascinating to watch the players' eyes always moving, intent on simultaneously following their scores and checking the other players for flawless synchronization. The melody jumps from the sweet soprano of the violins to the deep resonance of the cellos. The pizzicato plucks dance over the music's pauses, and add a light touch to the rich layers of melody. Stamina is required for this 40-minute piece, and the youthful group doesn't even work up a sweat, despite the humid summer evening. The program's last piece was "Appalachia Waltz" by Mark O'Connor (featured on his CD with Yoyo Ma and Edgar Meyer). The deeper resonance of this music played by seven instruments instead of three was astounding! The excellent acoustics of Broad Bay Church, plus the Farm-to-Table slide show added immeasurably to the enjoyment of this enjoyable concert.



Wolfie saw a "Call for Artists" ad in the paper for Kefauver Gallery's "Boat Show" exhibit. He submitted five paintings, and was thrilled when three were accepted. When he showed up at the opening, Will Kefauver met him at the door and said that his tugboat painting had already sold! Good crowd at the opening, terrific art works, including a batch of Will's miniatures, charming little pieces reflecting his love of the Maine landscape.

When Will announced his "Rock 'n' Wave" show, Wolfie and I both entered. So "Waterfall" and "Ocean Thunder" will be on display at the opening on August 11 at 4:30, and then through September 9. For more info, visit kefauverstudio.com.



FARM & ARTIST PROJECT

Wolfgang and Polly have both been working on the Farm project. They each have completed two works, which are now in the Gallery. Wolf's painting (above) is from Sweetgrass Winery, and shows the quality checking process. Polly's drawing (below) shows a pair of freshly picked radishes rendered with Prismacolor pencils on a watercolor background. The antique frame was procured at an attic sale on Cape Cod.

FREE MAGS!!!



I've subscribed to these ART MAGS for years, and I just hate to throw them away. But stacks of old issues clutter up my studio, so I'm giving them away to artists who would love to expand their horizons. Great for inspiration, for demonstrations of various techniques and styles, and for interviews with trendy artists. And for you intellectual types, I've even got a few vintage New Yorkers thrown in. ENJOY!!



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