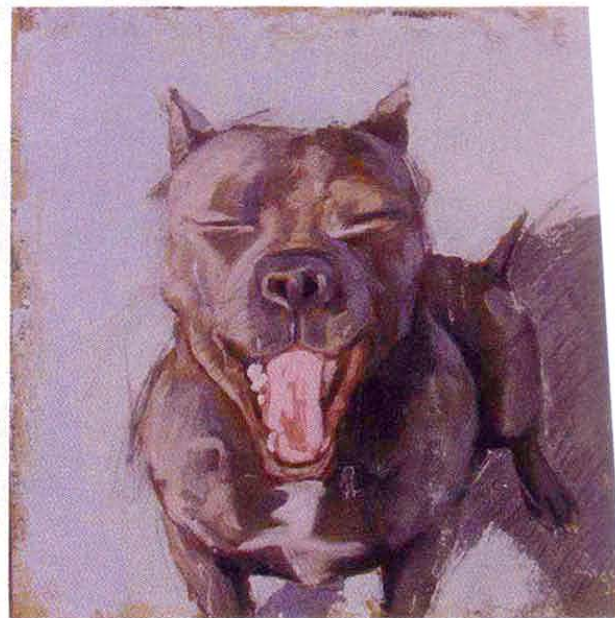


CHARITY CAPTURED

ARTIST CINDY SHORT TAKES PHILANTHROPY INTO HER OWN HANDS.



CINDY'S CREATIONS

CLCOKWISE FROM LEFT:

Tea Leoni's George;
Margaret; Harper

BY KATE BALLO Five years ago Cindy Short photographed her landlord's rescued Standard Poodle, Jezebel. The dog, who had been terribly abused by a previous owner, revealed soulful eyes and an expression that could melt a heart of stone. Touched by the sentiment and emotion conveyed in the picture, Cindy decided to paint Jezebel's portrait. After seeing her work on canvas, Cindy, a self-taught artist, realized she had stumbled across a new daytime job.

And Laughing Dog Art Studio in Malibu, California was born. With a steadily rising client base since day one, it was a no-brainer for Cindy to decide to give 10 percent of her proceeds to the charity or animal rescue of the clients' choice. "I got all my clients primarily through rescue, so I really just wanted to give back," Cindy explains.

Her ultimate objective when painting

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her (and our) favorite subject? "My goal is to capture [each dog's] peculiarity... something that they say with their eyes or their ears or with a simple gesture. And most of the time it works," says Cindy. "The clients say, "Wow, you really captured their personality!"

Recently Cindy was commissioned to pay artistic homage to Tea Leoni's 17-year-old Shepherd mix, George, shortly before his death. After hearing stories of how extraordinary this dog was in his prime, Cindy was able to portray on canvas the vital dog he once was and keep his legacy alive.

With a cornucopia of breeds of her own at home, ranging in ages, sizes, quirks and personalities (a Weimaraner, a Border Collie mix, a Pit Bull and a Pomeranian), it's no wonder Cindy is so intent on rendering in her portraits the true essence of every dog.