

State of the Arts

June 6–June 13, 2000

AAN displays animal magnetism

by Florrie Ives

Whether it be a quirky cat, a finicky fish, a skittish horse or a pesky puppy, animal lovers know that the personality of a pet can be as exasperatingly or endearingly distinct as that of any young child, great uncle, or next-door neighbor. Meeting

someone's much loved pet can also bring new understanding of a person. At the Artists' Association of Nantucket's upcoming exhibition, "Dog Days of Summer & Other Species," art lovers and animal lovers alike are invited to enter into the wonderful world of animals as interpreted through the eyes and artwork of the association members.

Tine Kirkland Graham submitted the original proposal for the show, which will feature her expressive and colorful acrylic paintings. Graham began her artistic career drawing pastel portraits of children, capturing their unique character in color on paper. She has now carried those same skills to the canvas in large acrylic portraits of pets. With a great deal of whimsy and energy, using bold strokes of vivid color, Graham produces non-realistic portraits that embrace the very real moods and expressions in an animal's face.

Graham asks the viewer to look at her work as if listening to a piece of music, feeling the colors and shapes as they dance on the canvas. In her studio she listens to music while painting and lets the melodies guide her paintbrush. For this particular exhibit some of the music one might imagine hearing could be accompanied by the gentle purring of a kitten or the vigorous howling of a golden retriever. The playfulness of Graham's paintings, including the land and seascapes that will also be a part of the show, stir up recollections of fanciful Mozart concertos and afternoons in the sun.

The work of the other artist members will include a variety of media, all pointing toward the common subject of animal friends. Such occasions where many artists of differing styles and perspectives produce a body of work around a central theme provide intriguing surprises, humorous interpretations, and inspired material for a show.

One highlight of the "Dog Days of Summer & Other Species" exhibit will be a dog painting day on Saturday, June 10. Summer on Nantucket is a great time for animals. The weather is kind and the sun warms the sidewalks for a stroll downtown. The Artists' Association hopes to appeal to art and animal lovers alike with this opportunity to watch an artist at work, using brush and paint to capture those priceless personalities of the pets we love. Graham will be at the Artists' Association Gallery on Saturday from 12-4 PM to paint portraits of the pets, or pet photos, that are brought before her easel. Please call the Artists' Association of Nantucket at 228-0294 for more information about signing up for a sitting.

June 7–June 13, 2000

Gallery Pick



"Suzie in Lavender" offers an example of the zest and liveliness that Tine Kirkland Graham brings to her animal portraits. With minimal detail but strong lines and blocks of contrasting color, Graham recognizes the playful gentleness of this dog and shares it with her audience. The work of Graham, as well as other artist members, will be featured in "Dog Days of Summer & Other Species" at the Artists' Association of Nantucket Gallery on Washington Street.