

Stuff Ryan Does ^{A Zine}

Artwork by Ryan LaFever

ISSUE ONE / FALL 2019

ANIMALS CATS & DOGS



ARTIST "STATEMENT"

WHAT'S THIS IS ALL ABOUT

I hate artist statements. There, I said it. I don't want to bore you with one and I don't want to spend hours over-thinking one, fortunately, this zine is pretty straight forward. Two of my main passions in life are art and animals and that's pretty much all you need to know. I do a variety of artwork styles and subjects, everything from acrylic pouring to video work, but art of animals is where my heart's at. To me, animals are thinking, feeling beings with a personality (and I absolutely do believe they have a soul, never let anyone try to convince you otherwise) and I want to show this to the world with art. The main purpose of this zine is to have others share in this passion. Think of this as a call to action for better appreciation of animals (and art.) And really, that's about it, pretty simple, to the point, and painless.

I tend to take the attitude of letting the art speak for itself, but regardless, I've commented on each piece to give context and share my thoughts and feelings on the end result. Beyond that, enjoy this collection of pet portraits done under my *Doggie Doodles* service, fine art, and photography. Hopefully this zine is the first of many.

-Ryan LaFever

If you are interested in learning more, checking out more artwork, or would like to find my contact information, please visit stuffryandoes.org



In memory of
Harry Dog

"UNTIL ONE HAS LOVED AN ANIMAL, A PART OF ONE'S SOUL REMAINS UNAWAKENED."
- ANATOLE FRANCE

PORTRAITS

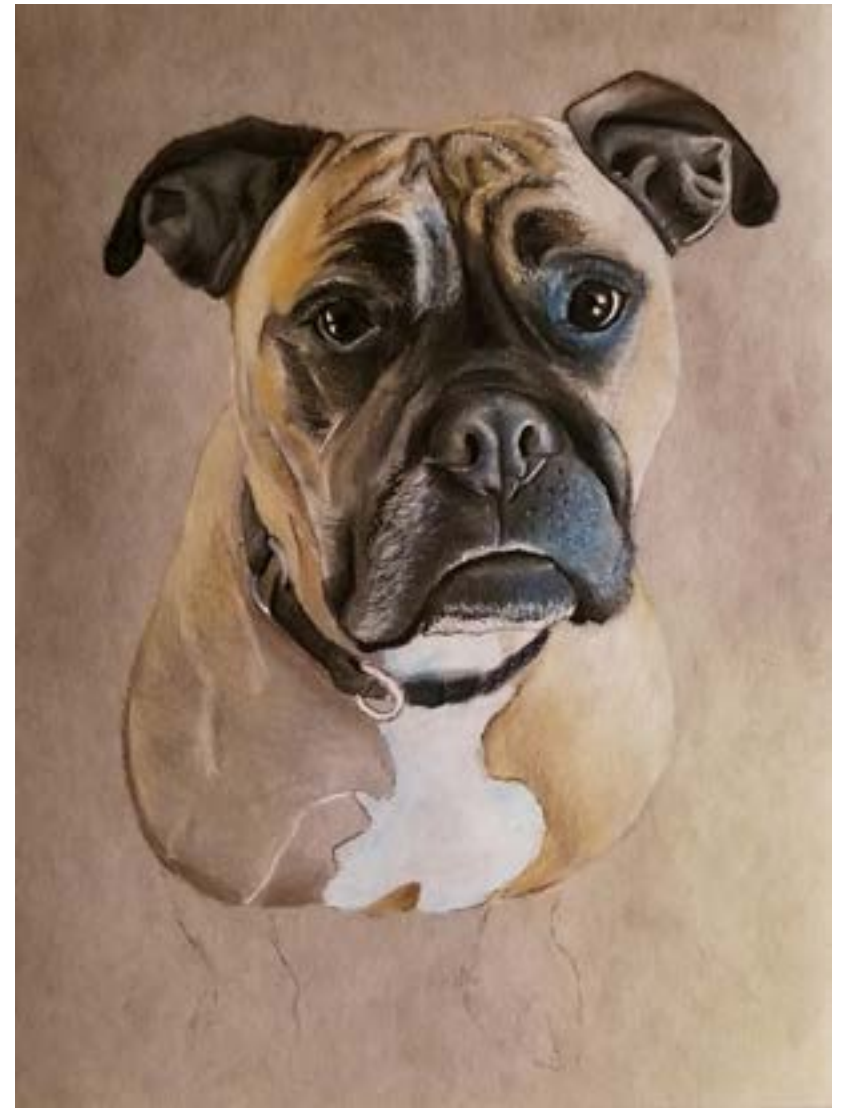
THE DOGGIE DOODLES PET PORTRAITS LABEL



ABOVE: "Weiner-Dog Twig and Granny." A portrait of my roommates' pets, this was done as a Christmas present and was one of my biggest undertakings to date. Being the largest at 19 x 24 inches, featuring both a dog and a cat, and taking nearly a month for completion, I consider it to be the masterpiece of the pet portraits. Pastels on Canson paper.

NEXT LEFT: "Bonsai." Easily one of my favorites of the portraits. I was so fortunate to receive a reference photo that had captured Bonsai's personality so perfectly. His happy and goofy expression made it feel more like a caricature rather than a portrait. It was an incredibly fun piece and I couldn't have been happier with the final product. Pastels on Strathmore Gray Scale.

NEXT RIGHT: "Milton." This was the fastest turnaround I've done for a portrait, completing it in less than a day. Pastels on Strathmore Toned Gray sketch paper with medium surface.



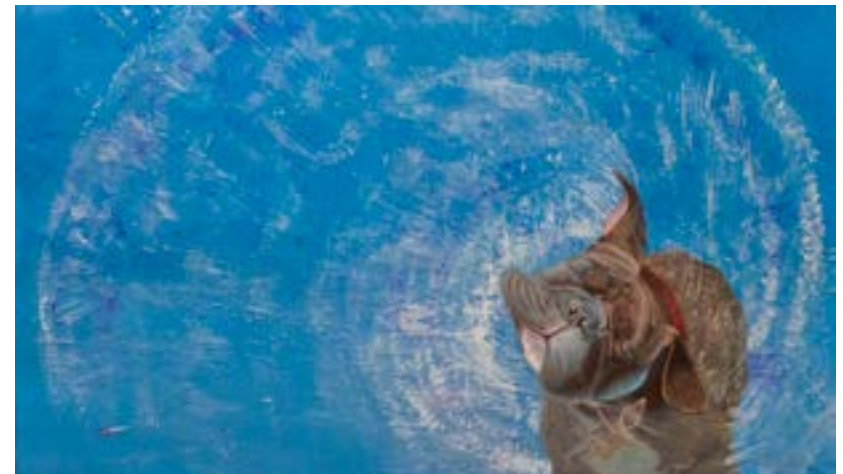


GOING VIRAL

THE MOST POPULAR AND ACCLAIMED PIECES

LEFT: “Red.” This was an unique piece because two reference photos were used, a black and white portrait of a cocker spaniel for the pose and anatomy and a stock photo of an English Springer for the coloring. This was a large 19 x 24 inch drawing done as a donation for Friends of the Shelter annual charity auction, “Pup Art.” On July 22, I uploaded “Red” to Reddit’s r/art subreddit where for several hours it became the top post with nearly eleven-thousand “up-votes.” Pastels on Canson.

BELOW: “The Fibonacci Shake.” A combination of pastel drawing and acrylic splatter, this was done for 400 West Rich Art Gallery’s first “Amazing Dog Show” in the summer of 2017. It was one of the first pieces sold and staff and volunteers of the gallery regarded the piece as one of their favorites from the show. Pastels on Canson with acrylic paint on acetate.



NEXT PAGE: “Log Thrown.” While working at a veterinary hospital doing social media, I was frequently taking photos of the veterinarian’s extremely photogenic French bulldog, Felix. Truthfully, I forget what the original intent was this photo session was but I was able to catch this lighting in a bottle moment when Felix made a curious expression over a bird call. This photo was considered for a Jones Soda label. Canon T3i with 50mm lens.



CATS IN THE SHADOWS



A small sample of a series done for 400 West Rich Art Gallery's "Amazing Cat Show IV" in January of 2019. Some of these pieces were straight up silhouettes while others had more detailing and coloring. In the end, doing this series gave me a better appreciation for minimal art and was frankly a relief to realize that not every piece has to be complex or overly elaborate to be effective.

Pastels on black mount boards.





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