

Pets of the Piedmont

Capturing the Inner Spark of Dogs

By GREG HUDDLESTON



Foxhound Puppies, 20 X 16, oil on canvas

Good artists who paint pet portraits are not hard to find throughout our region. Great painters of dogs, however, are rare. Sandra Forbush is one of the latter. All it takes is a quick look at any of her paintings of dogs to see that Forbush possesses masterful technique with paint, brush, and especially, color. But here's the thing separating Forbush from many others: technique aside, this artist captures the essence of each dog's personality that one might think only the pet's owner could truly see. It's as though Forbush discovers, and then reveals through her artistic vision, the inner spark, soul even, of each of her subjects.

Working exclusively in oils, Forbush has to her credit a long list of commissions for private clients as well as for numerous programs, posters, and other work for horse shows and steeplechase events.

Her works have been selected for exhibit at the American Academy of Equine Art, the Dog Museum, the Beresford Gallery in Saratoga Springs, and the Museum of Hounds and Hunting. She has held one-woman shows in Houston, Middleburg, at Montpelier, and the Farmington Hunt Club as well as the Long View Gallery in Sperryville.

The images shown here are but a tiny portion of her nuanced and prolific body of work. To learn more, visit www.sandraforbush.com.



Corgis, 16 X 2, oil on canvas



Millie, 16 X 20, oil on canvas



Old Dominion Hound, 20 X 24, oil on linen