

The **HollywoodDog** magazine

WELL-HEELED: TRAINING WITH LOVE

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Tera Patrick's
#1 naughty boy

Kristen Bell
rescues Sadie

"Never trust a dog to watch your food."
—Unknown

the
bad
dog issue

CHARITABLE CASE

by Larry Ryan

Keeping it colorful and fun, this artist is inspired by the canine kind.

A year and a half ago Brooke Bradford Churchill's pet portraits caused a commotion in the philanthropic community. At a charity exhibition at the Felissimo Design House in New York, Brooke's 12 dog-centric works sold out instantly. Since then, her distinctive, playful style has brought a powerful wave of commissions for charities. "I feel doing these dog images was meant to be because it has brought me closer to a cause that is so moving to me – the preservation of animals and the prevention of abuse towards them," Brooke says. "Since the Felissimo show I have been able to work with so many animal rescue organizations and I am planning to do much more work in the future." Her work has attracted celebrity clients, with Jon Stewart purchasing one of her pieces at a charity event.

A Southern Californian native, Brooke has been painting for 15 years. Working as a fine artist, her style has followed the abstract expressionist tradition, though her inspiration doesn't come from schooling. She explains, "I resisted going back to school. I prefer a voice based on my experience of the world and my unconscious and internal processes."

In contrast to some of her more serious abstract painting work, her dog portraits follow a playful, illustrative approach. Though she is not a trained illustrator, she happened on a more commercial, whimsical



style. "They're fun, created out of nowhere," she says. "I wouldn't call it fine art." It is not the first time she has attempted this style, but it is with her pooch pictures that it has really taken off. She particularly enjoys the style because it allows her to engage in commercial and light-hearted pieces. "I get to bring fun and colorful work into people's

homes," she adds. Her limited edition prints and greeting cards now sell in cities nationwide.

All her endeavor is keeping Brooke very busy. Alongside creating gorgeous works, she is also a trained art therapist and hopes to work in prisons inspiring people through art. And her day job is a private swimming instructor. (Talk about well-rounded.)

"Our family has three dogs, three cats and two horses so we love animals, to say the least," she says. However with such an overflowing smorgasbord of activities, she had to give up one of her dogs. She rescued a Lab mix, Marlee from North Shore Animal League. But with so much work on her plate she moved Marlee to an owner outside the city. It's a good move for Marlee though, as the hyper-active mutt now has a garden and several other dogs to occupy her attentions. Brooke still manages to make a weekly visit to see her former pup, and Marlee has been immortalized in one of Brooke's best selling paintings. We can relate to the canine inspiration.

120

KALEI-DOG-SCOPE

ABOVE: Brooke at a charity event in NY

BELOW AND OPPOSITE: Her works in colored pencil and acrylic

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OUT OF NOWHERE...
AND I GET TO BRING FUN
AND COLORFUL WORK
INTO PEOPLE'S HOMES

