

Arts & Entertainment

Ms. Graham, Fido and Fluffy Are Ready For Their Close-Ups at Evalyn Dunn Gallery

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Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – For most people, 15 minutes can fly by without an ounce to show for it. But, for Morristown resident Tine Kirkland Graham, it's all the time she needs to dip into her palette and bring man's best friend to the canvas.

On Saturday, November 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Evalyn Dunn's Gallery, located at 549 South Avenue in Westfield, will supply Graham with one long table to set up her paints and, at 15-minute intervals, the artist will paint the pet of your choice from a photograph.

Before organizing Graham's demonstration and exhibition entitled, "Color My Dog Yellow," Jacie Civins of Evalyn Dunn's asked the artist to transfer the image of her dog, Desi, to canvas. She was thoroughly im-



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Leader/The Times
DESI STRIKES A POSE...The prize pooch, Desi, that belongs to Jacie Civins of Evalyn Dunn's Gallery in Westfield was adapted from a photograph, pictured at the bottom left of the painting, and translated to canvas by Tine Kirkland Graham.

pressed with the results.

For Desi's backdrop of dancing colors, Graham selected hues like canary yellow, robin's egg blue, grass green and goldfish orange, which, according to Civins, were not chosen by specific direction, but Graham's own imagination. As for Desi, he was so adorably interpreted, he could have barked his way off the canvas.

When visiting Amelia Island in Florida, Civins first became familiar with Graham's work and her hus-



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GAME TIME...In Tine Kirkland Graham's portrayal of two figures playing backgammon, the backdrop is fluid, lively and spicy in color.

band, seeing that the artist was from New Jersey, suggested Civins' get in touch with her.

According to Civins, Graham began painting 10 years ago, mostly specializing in children's portraiture done in pastels. After she took a life

Matisse's style.

Whether she is commissioned to paint pooches or verandas speckled with umbrellas, Graham's flair for color brings a smile to the lips. Nothing is static, everything flows and the beholder wants to tag along during the artist's journey

through both spicy color and dramatic line drawing.

Civins reported that, when given photographs of houses, Graham transferred the image to canvas – in her own style, of course. The homes, which were detailed with Graham's signature palette, became almost caricatures. The shutters folded out in a cartoon-like manner and the chimney danced in the turquoise sky.

One of Graham's



Michelle H. Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LANDSCAPES ALIVE!...No boring tiny trees and overdone sunsets here...Graham's landscapes do the rumba with color.

drawing class at the Summit Art Center, Graham's tighter drawing style loosened up considerably.

The result? A more playful, abstract translation of interiors and landscapes, some of which ring true to

most alluring interior paintings is a smorgasbord of ingredients. Using teal glitter at the top of the canvas, the artist assembled small pieces of fabric and attached them to pieces of furniture in the room. The multimedia approach is successful for this artist, while it has failed for others we have critiqued.

We recommend that if Fido and Fluffy tug at your heartstrings and are as much a part of your family as Uncle Bob or Aunt Bea, a Graham portrait would be a treasure. Watching Graham compose the piece in only 15 minutes will probably be just as rewarding because this artist turns out quite an impressive piece in such a short window of time.

For more information, please call Evalyn Dunn's Gallery at (908) 232-0412 or e-mail framer397@aol.com.