

Hot DOG!

The winning works in our 3rd Annual Best in Show | Pets Art Competition are tail-waggingly awesome.

COMPILED BY BETH WILLIAMS

"Happiness is a warm puppy," American cartoonist and Peanuts creator Charles M. Schulz once wrote. We couldn't agree more and, in fact, expand that sentiment to include full-grown dogs, too, as well as kittens, cats, horses, birds, cattle, squirrels and more. We're delighted to share the winners of the competition juried by Johanne Mangi (Dog Category), Kathryn Hansen (Cat Category) and Rita Kirkman (Other Category). The Grand Prize winner was selected by our editorial team from the juried winners' circle.

A special thank you to each artist who entered! You've helped to lessen pet homelessness and animal suffering through our competition's partnership with the Dumb Friends League, a nonprofit community-based animal shelter/humane society.

BEST IN SHOW

PATRICK SAUNDERS

San Antonio, Texas

"Betty was a Keeshond/Shepherd mix who should have received numerous awards for her emotionally moving portrayals of dogs in need. In this scene in our Brooklyn backyard, Betty plays the tragic role of a dog without a bone, despite having devoured an *entire* bone in record-setting time just moments earlier. Slightly out of the frame, her brother, Barney, provides her with all of the necessary

motivation, as he gnaws on a bone also given to him just five minutes prior.

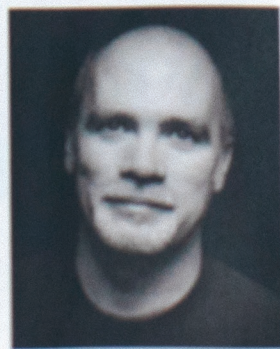
"No matter the painting's subject, whether an animal, a floral or a landscape, my approach is exactly the same. The key is to not paint a dog or fur or any specific 'thing,' but rather shapes, values and colors. To ensure a more spontaneous feel, I never draw lines or sketch out my subject first, but always start with broad strokes of color."

"I love the energy in this painting; the active brushwork pulls everything together. The random use of color in the background isn't random at all and is just enough to keep it interesting. The light is distinctive, and the drawing hits all the right marks. Love it."

—JOHANNE MANGI, JUROR

After graduating from the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI), Patrick Saunders spent a decade as an artist at Hallmark Cards before returning to KCAI as an instructor and, eventually, to a career as a global creative advertising director. In 2013, Saunders began painting full time. He has earned awards from Oil Painters of America (OPA), Portrait Society of America (Portrait Society), American Advertising Federation, International Academy of the Visual Arts, Society of Illustrators, and Communication Arts. He's a Master Signature Member of OPA and a Signature Member of the Portrait Society.

► LEARN MORE AT PATRICKSAUNDERS.COM.



Betty (oil on linen, 12x9)