



TREASURED RENDITIONS

Capturing the warmth of home with custom painted portraits

WRITTEN BY KIM FUQUA | PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SUSAN STILLMAN

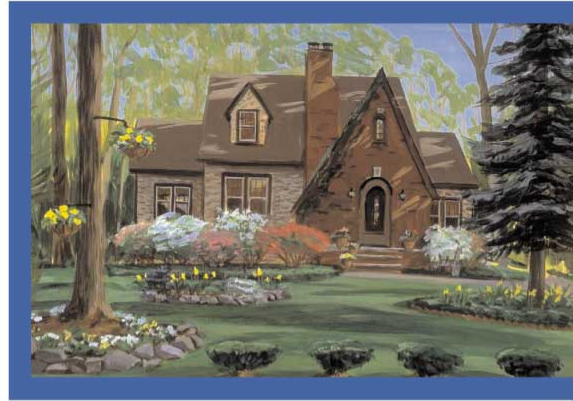
“As a house grows into a home, it develops a distinct personality and a place in our hearts. A truly wonderful way to celebrate a home’s character and importance is by commissioning a portrait, which will become a treasured keepsake for generations,” says Susan Stillman of Home Portraits.

An award winning and widely published artist, Stillman has been painting custom home portraits since 1989, when she got the idea while traveling through England painting pictures of the beautiful houses she saw while on her trip.

Creating pieces from her home studio in White Plains, New York, Stillman believes that her unique paintings “provide a creative interpretation that surpasses the capability of photography, or even pen and ink drawings or watercolors.” With a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Brooklyn College, Stillman began her career as an artist by illustrating books, magazines, and newspapers. As a faculty member of Parsons School of Design, Stillman has been teaching drawing and painting classes weekly for the past 20 years.

Stillman works closely with her clients to establish the individual home’s best vantage point, as well as which landscape details to feature. “I have to say that the responses I get when I deliver a Home Portrait are wonderfully gratifying. The process is a very special adventure I share with each client. We are recording an important part of their lives to share with their family and friends, now and for the future.”

The process begins with Stillman taking several photos of the home, from varying angles. For those clients who live too far from her home studio, she provides a Photo Helper package for this first phase of the project. Next, Stillman provides clients with pencil sketches, and solicits their feedback in regard to angle and landscape details. During this phase,



Stillman offers to take some artistic license where necessary, as she did for client Laura Klimley.

Klimley had finished gutting and renovating her Bronxville, New York castle inside and out when she commissioned Stillman for a Home Portrait. However, she did not yet have any of the landscaping work completed. Stillman’s husband David DeLucia, a landscape architect, drew up an imaginary landscape for the portrait. Klimley was so pleased with the result that she actually hired DeLucia as her landscape architect! Says Klimley, “[Susan] captured the beauty and spirit of the house, and [her] colors are breathtaking. The attention and

"A home is more than the roof over our heads.
It's the place where we live, grow, find comfort,
and thrive," says Stillman.

focus on detail is inspired."

In the case of client Gail Ressler's Home Portrait, Stillman had to move both the English Garden and pool into view, as they were separate and secluded areas on the property. The Ressler's also wanted their beloved poodles included in the painting. Says Ressler, "[Susan's] portrait of our home has brought pleasure and raves. We can't wait to see it every morning. It's more appreciated with each glance."

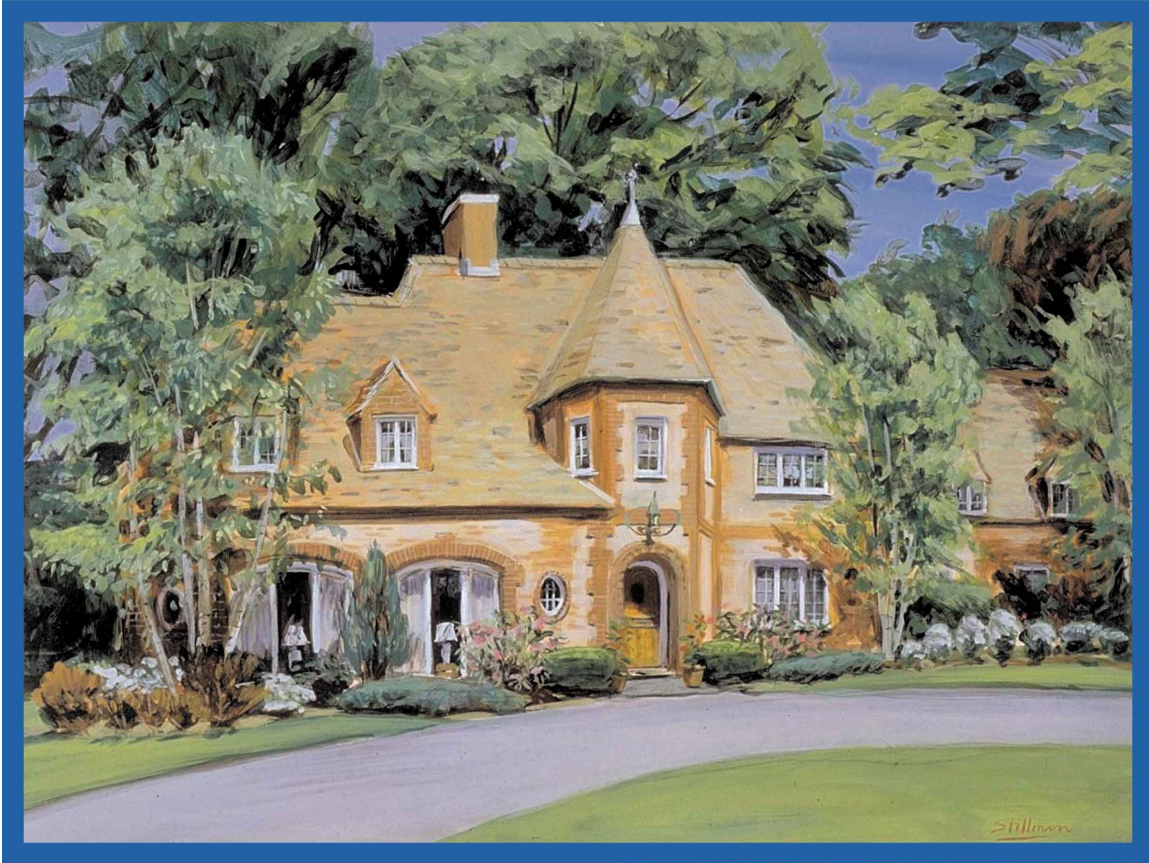
Commissioning a Home Portrait is also a wonderful way to honor your own history or that of your loved ones. Says client Louise Doyle, who with her siblings commissioned a Home Portrait for her parents; "Words really can't express the joy and happiness that showed on my parents [faces] when we gave

them the portrait of the house where they raised the four of us. The painting was beautiful and really showed the house as we remember it. It's now in a prominent place on the wall in their new home."

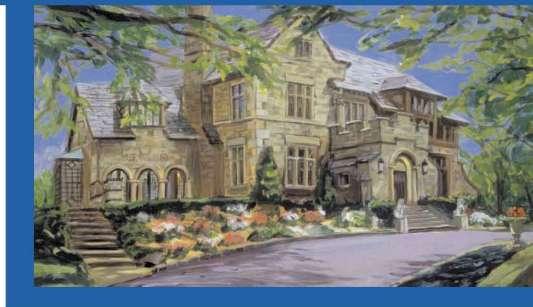
"A Home Portrait is an exquisite gift for yourself and your family, or for anyone special to you," says Stillman. "The best gift I ever received!" exclaims Home Portraits gift recipient David Basche. "How many people truly mean that after unwrapping their present?"

Basche continues, "My garden is my pride, joy, and sanity. Winter is difficult, because I can only gaze out the window at my piece of heaven covered with snow. Well, for my last birthday, my beloved presented me with a stunning portrait of the gar- ▶





den and surrounding areas, with everything in full bloom! She had spent valuable time and effort with Susan, painstakingly creating the ultimate indoor garden! Now, from December thru February, until I can break ground on a new spring garden season, I am fulfilled and enchanted all winter simply by staring at the wall – upon which, in a gilded frame, hangs the best gift I ever received...”



SUSAN STILLMAN
Home Portraits by Susan Stillman
White Plains, NY
Phone (914) 682-3771
www.susanstillman.com Email: susan@susanstillman.com