



Beyond the Brick and Mortar

Capturing a home's character through painting

A HOUSE BECOMES A HOME WHEN IT'S residents are emotionally invested in the space: when its walls encompass sacred memories and its floors ground treasured traditions. Working in the timeless style of George Bellows and Edward Hopper, award-winning artist Susan Stillman is commissioned to exceptionally celebrate a home's character in a keepsake portrait.

Having studied at the Rhode Island School of Design and Brooklyn College, Ms. Stillman has been a member of the faculty of Parson's School of Design since

1983. She provides a uniquely creative interpretation of a home, illuminating the beauty and vibrancy through her acrylics. Ms. Stillman appreciates her client's unique view of their home, and works together closely to determine the best approach and features to highlight.

"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," Stillman reveals.

A Case Study

The Hidden House is Revealed

This incredible home sits high on a hill, with breathtaking views of a reservoir. The challenge for me is to paint the home as if I was hovering 20 feet in the air, to be able to reveal what is hidden behind the wall.



Photographing

I begin by photographing the property from a distance, to record how it all comes together. I use the zoom lens to get the details that are not hidden by the wall. I then photograph the house in pieces from very close up. I move across the whole place, capturing the details at my eye level. When aiming up at roof details, I will have distortion to correct later in the sketch.



Sketch

With all my reference photos printed, I am able to reconstruct the house as my client wants to remember it. She will be selling it soon, and as a gifted designer, the house is a glorious

expression of her own personal aesthetic. We work together closely to include her favorite details. We can pick and choose what foliage to show in flower. Most trees will be open, but I will show a couple of

dogwoods on the left with white and pink blossoms. The large dogwood in the front of the wall obscures much of the house, so we decide to turn back the clock and reduce it's size.

Susan Stillman invites clients to celebrate the history of their home: a place where they have lived, grown and thrived.



Finished Painting

This is the finished painting of the house from my June 26th post. The dogs posed happily whenever I came to photograph. This is the second home I have painted for this wonderful client. I wish her and her family all the best with their next move.



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