



# Lisa Gleim

## Born to Paint

Ask anyone who knows her, and they'd all agree that Atlanta artist Lisa Gleim was destined to be a portrait artist. One of several successful Southern artists in her family, she's been drawing people since she was old enough to hold a pen.

Hailing from Boone, N.C., Gleim grew up in Atlanta. She started painting portraits professionally after graduating from the prestigious Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia in 1996.

"The thing I like the most is being able to capture the spirit and personality of my subjects, as well as their likenesses," said the artist. She works in various mediums, including charcoal, pastel and oil, but prefers pastel because of its softness and the fact that it allows her to draw.

An avid animal lover, Gleim also paints pet portraits, her most notable commissions being that of Son of Slew, the grandson of famous race horse Seattle Slew. "I realized that

people are as crazy about their pets as I am, so starting to paint pet portraits was an obvious direction to take."

She's putting her brush to good use in more ways than one. Gleim has donated countless portraits to local animal organizations, helping raise thousands of dollars for the groups in need.

"Donating my portraits is such a unique way to aid the animals in need," she says.

In 2005, with the same spirit of giving, Gleim and five fellow artists launched the Atlanta Fine Arts League as a catalyst for the community project, Art From The Heart, in which local artists paint the portraits of Georgia's fallen soldiers free of charge for surviving family members. Gleim has painted two soldiers to date and says it is the "most rewarding experience of her career."

Gleim's portraits, along with her award-winning landscapes, can be found in many private collections throughout the East Coast, including the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Orthopaedic Division; the chambers of the Honorable Vice-Chancellor Jack

B. Jacobs in Wilmington, Delaware; and Astra-Zeneca Pharmaceutical in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Her work has also been published in the book "Strokes of Genius: The Best of Drawing" by Northlight Books. She currently maintains her studio and residence in Atlanta with her husband, Dr. Bill Jonas, and 2-year-old daughter, Libby.



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