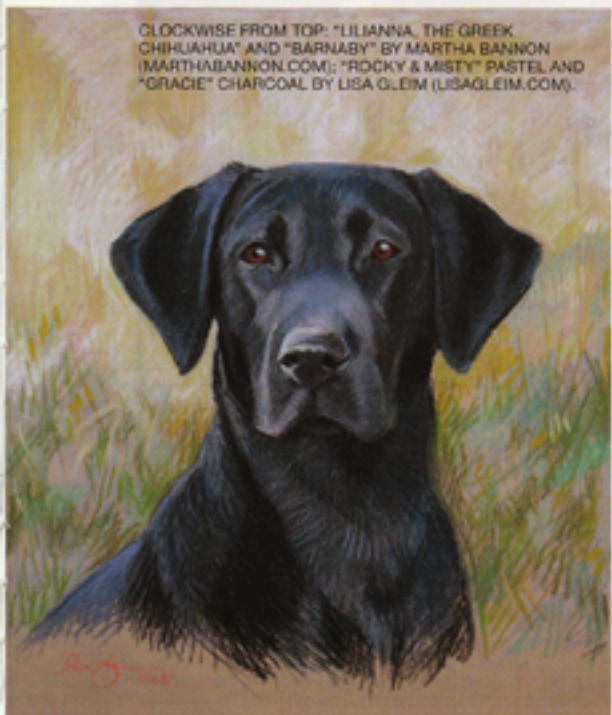


Captivating Canine Commissions



The social standing of the family dog has been elevated to a fine art. So enamored are pet lovers with their precious pooches that they're immortalizing their faithful friends on canvas. Offerings range from period costuming to au naturel. Atlanta artist Lisa Gleim began painting pet portraits in 2001 after the loss of her 14-year-old golden retriever, Bonnie. "It was very therapeutic," said Gleim, who has since received numerous commissions for dog, cat and horse portraits, many of which have brought the owners to tears. Up the East Coast, in Essex, Mass., Martha Bannon has extended her palette to the animal kingdom, as well. "The custom pet portraits are quite popular and fun to do," she said. "It's a unique way to express your love for your four-legged pal."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: "LILIANNA, THE GREEK CHIHUAHUA" AND "BARNABY" BY MARTHA BANNON (MARTHABANNON.COM); "ROCKY & MISTY" PASTEL AND "GRACIE" CHARCOAL BY LISA GLEIM (LISAGLEIM.COM).

