

Dutch painter Monique van Wijk

Monumental movement

Monique van Wijk's artistic career started in the mid nineteen-nineties of the former century. Bull Terriers took an important role from day one on, understandable as she owned a Bull Terrier in the early days herself. Her close link to the breed continued in the 25 years that followed, without losing the opportunity to get involved with so many more breeds and the cynology on all levels, nationally and internationally. If one sees where she got her commissions from in all those years one can be only impressed. The same goes for the expression of every piece of her art work – a 'monumental movement'.

Following, is an excerpt from the jubilee booklet 'Bullen in Beeld' (Bulls in the Picture), celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Dutch Bull Terrier Club. It was written and compiled by Bas Bosch about Monique van Wijk and two other Dutch artists that have created a lot of art with Bull Terriers, Gerda van den Bosch (bronzes) and Alice van Kempen (photography).

Monique van Wijk's paintings are a wonderful mix of two seldomly seen modern qualities: surprisingly modern and cynologically sound. The ambiance that she manages to evoke in one painting is completely different to that in another painting, but the unique qualities of the depicted breed are always intensified.

All her artwork is dynamic, in the sense of movement in them. The effect achieved by working with various layers of colour from which the dog appears. To emphasize this, she makes large, monumental paintings. The average size being 75 x 100 cm. But her smaller paintings are of the same quality that one cannot miss.

Although less well-known, Monique van Wijk also makes colourless paintings. These too are breath-taking. Painting 'the wrong way round' - white on a dark background - is very demanding as it is a much more subdued method. There's easily too much on the canvas. It's about the art of not including everything, whereas on coloured canvas it's a question of the painting developing, the desired effect achieved by adding paint.

Monique van Wijk already drew animals, mostly dogs and horses, when she was a young girl, until she was fourteen. After secondary education (1980) she attended Art College. After six weeks she already knew that she wanted

to be a painter. It was a part of her being, came naturally. She started to specialize in portraits, exhibiting solo and with other artists. After her college years she returned to animals. She can't imagine life without animals – she owns a Bull Terrier called Vancy – and she feels most at home with fellow animal lovers.



Fancy



Monique van Wijk with her 'first love' at the International Weekend in Leiden 2016



Monique van Wijk at her stand at the FCI World Dog Show 2018

Monique van Wijk had her first experience in the world of cynology at the Jack Russel Terrier Club (Netherlands) club show in 1993. Other shows soon followed, including the Dutch Bull Terrier Club (NBTC). Since this time, she retains a special relationship with the club, also shown in the jubilee poster for which she made the painting. The same picture on the cover of the NBTC in 1996.

Today Monique van Wijk's work is famous, both in her home country and abroad. Her canvasses can be seen the homes of many cynologists, it's hard to find a 'dog' artist that has sold so many paintings in such a short time. This is due to the unique and great quality of her art and her friendliness toward her customers.

Fancy (50x65cm)

Fancy was the reason I started doing dog portraits. She was three years old when she was rehomed to me. I was instantly charmed by the breed. The crazy, artistic appearance of the Bull Terrier inspired me to start making artistic dog paintings. Along with portraits of people, which I did since the 80s, this began to take flight because

I started showing my work at dog shows. From 1993 on, commissions painting dogs became my main income.

In this painting Fancy is lying next to me in the car. At that time I used to take her with me when I went to a client. Wherever she went, she was completely at ease and she never bothered or challenged another dog. She just looked for the best spot to lie down and waited until I was finished photographing the dogs that would be painted. She occasionally looked at me with the expression you can see in the painting: nice, each other's company, isn't it?

2x The Hipshakin' Baby's (75x120cm and 95x120cm)

The Hipshakin' Baby's was the affix of a man that lived in The Hague. It was one of my first commissions for the breed. The man was a 1950s enthusiast, as you can tell from his guitar in the painting.

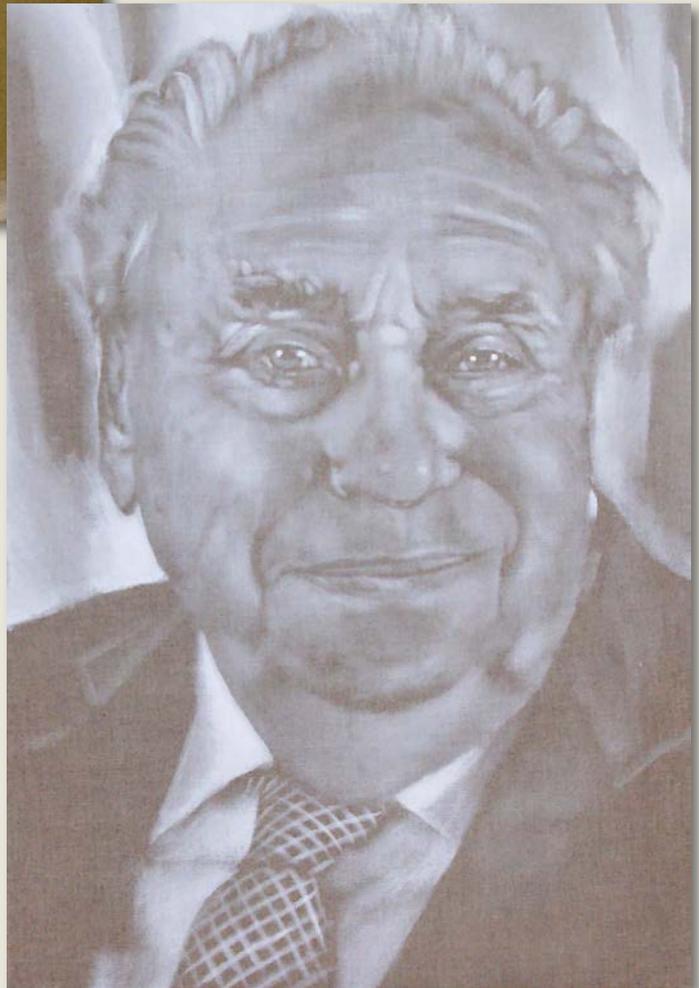
Later on, I painted a big canvas for this man and his new wife on the occasion of their wedding; the setting... objects from the 50s and wedding clothes with heads of two Bull Terriers and an Staffordshire Bull Terrier. The Hipshakin' Baby's Bull band.



The Hipshakin' Baby's



Untitled



Mr Martin (M.E.J.) van de Weijer

Untitled (50x65cm)

A painting 'in white'. I made it for myself to take to shows as an example of a different kind of work.

Just as most of my paintings are built up of thin layers of colour, this is made the same way except in thin layers of white. On the dark, sand coloured background in linen, the portrait appears in white, giving the impression of an old photo. Actually, what I paint is light, just as you would draw shadow in a drawing.

Mr Martin (M.E.J.) van de Weijer (35x50 cm)

This painting is one of the 21 portraits I made for the Dutch Kennel Club offices in Amsterdam.

These are the seventeen honorary members that have done exceptional work in cynology and all the chairmen who served two or more four-year terms. Some of them both.

All paintings are in white, thus making them one whole. The one of Martin van de Weijer is presented here for a special reason, in his early days he owned and showed a white Bull Terrier. Before he became an allrounder he was renowned world-wide as a Terrier specialist.



Stormbandits

Stormbandits (95x120cm)

An example of a painting for a breeder, depicting the dogs that were important in the history of their kennel, young and old mixed up together.



Alice's Willow with her four puppies



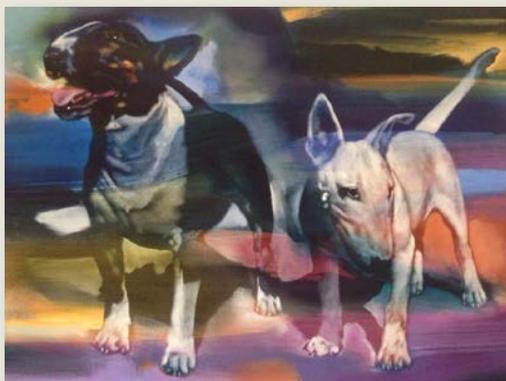
Jubilee
60 years NBTC



Bullies in Africa



Channah



vd Burght



Flash



Sparky

Bullies in Africa (95x120cm)

This is a commission from a German vet that had lived with his Bull Terriers in Africa for years. It refers to the landscape and the colours in which he lived with his dogs.

Jubilee 60 years NBTC (100x105cm)

The canvas was commissioned by the NBTC and shows many colours. The Club celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1996 and all members received a reproduction of this painting (on paper), as a gift from the organization.

Channah

Painted for myself because it's such a sweet pose!

Alice van Kempen (75x100cm)

This is one of two commissions I did for Alice van Kempen. This painting shows Alice's Willow with her four puppies.

vd Burght (75x100cm)

Example of a commission.

Sparky

Drawing of Sparky, for the NBTC auction on the International weekend 2017.

Flash

Drawing of 'Flash', based on a photograph by Alice van Kempen. The drawing was made as a commission following the World Dog Show 2018. I donated a drawing of an owner's dog for a raffle.