

Dutch painter Monique van Wijk

Monumental movement

Monique van Wijk's artistic career started in the mid 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. Molossers have played an integral part of it, thanks to the symbiosis between the trademark of Molossers and that of her work – 'monumental movement'.

Text: Bas Bosch

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 me about Monique van Wijk and two other Dutch artists that have done a lot of artistic work with Bull Terriers, Gerda van den Bosch (bronzes) and Alice van Kempen (photography).

Monique van Wijk's paintings are a wonderful mix of two seldom seen 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



Early work, 90 x 140 cm



Early work, 95 x 120 cm

being 75 x 100 cm. But her smaller paintings are of the same quality that one cannot miss.

Although less 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

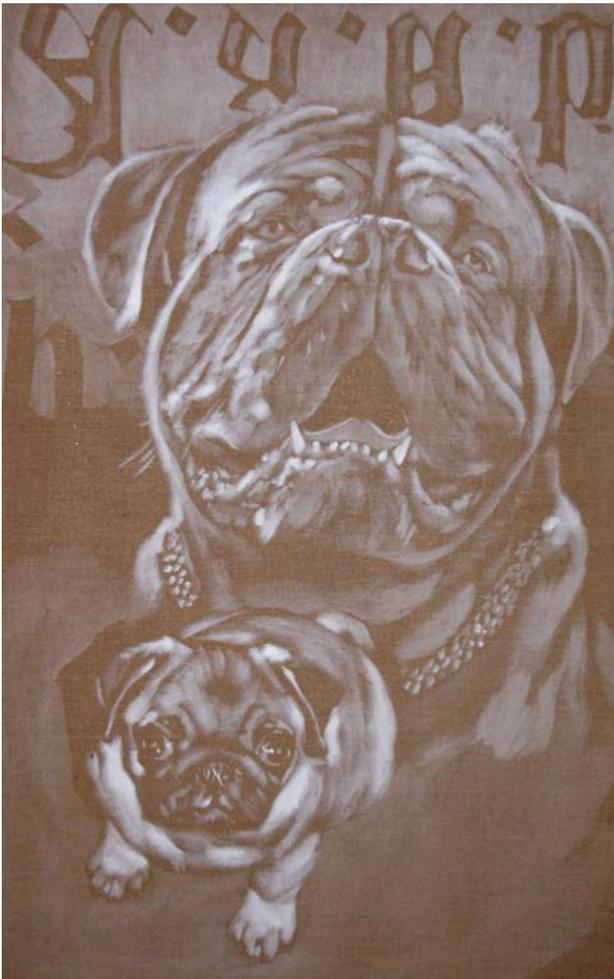


40 x 55 cm

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 and she feels most at home with fellow animal lovers.

Monique van Wijk had her first experience in the world of cynology at the Jack Russel Terrier Club, club show in 1993 (Netherlands). 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. It is not too much said that she has become the 'house painter' of the FCI – she has been painting all presidents of the FCI and for quite a few years already she paints the BIS of the FCI World Winner. Her canvasses can be seen the homes of many cynologists, it's hard to find a 'dog' artist that has sold so many paintings. This is due to the unique and great quality of her art and her friendliness toward her customers no doubt.



Bullmastiff Brotherhood In White



Copyright Monique van Wijk



30 x 40 cm



30 x 40 cm



30 x 40 cm

Copyright Monique van Wijk

For sale – www.moniquevanwijk.nl



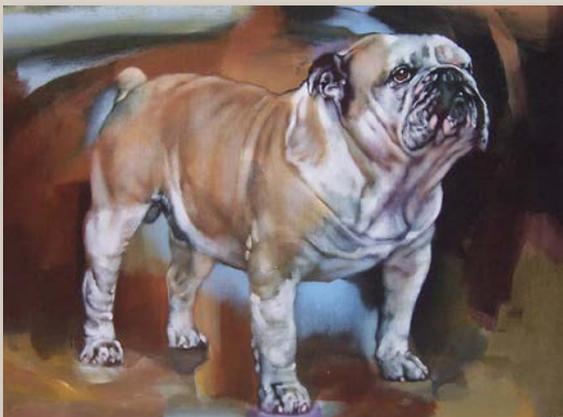
Larger than life, 95 x 120 cm



50 x 65 cm



60 x 80 cm



75 x 100 cm



75 x 100 cm



75 x 150 cm

Copyright Monique van Wijk

Bullmastiff Brotherhood



Very personal drawn and painted portraits:

For more information, visit
www.moniquevanwijk.nl

Monique van Wijk
P O R T R E T S C H I L D E R