



Mid-Winter Paws

a benefit for Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA



Jill Sutton is a painter living and working in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey. With her husband, Bruce, they own the award winning painting firm, Sutton Painting and Decorating. She specializes in faux finishing and trompe l'oeil ("to fool the eye") work.

Jill's adopted family recognized that she had tremendous artist talents and at the age of 10, they enrolled her in art classes with Pauline Lorentz at the Summit Art Center. Pauline became her mentor and at the age of 16 brought her to Rockport, MA where she learned plein aire painting in the ship yards and on Bass Rocks. In the evening, she took Life Drawing classes at the Rockport Art Association. She also studied with the Rockport legend, Jack Callahan and the trompe l'oeil artist Eric Forstmann. As a teen, she developed a following and a reputation as a prodigy. Her works sold right off her easel when she did paintings of ships in the Gloucester boat yards - the oil barely dry! Charles Movalli nick named her "The whiz kid" at 17.



In 2006, 2007, and 2011 she won the First Place awards at the Middle Atlantic faux-decorative competition. In 2007 she also won the Painting and Decorators Contractors of America (PDCA) National award for designing and hand-painting foyer walls for a private residence. Her work was acknowledged for her execution; color usage; special techniques and treatments; and overall creativity.



She continues to receive awards for her work including a 2010 National Award at a charity project and several 2009 First Place awards for her residential exterior treatments. She has clients throughout the Metropolitan NY area and in Florida and California.

Since Jill was adopted, she has an affinity to animal shelters and adopting animals. As a child her uncle found a small puppy (Blackie) who wandered out of his woods and gave him to Jill's family. This occurred the same year Jill was adopted and they celebrated his birthday the same day as hers each year. He lived to be more than 17 years old. After Blackie passed, a friend gave her another puppy (Jackson) from the local shelter. She also grew up with a black cat named Satchmo.



Growing up in Gillette NJ, she was within walking distance of Phifer's Animal Farm. Mr. Phifer was Hollywood's premier animal trainer before he retired. His farm was the home of the famous Leo the lion, the MGM lion. Her love of animals caused her to spend almost every day after school on the farm following Mr. Phifer around helping him feed the animals. He had a baby elephant who walked to her with its bottle in his trunk for her to hold as he could drink from it.

Jill has a deep affinity to animals, and she is a second year participant in the Columbia Greene Pet Bowl auction.

Jill Sutton Bowl (Item JSutB01)

