

*Thursday, 4 August 2005*



I worked like a dog today. I was asked to draw a Heidewachel dog. In shades of grey, cream and brown, it is a pedigree hunting dog. Of course it did not know how to pose. It constantly changed its position and strolled leisurely around my studio. As I followed the Heidewachel, spreading my art supplies all over the place, I felt like an animal myself. The mixed techniques of chalk and water colour worked out nicely. I still had to work on the resemblance and personality of this Heidewachel. It had an expression on its face as if it had swallowed something wrong. But how can one catch the soul of a dog?

The owners said they preferred a profile. I decided to focus on the face. I drew the profile as realistically as I could. In the end, the pencil portrait seemed more true to life than the dog itself. They were happy with this result.

Later in the afternoon, a Russian girl came to pose. She is an excellent model who lives around the corner. We did the kind of short poses that stimulate me to work fast and directly. I am now exploring a new technique, mixed materials on large sheets of Asian handmade bamboo paper. Since the dog's face was still on my mind, the first sketch was not so good. The last pose worked a lot better, a reclining pose in shades of purple. I will give her one of the drawings. A big framed drawing in black & white will probably look nice on her newly painted wall. After this hard day of work, I will do some e-mailing and reading tonight, A Groucho Marx quote comes to my mind, "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

