

a dog I showed to his AKC CDX and his ASCA CD (Elf Lane Farms Presidential Prerogative CDX, "Bobby"). Subsequently I got that dog's half sister (Elf Ms. Emma Peel, "Emma"), my mother's Standard Poodle (Maenell Ziggy M CD, "Ziggy," shown to his first leg of a CDX), then a six-month-old black tri Aussie dog as a conformation prospect (ASCA/AKC Ch. Fox-tale's SomethingtoTalkAbout, "Flash"). In 2004 I added a blue merle bitch puppy through Debbie Mills in Virginia (ASCA/AKC Ch. Milwins Silver Ribbon at Inkwell, "Ribbon"). The latter two are co-owned with Debbie Mills. Lastly, this year I have strayed to a Sheltie conformation prospect co-owned with his breeders (Sunebank Encore at Inkwell, "Encore").

About four years ago, and with the urging from a good friend and great artist, I started doing dog subjects. I'd seen a lot of dog art over the years and had not seen a lot I thought was very good. I wanted to see better art, and decided that I might want to try to make that art myself. As the technology made it feasible to do prints affordably, without committing to the entire run up front, it was clearly possible to do dog art and sell it without depending upon people to necessarily purchase expensive originals. Thus was INKWELL STUDIO born. At first I sold prints at a couple of all breed shows, carrying my friend's huge inventory of older lovely pen and ink prints along with my ten or eleven prints of a variety of breeds. I quickly found that I preferred to do specialties of my breeds and concentrate on just a few breeds in a bigger way. I mean after all, if you have painted 30 breeds and you are at an all breed show, 74 percent of the people who walk into your display area looking for their breed will not be interested in what you brought! Instead I find that doing a variety of artworks of a single breed allows me to explore a lot more about dogs and offers my collectors some choices.

I started doing specialties by doing the USASA Nationals in St. Louis in 2004, taking along several originals and about ten different Aussie print images. I have been to each USASA National since (and always drag at least one of my dogs around the big ring) and since 2006 have been creating official specialty art and logo. I also started doing the Poodle Club of



*New Collar – oil on board, 9x12. Isn't this the universal distress signal for newly*

America Nationals in 2005 and, really enjoy that one, always in Maryland and quite the spectacle. My first ASCA National was in Georgia in 2005; I had a great show there: I

dragged a couple of dogs around THAT big ring and got a lot of valuable input about my art and Aussie art in general. That show was wonderful also as I overlooked the show floor and



*Waiting Their Turn – oil on canvas, 9x12. I did this painting for my ASCA club's 2007 preshow trophies, which were framed prints of this artwork.*