



*Isabella Rossellini,
Abigail Rose,
Frank Sinatra &
Christine MacClintic*



In Suffield, Connecticut, artist **CHRISTINE MACCLINTIC** spends her days painting large-scale portraits of dogs and the people who love them. Sharing her studio with three spirited rescue pups, Christine's current work—a sabbatical-year series titled *Bonds*—explores the deep emotional terrain of human-canine connection through expressive oil on canvas storytelling.

I've always said, "Studio dogs are the best dogs." Actually, to be fair, I say "All dogs are the best dogs." But there's something about the rhythm of sharing a creative space with my pups that brings an unmatched joy to my work—and to my life.

My name is Christine MacClintic, and I'm an artist living and painting in Suffield, Connecticut. For the past year, I've been on sabbatical, focusing fully on a body of work that's long lived in my heart: a series of large-scale oil portraits exploring the relationship between dogs and the humans who love them. I'm calling the show *Bonds*—because that's what this work is about. The unshakable, emotional, and often healing connection between people and their dogs.

This series is deeply personal. It's inspired by the many dogs I've fostered over the years—22 so far—and especially by the three who have become permanent members of our family and fixtures in my studio life: Isabella Rossellini, Abigail Rose, and Frank Sinatra.

Izzy, my seven-year-old Great Dane mix, is the heart of the studio. She's big, graceful, and watchful—my constant companion while I work. Most days, you'll find her stretched out beside my easel, her quiet presence keeping me grounded. She's my soul dog. Sometimes, without realizing it, I'll rest my feet on her as I paint. She never minds. I like to think she understands exactly what we're doing.

Abigail Rose, or Abby, is a sixteen-year-old Chihuahua who's perfected the art of napping. She's our elder stateswoman, the calm in the chaos, and my reminder to slow down. Her favorite spot is wherever the sun hits the floor. She's not interested in squirrel patrol or studio politics—she just wants warmth, peace, and the occasional snack.

Then there's Frank Sinatra. One year old, part pit, part husky, and all energy. He was supposed to be a temporary guest, just like so many others before him. But Frank won my heart with his big blue eyes and persistent charm. Now he's here to stay. He's also the reason we had to install a gate at the front of the studio—his chipmunk surveillance program was getting a little too enthusiastic.

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."

—Roger Caras





Each morning, the four of us head out to the studio together. We do a little backyard loop first—a perimeter check, as the dogs see it—and then settle in for the day. While I mix paint and lose myself in the work, they find their places: Izzy at my feet, Abby in a sunbeam, and Frank keeping watch by the door. We're a well-oiled machine. They're not just companions; they're collaborators.

In many ways, *Bonds* is their story, too. Each of the 12 portraits in the series captures a unique relationship between a dog and their human. Some are filled with joy. Some speak to grief. All of them are deeply emotional, because that's the reality of sharing your life with a dog—they change you. They hold space for your feelings. They witness your days. They teach you what love looks like at its most pure.

As I've painted, I've found myself thinking about how our dogs shape our homes and our routines, how they create structure and comfort, how they pull us outside of ourselves. That's what I'm hoping viewers will feel when they see the work—nostalgia, healing, connection. A recognition of their own story reflected in someone else's bond.

This studio—my sanctuary, my workspace, my quiet corner of the world—wouldn't be the same without Izzy, Abby, and Frank. They bring rhythm to my days, paws to the paint-splattered floors, and a reminder with every tail wag of what this is all really about: presence, devotion, and love.

So yes, studio dogs are the best dogs. Because dogs aren't just part of my life. They're part of my art. And they make both better in every possible way.



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