



Sporting portraits with JRTs

Nine years ago Frenchman Cyrille Jubert discovered he could draw. Then he taught himself to paint. Today he has a waiting list for his extraordinary sporting watercolours.

Cyrille is a keen sportsman and he started by painting the birds he shot. He was displaying these pictures at a game fair in France when he received his first commission for a dog portrait. The dog was a Jack Russell, and the result was so good that Cyrille had it printed on to a card and sent it to 150 Jack Russell owners. His realistic style and luminous colouring brought in a flood of commissions – so many that Cyrille soon felt he could move on

from straight doggy portraiture to something far more ambitious. One of his clients hunted stag regularly, so Cyrille painted her dog's portrait against a background in his dining room in which he artlessly arranged her riding boots, her tricorne hat and her whip as props. Against this grand but sporty background the young Jack Russell stands out, shy but eager to play. This picture was published in a few glossy magazines, and the result was a commission to do a hawking scene with a Pointer. The sporting portrait series was born.

Watercolour is an unforgiving medium, with no room for error, which makes Cyrille's compositions all the more interesting and special. He works from photographs and over the years has become a great dog photographer. He says:

"I'm very patient and take time to have great photos ... and then great paintings. A single portrait takes me about two

weeks and the big paintings about three months." He says that he loves Jack Russells because their little masked faces remind him of the three thieves in Donald Duck cartoons!

We are grateful to Cyrille Jubert for letting us use his pictures, which are scattered over Europe in galleries and private homes. "Monsieur Macho", right, was his first JRT portrait. Find out about Cyrille and all the paintings on this page at the website he has created: www.thedogmuseum.com

