



OUR  
**20**  
TWENTIETH  
YEAR



Bart Blumberg, Hull Artists photos

## Portrait of the Artist: Sandra Weeks

By Theresa Brown

*Portrait of the Artist is a biweekly series of interviews to introduce members of Hull Artists to the community and offer a glimpse into their creative lives.*

What do cabinetmaking, interior space planning, and pencil drawing have in common? All require a deep understanding of proportion, relentless precision, extreme attention to detail, and a clear vision of the end result from the start.



**H u l l**  
Artist Sandra Weeks had hoped to be a cabinetmaker like her father, worked professionally as a corporate space planner, and now creates pet portraits and other pencil drawings that demonstrate a rare combination of all these attributes. Her works fall within the genre of photorealism or even hyperrealism (think HD TV in pencil). People often mistake her works as photographs until they get close enough to actually see the intricate pencil lines and shading techniques that create the light and shadow, dimension, and color in her extraordinary drawings.

But a great portrait, whether human or animal, must go beyond documenting the subject; it must capture character, personality, spirit, or soul. And although the origin of the familiar saying that "The eyes are the windows to the soul" is uncertain, its truth is not. Somehow Weeks puts soul on paper; there is an intuitive quality in the eyes of her portraits that convey the animal as the unique companion they are in someone's life. This is not a skill learned in her collegiate

studies at Mass Art or developed in her professional career. It's simply in the heart of the artist.

### How did you become an artist?

I started out wanting to be a cabinetmaker, just like my dad and all my uncles. I loved the idea of designing and building things.

### What do you feel makes your work unique and truly our own?

I've always loved detailed drawings and several years ago I discovered the beauty of colored pencils. I love the way the colors blend together and the finite lines I can use in drawing animals and delicate flowers. Not many artists work in this medium and, on occasion, my work stands out as being different.

### What is your first memory of creating art?

Back in grade school I would draw room layouts on the top of shoeboxes, which I used as houses for my dolls.

### Do you have a muse or other source of inspiration?

I attended Fairhaven (MA) High School, which was built in 1906 and is on the historical building registry. The art room was located under the clock tower and it was my drawing teacher, Mrs. Mandell, who inspired and encouraged me to pursue a career in art. Today, my biggest advocate is my husband Bill. He is always encouraging me and finding various subjects for me to draw.

### How do you begin a creative day in your studio or on location?

To begin my day in my studio I open the blinds to let in the sunlight, get an iced coffee, and make sure that my cat's pillow, which is at the top of my drafting board, is cleared off for her afternoon nap.

### When and where are you the most creative?

For actual work, I'm most creative in my studio, but I'm always looking for nature and animal subjects to photograph and draw.

### What is the most challenging part about being an artist?

Not feeling that I should be doing something around the house like cleaning etc., instead of spending time working on drawings.

### Why is art important to you and why should it be important to our community?

Being retired, art can fill my days and make me feel productive and creative. The arts need to be part of society to provide beauty and inspiration to others.

### Where can someone purchase your art and is it difficult to let go of favorite pieces?

My colored pencil artwork may be purchased at Gallery Nantasket, during Hull Artists Open Studio Tours, at Hammond Real Estate offices in Hull and Hingham, and at the Hull Chamber of Commerce's two annual events: Endless Summer and the Holiday Showcase.

### Andy Warhol said everyone has 15 minutes of fame; has yours happened yet?

Yes, in a way. It was when my drawing teacher, a very accomplished pastel artist, liked one of my animal drawings so much that she bought it!

Tickets are on sale now at [www.hullartists.com](http://www.hullartists.com) for the Hull Artists' 20th-year gala, "Beauty and the Beach." The Oct. 3 event, from 3-7 p.m., will feature a boxed picnic supper, live music, art auction, and other fun activities! Watch here for more details in the following weeks. ∞

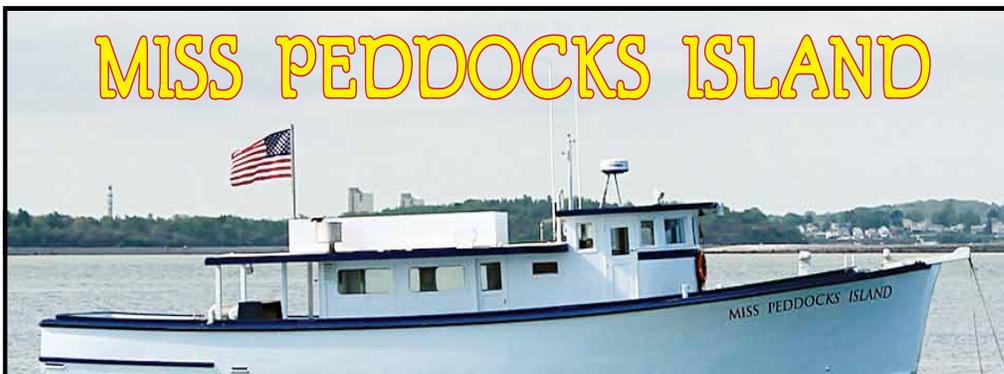
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