

ARTY BY ESTHER



Artist Portfolio

“IT’S PRACTICE THAT COUNTS MOST, NOT BEING BORN WITH SOME MAGICAL TALENT.”

Arty By Esther
Artist



Esther van der Graaf

DATE OF BIRTH: MEI 10, 1963

NATIONALITY: DUTCH

about me

I'm Esther, an artist from the Netherlands, drawn to the quiet moments and the soulful presence of animals. For many years, art was a dream I carried quietly — life had its rhythm, responsibilities, and routines. Yet, there was always a small voice reminding me: this is who you are, this is what you're meant to do. Eventually, I chose to listen.

Working with pastel pencils allows me to translate observation, patience, and emotion into something tangible. Each drawing becomes a conversation between my subject and me — whether it's a wild creature in its natural grace or a beloved pet with a story of its own. The process teaches me to slow down, to notice details that might otherwise go unseen, and to capture the essence of life in subtle gestures, textures, and expressions.

Art is not just my work — it's a reflection of who I am: patient, attentive, and deeply connected to the world around me. Through my drawings, I hope to share that connection, one glance at a time.

Welcome to my world of color, calm, and quiet beauty.

@RARTYBYESTHER

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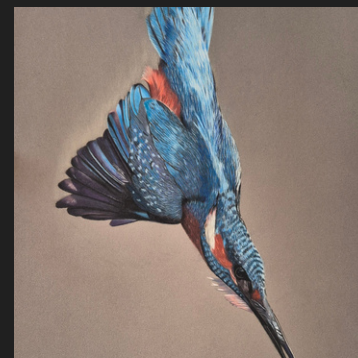
skills & services

HYPER REALISM, MANDALAS, ZENTANGLE



COMMISSIONS

Bring your vision to life. I create custom animal portraits in pastel pencils, capturing every detail and personality. Each piece is a unique collaboration between you, your story, and my art — a timeless keepsake to cherish.



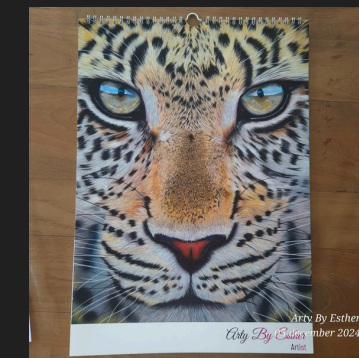
ORIGINALS

Explore my gallery of original pastel drawings. Every artwork is one-of-a-kind, filled with emotion, life, and attention to detail. Perfect for collectors, lovers of nature, or anyone who wants to bring beauty into their home.



WORKSHOPS

Learn to draw Pastels, Mandalas or Zentangle. Discover the art of drawing in a relaxed and inspiring environment! I offer flexible workshops that I can tailor to your agenda 🌸



VOUCHERS & CALENDARS

Give the gift of art. My vouchers and limited-edition calendars make thoughtful presents for friends, family, or yourself. Share the joy of original artwork and inspiration throughout the year.



education & experience

DRAWING COURSE - BEGINNER TO ADVANCED
DRAWING BIRDS: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE
ANIMALS: FROM ANATOMY TO RENDERING

2017
2017
2017

WATERCOLOR - BASIC AQUAREL

2019

HOW TO DRAW A HOUSE

2022

URBAN SCETCHING

2025

Online tutorials

- Colin Bradley: pastel drawing
- Louise de Masi: Aquarel
- Anna Mason: Aquarel
- Jason Morgan: pastel drawing

featured works



"THE TAMARIN"

WILDLIFE

"The Tamarin" is a breathtaking pastel drawing that captures the essence of the emperor tamarin, a small yet captivating primate known for its vibrant colors and intricate features. This unique artwork, showcases the beauty and elegance of one of the most charming creatures of the tropical rainforest. With its fine details and carefully selected pastel hues, the piece evokes the lively energy of the tamarin, bringing its spirit to life on paper.



"ISADORA"

WILDLIFE

The pastel painting captures the mesmerizing beauty of the Irazu hummingbird, also known as the rainbow hummingbird. This unique 50x35cm artwork is created with high-quality pastel pencils, bringing an explosion of colors to life.

With a mix of soft and vivid tones, this piece becomes a true eye-catcher in any interior. The delicate details of the feathers and the play of light make Isadora a dynamic and captivating portrait of this extraordinary bird.



"KING OF GREY"

WILDLIFE

King of Grey is more than just a painting; it is a tribute to the beauty of nature and the intelligence of elephants. The neutral tones fit seamlessly into various decor styles, from modern to rustic. This painting is a conversation starter, bringing an essence of the wild into your home or office. It serves as a reminder of the importance of wildlife conservation and the incredible creatures that share our planet.



TITLE OF WORK

WILDLIFE

Full of curiosity and character, this squirrel comes to life on paper through layers of vibrant pastel pencils. Every hair, shine in the eye, and soft fur detail is carefully crafted to capture its playful spirit and natural charm. A celebration of wildlife in its most lively form.



"Highlander cow"

MEDIUM: PASTEL PENCILS ON PASTELMAT PAPER

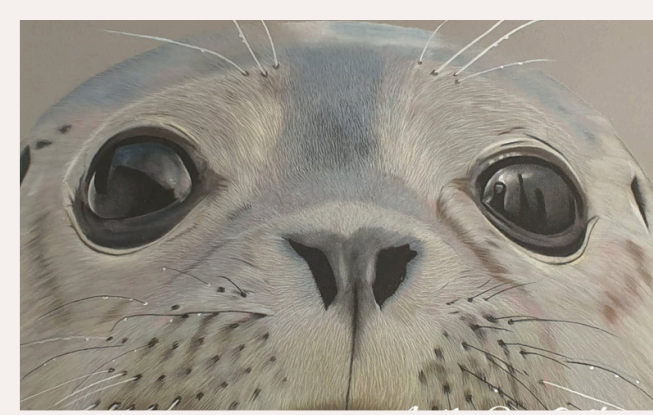
DIMENSIONS: 50X35 CM

YEAR: 2023

DESCRIPTION

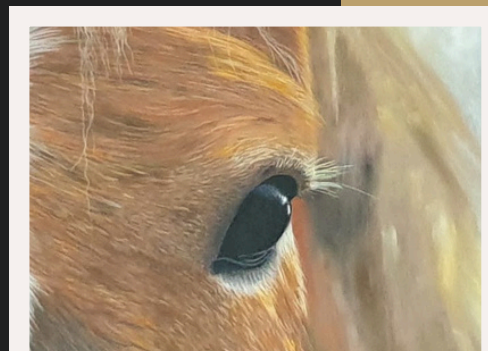
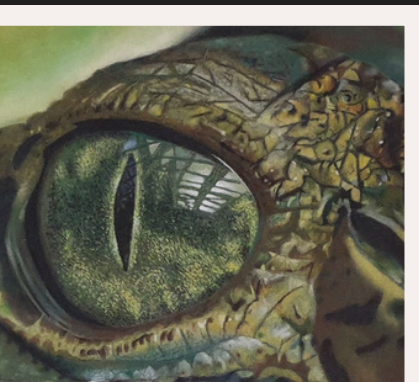
This pastel painting celebrates the majestic Highland Cow, capturing its gentle yet powerful presence. Using high-quality pastel pencils, I focused on the cow's long, flowing coat, bringing texture and depth to life. The earthy tones and soft blending evoke the serene beauty of the Scottish Highlands, making it a perfect piece for nature lovers and art enthusiasts alike.

Each stroke is carefully layered to enhance realism while maintaining the softness characteristic of pastels. This artwork reflects my dedication to capturing wildlife with both accuracy and emotional depth, creating a unique connection between the viewer and the animal.



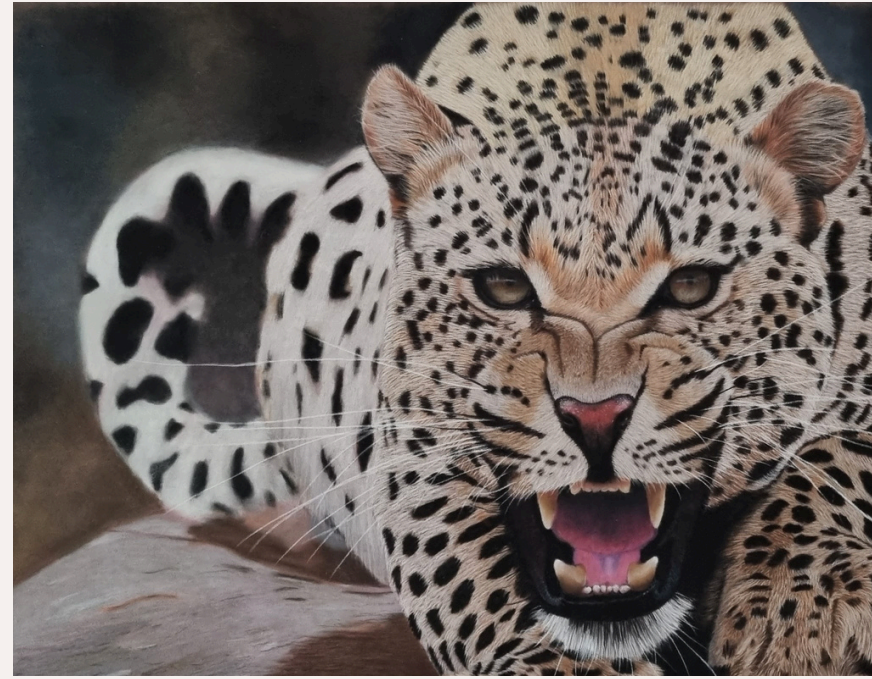
exhibitions

- 2018 B&B het Oranjetipje de Pol 17, de Pol
- Juli 2018 Schoonheidssalon Schoon& Naereboutstraat, 23, Goes
- Oktober 2019 StudioFit, Nieuwerkerk
- November 2019 Studio Potlood, Drunen
- September 2021 Garden Expo, Nieuwerkerk
- December 2021 De Hooijmaat, Arnhem
- December 2022 Runkehl Steiner Vernissage Hochburg
- December 2024 Protestantse Gemeente Nieuwerkerk
- February 2025 Stichting Kunstuitleen Maassluis
- September 2025 Library Zierikzee



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*"Through every drawing I
capture the soul that words cannot
reach."*

This quote captures the heart of my work. Each pastel drawing is more than what meets the eye — it's a connection, a story, a soul translated onto paper. I aim to reveal the quiet moments and emotions that words alone cannot convey, inviting viewers to feel and experience something deeper.

reviews

"BRILLANTLY"

Esther is a brilliantly talented artist. She has produced a quite simply stunning portrait of our dog, Megan, which we will always cherish. I would have no hesitation in recommending Esther for any and all artwork.

"EXCEPTIONAL"

I just wanted to express thanks for the beautiful piece. My wife is over the moon with it and it looks wonderful framed too. Just really exceptional.....

"GROSHARTIGES ERLEBNIS"

Ein großartiges Erlebnis, ein großartiges Bild. Wir waren zu jedem Zeitpunkt in die Entstehung eingebunden, und so wuchs die Vorfreude mit jeder Woche. Absolut 100 empfehlenswert - danke Esther 🙏🌸

"GREAT EXPERIENCE"

I had such a great experience working with Esther for a commissioned pastel drawing of our dog. She communicated well during the process and delivered an amazing work of art at a very reasonable price. I would recommend her without hesitation and I hope to work with her again in the future on other drawings.





Join my artistic journey

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SOCIAL MEDIA: [@ARTYBYESTHER](https://www.instagram.com/artybyesther)

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