



THE 141ST ANNUAL
WESTMINSTER
KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

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For immediate release
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2017 NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART CONTEST WINNER CAPTURES A “VIBRANT CITY STROLL”

Charity Recipient AKC Humane Fund Receiving Original Artwork

New York, NY – Winning artist Kathryn Swenson wanted to create a cosmopolitan look at urban canine diversity when she created “Vibrant City Stroll” for the 2017 New York Academy of Art contest. The winning artwork, a watercolor and graphite depicting multiple breeds out for a leashed walk, will represent the 141st Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in a commemorative poster.

Each year The Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) partners with the Academy for the art contest to create a poster and notecards for charity. The AKC Humane Fund has been selected as the 2017 charity recipient. The selected charity will receive at least \$10,000 in a check presentation at Madison Square Garden and will also receive the original artwork from the New York Academy of Art contest.

The winning artwork was inspired by the diversity of city life, according to Swenson, who visited dog parks and watched people walking a variety of breeds from all over the world.

Born in Lowell, MA, Swenson, a mother of three, learned her love of art from her mother, a grade-school art teacher. She later studied art history and painting at the Massachusetts College of Art & Design. She then went on to earn her MFA in 2008 from the New York Academy of Art. She currently resides in Nashua, NH where she works as an adjunct professor at the New Hampshire Institute of Art. Her current focus is on drawing, watercolors, and portraiture. Visit her at [Facebook.com/Swensonart/](https://www.facebook.com/Swensonart/).

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART CONTEST FINALISTS

In addition to the winner, five additional finalists were selected. All artwork will be utilized in club materials such as note cards, posters and the official Guide and Record Book. The Westminster Kennel Club and the New York Academy of Art thank their shipping sponsor, Cadogan Tate Fine Art (www.cadogantate.com).

Marcelo Daldoce – *“Penny”*

Nick Gebhart – *“Pointer with Sophistication”*

Amy Hughes – “Lottie in Central Park”

Tatiana Ortiz-Rubio – “Australian Shepherd”

Clarissa Wong – “New York’s Finest”

CHARITY RECIPIENT AKC HUMANE FUND

The AKC Humane Fund is committed to supporting the health and happiness of dogs across the country by protecting pets, supporting pet-related organizations and celebrating the human-animal bond. The AKC Humane Fund works to give back to dogs on a broad and sustainable scale through education, grant making and outreach promoting responsible pet ownership.

The AKC Humane Fund is proud to be the leading organization providing financial assistance to domestic abuse shelters that accept pets. These grants make it easier for women’s shelters to welcome pets and help break the cycle of domestic abuse. The Fund is also dedicated to assisting rescue by providing financial assistance to not-for-profit canine rescue groups that are taking on significant, rescue-related expenses. Grants are used to help cover the costs of veterinary care, spaying and neutering and vital supplies.

Visit www.akchumanefund.org to learn more, donate or apply for a grant.

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About The Westminster Kennel Club – The Westminster Kennel Club is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. Established in 1877, Westminster's influence has been felt for more than a century through its famous all-breed, bench dog show held every year at New York City's Madison Square Garden. Today, America's dog show has expanded into Westminster Week which includes the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster, both held at Piers 92/94. More than 3,000 dogs from the US and abroad makes Westminster Week like no other. *Westminster. There's only one.* Visit us at: www.westminsterkennelclub.org or follow [@WKCDOGS](https://twitter.com/WKCDOGS).

About New York Academy of Art

Founded in 1982 by artists, scholars and patrons of the arts, including Andy Warhol, the New York Academy of Art is a graduate school and cultural institution that combines intensive technical training in the fine arts with active critical discourse. The Academy believes that rigorously trained artists are best able to realize their artistic vision. Academy students are taught traditional methods and techniques and encouraged to use these skills to make vital contemporary art. Through major exhibitions, a lively speaker series, and an ambitious educational program, the Academy serves as a creative and intellectual center for all artists dedicated to highly skilled, conceptually aware figurative and representational art.

About The AKC Humane Fund, Inc. - The fund unites animal lovers in promoting the joy and value of responsible pet ownership through education, outreach and grant-making. It's the only public charity that directly supports pets in domestic violence shelters. The Fund also offers Parent Club Breed Rescue grants to dog clubs rescuing and re-homing unwanted dogs and scholarships to reward students pursuing professions that strengthen the human-animal bond. The AKC Humane Fund's Awards for Canine Excellence are given each year to promote the important role dogs play in our lives. Contributions to the AKC Humane Fund are fully tax deductible as allowed by law under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. For more information, visit www.akchumanefund.org.

