

Story of a Painting Commission:

One day I received a call from a woman asking me to do a painting of her driveway when the coreopsis flowers were in bloom. Her husband had recently passed away and she wanted a painting to remember the years they had enjoyed the bright flowers and the pine tree seedlings they had planted together. When I went to visit her to see what she wanted she told me that she had decided she would like to put her husband's tractor in the driveway to remember him by it. I did some sketches and took some photographs and set to work. It struck me that she would always notice the empty tractor and it might make her sad, so I contacted the family and asked what they thought about my surprising her and painting her husband on the tractor. They snuck a few photos of him out of the house for me to use. On the day I was to deliver the painting the family arranged a dinner and unveiling, inviting extended family and friends. I put the painting on an easel in the driveway with them turned away and eyes closed. When I told them they could look she opened her eyes, and exclaimed, "It's him!!" They were all thrilled, and needless to say, so was I!