

TRAGEDY LEADS TO KINDNESS

LAUREN A. MILLS'S BRONZE MAQUETTE OF CATHERINE VIOLET HUBBARD

Sold to benefit the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary
Newtown, Connecticut
cvhfoundation.org

Catherine Violet Hubbard (2006–2012) of Newtown, Connecticut, loved all animals; at age 5, she created business cards for “Catherine’s Animal Shelter,” assigning herself the title “Care Taker.” A year later — on December 14, 2012 — she died with 19 of her first-grade classmates and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Since that tragic day, her family and many admirers have established the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary, aided initially by the state of Connecticut’s 2014 conveyance of 34 acres of meadows, woodlands, and trails to this registered 501(c)3 charity. Today the site welcomes homeless animals, rehabilitates injured wildlife, educates the public about animal welfare and habitat



conservation, and hosts an annual Butterfly Party where people can adopt animals.

Now the Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation is raising funds to erect a six-foot-high bronze sculpture of Catherine that will welcome visitors (both human and animal) to the sanctuary. The gifted Massachusetts artist Lauren A. Mills donated her skill and time

to design the work, which has now reached the armature stage. Before it can be cast, however, significant fundraising must occur, and so Mills has also created 10 bronze maquettes (20 inches high). Signed and numbered, these are now available for purchase at \$8,800 each, a sum that includes a tax-deductible donation to the foundation.

Catherine’s mother, Jenny Hubbard, says that Mills’s maquette “takes my breath away in how it captures Catherine’s gentle spirit,” deftly conveyed through the girl’s expression and pose as she whispers to a butterfly. The full-size sculpture, Hubbard continues, “will help create a place of peace and inspiration where all creatures will know they are safe and people are kind, just as Catherine would want it.”

Everyone is invited to donate to the foundation via its website, whether or not they purchase a maquette. *Fine Art Connoisseur* eagerly looks forward to announcing the full-size sculpture’s unveiling in Newtown once the fundraising is completed.

LAUREN A. MILLS (b. 1957), *Catherine Violet Hubbard*, 2022, bronze [edition of 10], 20 in. high, \$8,800 via cvhfoundation.org

A TRADITION ENDURES

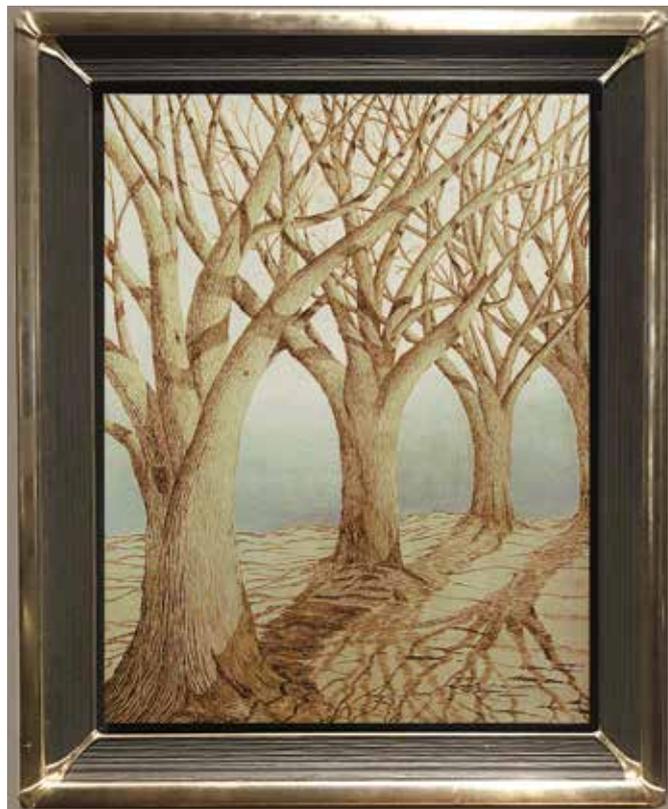
ALAN SHUPTRINE: A GILDED AGE

Florence Academy of Art
Florence, Italy
florenceacademyofart.com
shuptrinesgallery.com
September 12–16

The Tennessee-based artist Alan Shuptrine is renowned for his realist scenes in watercolors and oils, and also for gold leaf, water-gilded panels set in custom-designed, hand-carved frames. (A superb example of the latter is illustrated here.)

This September, Shuptrine will share his expertise in water gilding by offering a five-day workshop at the Florence Academy of Art, a leading center for the study of contemporary realism as it is informed by master-works of the past. This program is open for registration not only to the academy’s regular students, but to anyone else interested in learning this seldom-discussed technique.

Of course, Florence’s museums and churches are filled with some of the world’s most artful gilding, one reason Shuptrine will guide workshop participants through the Uffizi Gallery, calling their attention to various techniques used by the Old Masters.



On view at the Florence Academy at the same time will be *A Gilded Age*, an exhibition of pieces created by Shuptrine, many etched using the centuries-old technique of sgraffito.

ALAN SHUPTRINE (b. 1963), *The Journey*, 2006, 12-karat white gold leaf water-gilded panel, accented with sgraffito designs and displayed in a hand-carved, gold leaf frame, 28 x 21 1/2 in.
