

## Dog Art That Speaks Without Barking Celebrity Dogs Unleashed At Green Chimneys



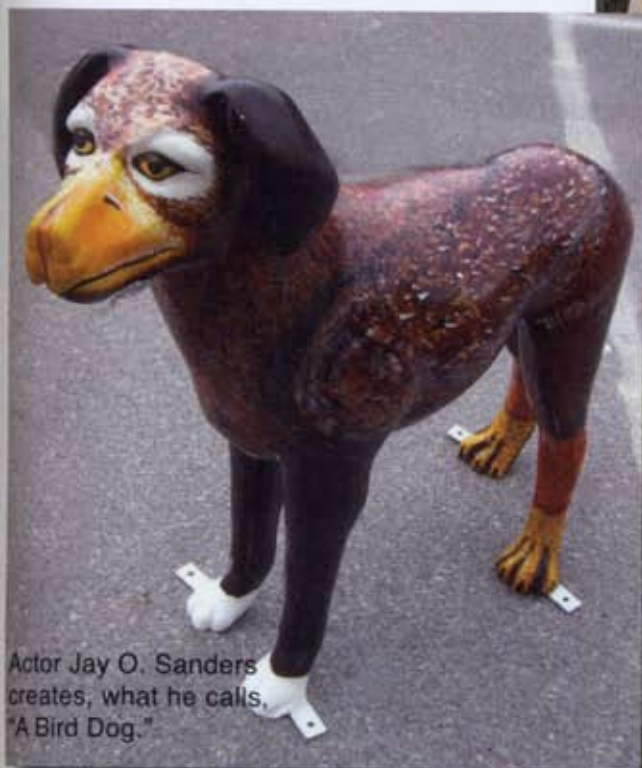
Music mogul Clive Davis, responsible for the superstar careers of Alicia Keys and Whitney Houston, shows off his scrap-book, barking dog.

Many may remember back in 1999 when over 300 life size art exhibition cows took over Chicago. While it did seem somewhat unusual for an urban metropolis to be congested with so many rural farm animals, the truth is that the cows were merely sculptures, decorated by local artists, photographers, designers, architects and celebrities. The city-wide cow décor, now known as CowParade, was so popular it expanded and migrated to all six continents raising millions of dollars for charity.

On the heels of CowParade's success, Green Chimneys, a non-profit organization recognized as the leader in animal-assisted therapy, had a highly creative idea of its own. It was time for the

cows to "moo"ve over in order to make room for the dogs. This fall, Green Chimneys, with the help of over two-dozen celebrities (including *Animal Fair's* own founder, Wendy Diamond), will launch their Celebrity Dogs Unleashed fundraiser with all profits going to Green Chimney's animal-assisted therapy and activities program. "The creativity of our celebrity artists has been mind-boggling," says Green Chimneys board member Carol Bagen, who is the mastermind behind the fundraiser's original concept. "These are one-of-a-kind pieces that will put a smile on every face." There's no surprise that the two dozen plus, hand painted, fiberglass dogs beam with creativity due to the impressive and unique line-up of celebrity artists, ranging from actors, gourmet chefs, politicians to business moguls.

Chevy Chase and his daughter Cydney go for a hippie power look with their decorated dog.



Actor Jay O. Sanders creates, what he calls, "A Bird Dog."

A favorite of many of the students at Green Chimneys is Martha Stewart's decorated chocolate lab because it looks good enough to eat. Fellow kitchen TV personality Rachel Ray chose a less realistic feel when decorating her orange dog complete with glasses and matching scarf flying in the wind.

Of the actors involved in the project, dog-lover Glenn Close chose to poke fun at her villainous *101 Dalmatians* character, Cruella DeVille. While she did "Dalmatian" the dog up, instead of the traditional black and white, Close painted her dog sky blue with multicolored spots, adorning it with a sign that reads "Too Cool For Cruella." Other actors such as Vanessa Williams (a Green Chimneys advisory board member) and Richard Gere chose to pay homage to man's (and woman's) best friend by decorating it as lifelike as possible. Comedian Chevy Chase and his daughter Cydney on the other hand went for a more hippie 1960s psychedelic feel. Other actors to come up with their own, original concepts include Dan Aykroyd and wife Donna Dixon, Jane Powell, Jay O. Sanders, and Stanley Tucci.

Other celebrities partaking in the fundraiser include legendary Primatologist Jane Goodall; environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr.; athletes Mike Richter and Bill Walton; musicians Fiona Apple, Cindy Lauper, Billy Joel, and Latin pop group Menudo; record executive Clive Davis; and TV personalities that include Judge Judy, Paul Shaffer, and, as mentioned earlier, our very own Wendy Diamond. Look out for Diamond's dog, sparkling in Swarovski crystals and topped of with a chic collar and Tiffany dog tag, reminding us all that diamonds are a dog's best friend.

All dogs will be on display in October at the Jumeirah Essex House in New York City in both the hotel and in the windows of its South Gate Restaurant on Central Park South. Green Chimneys also hopes to display the pups at various other locations this fall. To take part and purchase your very own, you will have to wait until October to see all celebrity designed dogs that will be placed up for auction on [CharityFolks.com](http://CharityFolks.com).



TV star Rachel Ray and her designed dog that looks as good as something Ray cooks in the kitchen, Yum-O!



Martha Stewart's Chocolate Lab looks good enough to eat, just remember it's fiber glass and paint, not chocolate!

“The creativity of our celebrity artists has been mind-boggling.”



Local artist Katherine Petitti-Kornel poses with her very green dog custom made for Green Chimneys.

Founded in 1947 by Dr. Samuel B. Ross, Green Chimneys has grown from an eleven-student school to a non-profit organization that has garnered the attention of over 25,000 generous contributors. "I've been here 60 years and I never dreamed 60 years ago that Green Chimneys would evolve to what it is today. I think I had a vision but the vision has not only been realized but it has been expanded," Ross told *Animal Fair*, adding that this expanded vision has got him into a few, minor problems along the way. "My problem now is I'm married 54 years and I have a gem of a wife who would love me to get up some morning and talk about something other than Green Chimneys, but I don't know if that will happen."

In addition to their numerous programs for youth, Green Chimneys also has a Farm and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Horticulture Therapy and award winning student gardens, all open to visitors on the weekends. "It's more than just having a pet around," Ross says, "It's being in a world of nature and the environment. Now we're being highlighted all over the world because everyone's going green, but we've always been green!"



Bobby Kennedy, Jr. takes off with his dog.

Ross' ego cannot be as inflated as his heart because his organization only continues to grow and will continue to grow, changing the lives of so many people, animals, and the face of the environment.

For more information visit: [GreenChimneys.org](http://GreenChimneys.org).

– David Andrejko