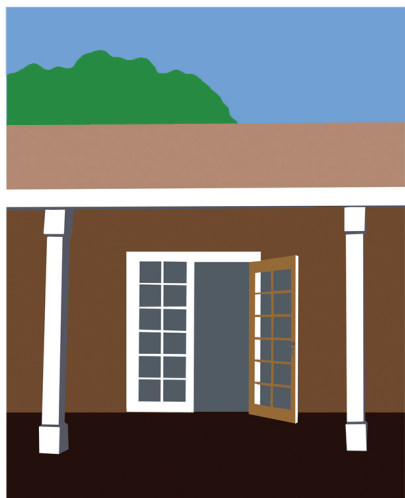


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Amy Stein, *Breaking Bad*'s portrait artist

"ART, LIKE ACTING, is a powerful form of communication," says Amy Stein. In 2007, the portraitist found herself at the intersection of those expressions when a production company commissioned three pieces for the set of a then-obscure TV pilot. As Stein later discovered, the pieces were portraits of the characters Walter, Walter Jr., and Skyler White, and the TV pilot was *Breaking Bad*, which became a cultural phenomenon. Stein's portraits went on to appear in the Museum of the Moving Image, but the pieces represent only part of her more than 30-year career.

The Bronx, New York, transplant understood the power of portraiture at age 9, when she drew her own face. "I felt at that moment that I had drawn myself into existence," she says. With an MFA from the City University of New York in hand, Stein went on to capture high drama as a courtroom sketch artist, create poster images for Santa Fe's Indian Market and the city's 400th-anniversary celebration, exhibit at weekend summer shows with the Santa Fe Society of Artists, and instruct both children and adults. Her private workshops, she says, focus on "healing the self," as Stein sees the psychological and artistic implications of the self-image as intertwined. One bit of proof: In the final episode of *Breaking Bad* [possible spoiler alert], Skyler White, now in a paltry apartment with only her most prized possessions, has kept the family portraits that preserve the life that once was.

—Ashley M. Biggers



Above: *Walter White Portrait on the Set of Breaking Bad (Bryan Cranston)*, charcoal and pastel on paper, 18 x 24".
Left: *The Angel*, gouache on watercolor paper, 22 x 30".



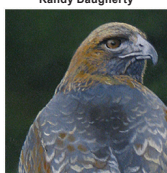
Misha Malpica



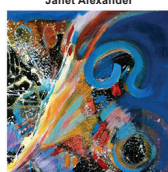
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