

LORIN MARSH



Sydney, the Showroom Dachshund

LORRAINE SCHACHT AND SHERRY MANDELL,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

“He popped his head out of a litter of miniature Dachshunds, and forty minutes later we had him,” explains Lorraine Schacht, as we sit on the expansive veranda of their East Hampton home. It is late summer and the back yard is overflowing with white flowers of every imaginable variety. Sydney, their beloved Miniature Dachshund is in one of his favorite spots, curled up on the lap of his other mistress, Sherry Mandell, who gently strokes



A Dachshund tote bag hangs in the breakfast room



Sherry and Sydney greet visitors to their home in East Hampton

Sydney greets customers at the Lorin Marsh showroom in Manhattan



Sherry and Lorraine relax with Sydney, in the Lorin Marsh showroom

his ear as we speak. “We were walking down Third Avenue, when we looked into the shop window,” explains Sherry, “and these little puppies were climbing over one another. Sydney popped his head out from this pile of fur, and it was this double dappled Dachshund, just eight weeks old. We couldn’t believe it. He had the power to make us walk into the store. Usually we would say ‘Oh, how cute,’ and keep going. But we walked in the store and said, ‘Oh, can we hold him?’ And that was that!”

Sydney is one of the most beloved dogs in New York City, not only because Lorraine and Sherry adore him, but also because Sydney travels everywhere with them: to their homes in Manhattan, East Hampton and Miami, as well as to work, where Sydney greets his public. Every day that he is in the city, he goes to work at Lorin Marsh, in Manhattan’s famous Design and Decoration building on Third Avenue. Lorin Marsh was founded by Lorraine Schacht and Sherry Mandell in 1975. The company designs and manufactures unique custom furniture and accessories, which are sold to the design trade from their 10,000 square foot showroom.



Christine Merrill, Sydney Oil on panel, 12 x 10 inches

Sydney is of course in his element at the showroom, choosing the most comfortable chair or ottoman to perch on, where he greets new and repeat customers to the store. As Lorraine explains, “He is loved in the showroom. We call him the showroom dog. He poses. People walk in and they go, ‘I don’t believe that. Is it real?’ And he’s lying on the sofa and doesn’t move until someone walks over to him and pets him. And he’s fine with that. He loves the attention. I have some customers who always ask after him. They want to play with him for a while because they love him. He’s very, very playful and he loves people.” Sydney also goes to the warehouse once a week, where the accommodations are not as deluxe. As Lorraine explains, “When he goes to the warehouse, we sit on two very ugly desk chairs, and he has one, but it’s

usually not pulled up to the desk. So he sort of sits there and ‘grrrrrrrs’ until his chair gets pulled up to the desk. And then he’s alright. Then he watches people walk through the door or people working, but he has to sit on his own chair and no other.”

When he is not at work, Sydney is the quintessential social animal, learning early on from Lorraine and Sherry how to behave in public and at social events. As Sherry explains, he was not difficult to train, “We did get a trainer for him when he was a puppy because that’s what people say you should do. We got a small dog because we are in the city and we wanted to be able to manage him and keep him happy, you know. He loves people. He loves to be acknowledged by them. He was trained very early on for cocktail parties and dinner parties.”

And there are a lot of parties for Sydney. Lorraine and Sherry are always on the go, hosting dinner parties and luncheons as well as their annual cocktail party for the Hampton Designer Show House, benefiting Southampton Hospital, with over 200 people attending. Sydney takes it in his stride. “He fits into our hands, he fits into our arms and he fits into our life,” exclaims Sherry. “Everything about him just fits. And how he was, allowed him to be fully integrated into our lives.” “But,” continues Lorraine, “he has one interesting habit that can be a challenge. When we spend an evening together and he’s ready to go to bed, he makes sure that I take him upstairs. He does not like to go upstairs to sleep without me. Isn’t that sweet? The only problem is that sometimes you are in the middle of a dinner party and you really don’t care to leave the dinner table, but Sydney will bark until I take him up to bed!”

Dachshund images appear throughout Lorraine and Sherry’s home



Sydney on a white wicker sofa on the veranda in East Hampton

Lorraine and Sherry’s home in East Hampton is filled with beautiful furniture and fine objects, but one corner in the breakfast room is reserved for the many Dachshund related items that people have given them in honor of Sydney. Books, pictures and plates are all grouped together near Sydney’s little house, but they have reserved a special place in the living room for Christine Merrill’s portrait of Sydney, a gift from good friends of theirs. Sydney is the couple’s first and only dog, and they are besotted with him. “We have one portrait of Sydney when he was a puppy, which we like very much,” explains Sherry, “but we always admired Christine’s technique and how she is able to capture the unique expression of each dog.”

“We were delighted to be given such a wonderful gift, and we actually participated in its creation. We talked between us about how we would like Sydney posed,” explains Sherry, “but we could not make up our minds. So as a surprise, Christine did three adorable little sketches of Sydney, just to show us how the finished painting might look. We chose our favorite, and Christine based the finished painting on it.” Lorraine and Sherry were very happy with the finished portrait, and it now hangs in their East Hampton home, where all of Sydney’s friends can see it. “We haven’t decided yet, but we may take it into the showroom so that our clients can see it when they come by. He is a showroom dog, after all.”