

STEP BY STEP

SCRATCHBOARD & COMMENTARY BY ANN RANLETT, MSA

Ranlett, MSA

- Materials used:
- Ampersand Scratchbord, 12" x 9"
 - Pitt Artist Marker
 - Saral Transfer Paper - white
 - Koh-i-noor Rapidograph Pens: nib sizes 000, 00
 - X-Acto Knife - #16 Blade
 - Koh-i-noor UltraDraw Ink
 - Disposable Tattoo Needle: Round Shader
 - Lascaux UV-Protect 3 (Semi-Matte): sealer
 - Derwent Inktense Pencils



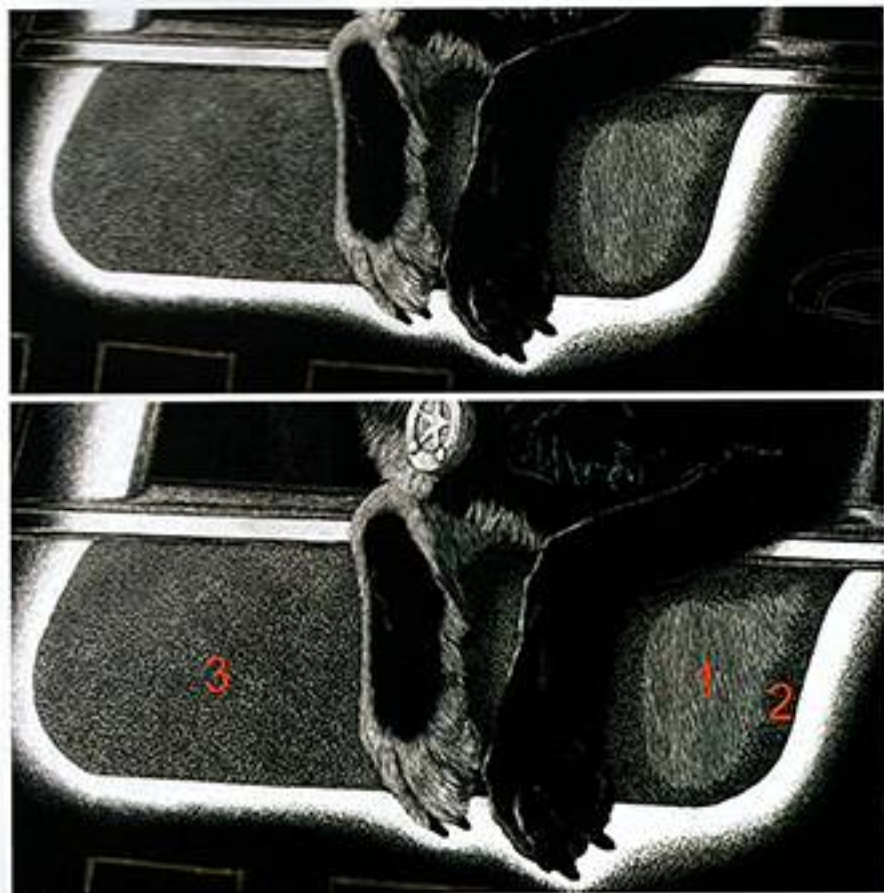
STAGE 1:
After cropping & sizing my reference photo to the size of the Scratchbord (12" x 9"), I use white Saral Transfer Paper to transfer the critical features of my reference photograph to the board. In this image, you can see I've already done some scratching. Generally, I use the tip of the #16 blade to create fine lines, but here, I've also used the edge to scrape away areas of the police cruiser that are solid white. The short story of scratchboard is that I'm "drawing white with a knife". Underneath the thin top coat of black is a white clay layer - by scratching the black away, the white is revealed.



STAGE 2:
In planning this drawing, I decided to create a vignette effect of the cruiser around the dog. Where the scraped areas of the cruiser blend into the areas I've chosen to leave black, I stippled using small scratch strokes to create white and the technical pen to add black.
At this stage I scratched around the "STAY AWAY" lettering and have scratched the S & T to make them lighter. I used the tattoo needle on the lettering, they're great for really gentle scratching & blending. The needle is clipped away from the shaft and inserted in a clutch pencil.

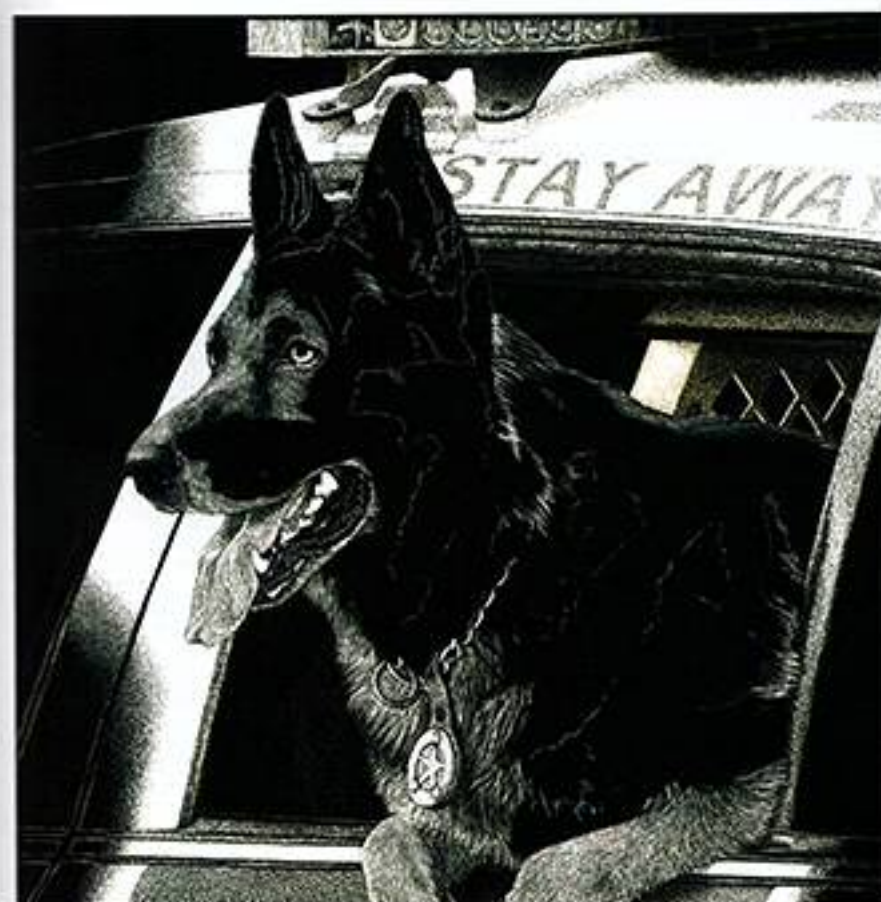


STAGE 3:
I knew I would have no trouble rendering the dog in this piece, so I tackled the cruiser first. I had a vision in my head, and wanted to make sure that was going to work before I spent time on the dog. At this point, I'm satisfied with the overall look and have started working on the dog. The line-work on the cruiser was too obvious, so I knocked it back with a Pitt Artist Marker, one of the warm grey tones.

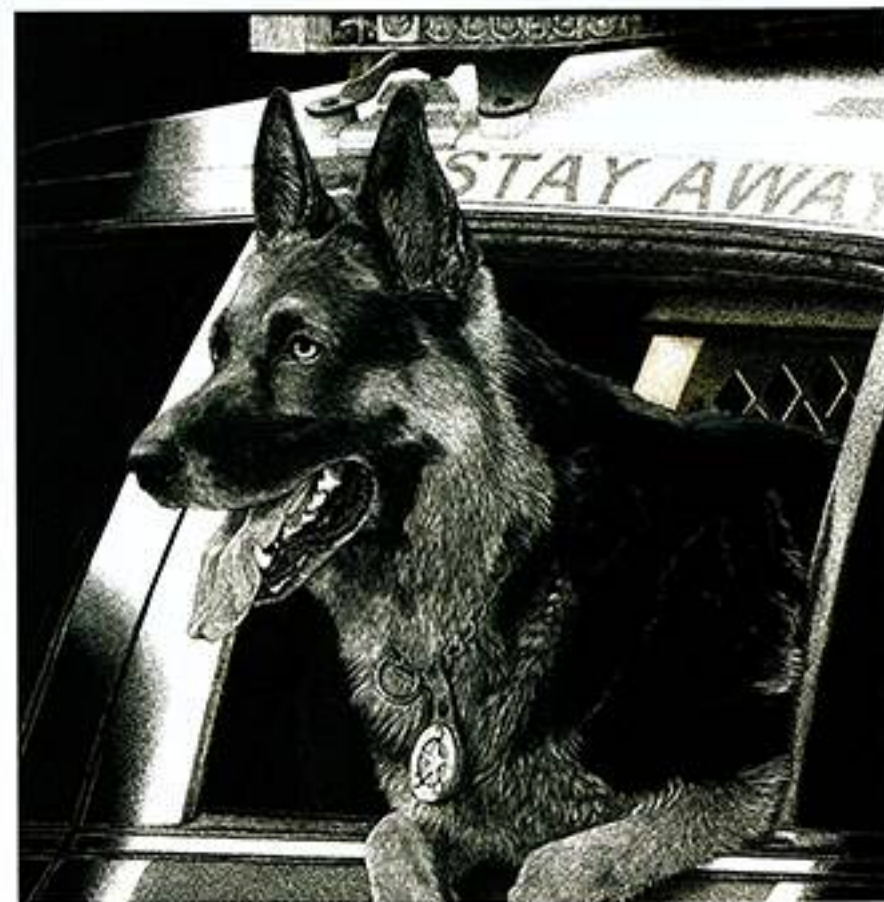


STAGE 4:
I've finished scratching the lettering and have done more work on the dog. One of the more time-consuming parts of this drawing was the pad under the dog's feet. To achieve the gradient texture, I scratched, stippled (with tech pen), scratched more, stippled more, and then scratched/stippled in select areas to blend.

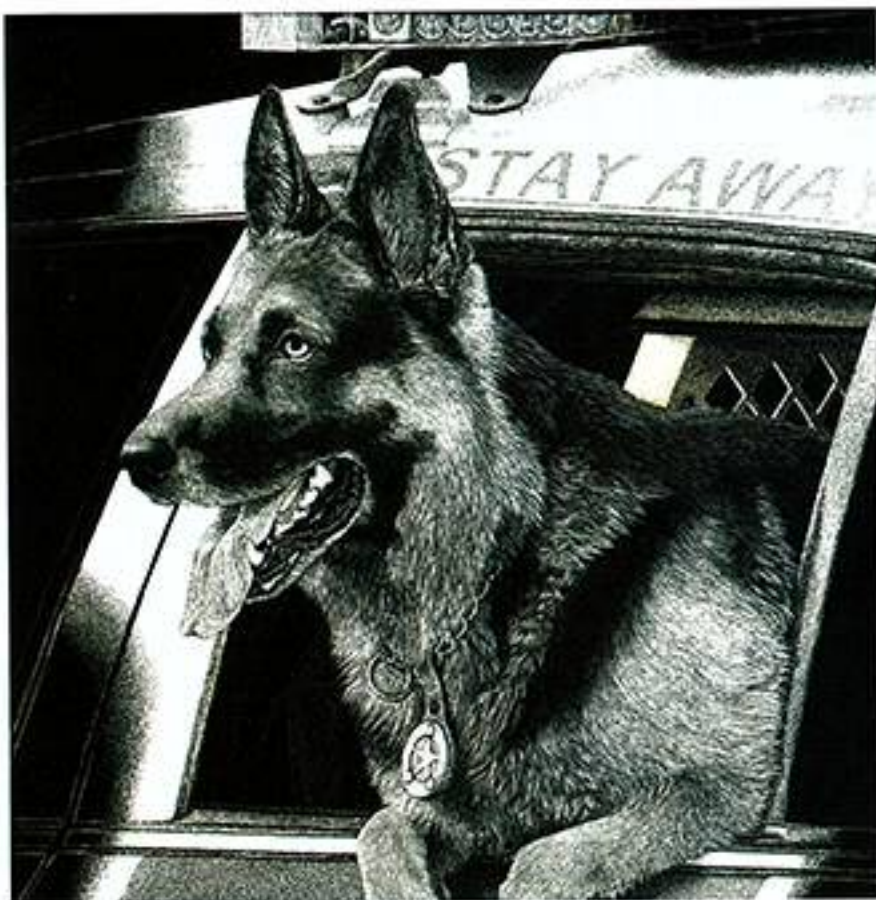
Explanation of numbered areas:
On the right section (#1), in the middle, is the first layer of scratching - a rough linear pattern. Around that (#2), is a layer of stippling (with a tech pen) that goes on top of the scratching. That center area (#1), will be. On the left (#3), I've done all the stippling and then knocked it back with light scratching. Now that area needs a little more stippling to fill in gaps and then more scratching to blend it.



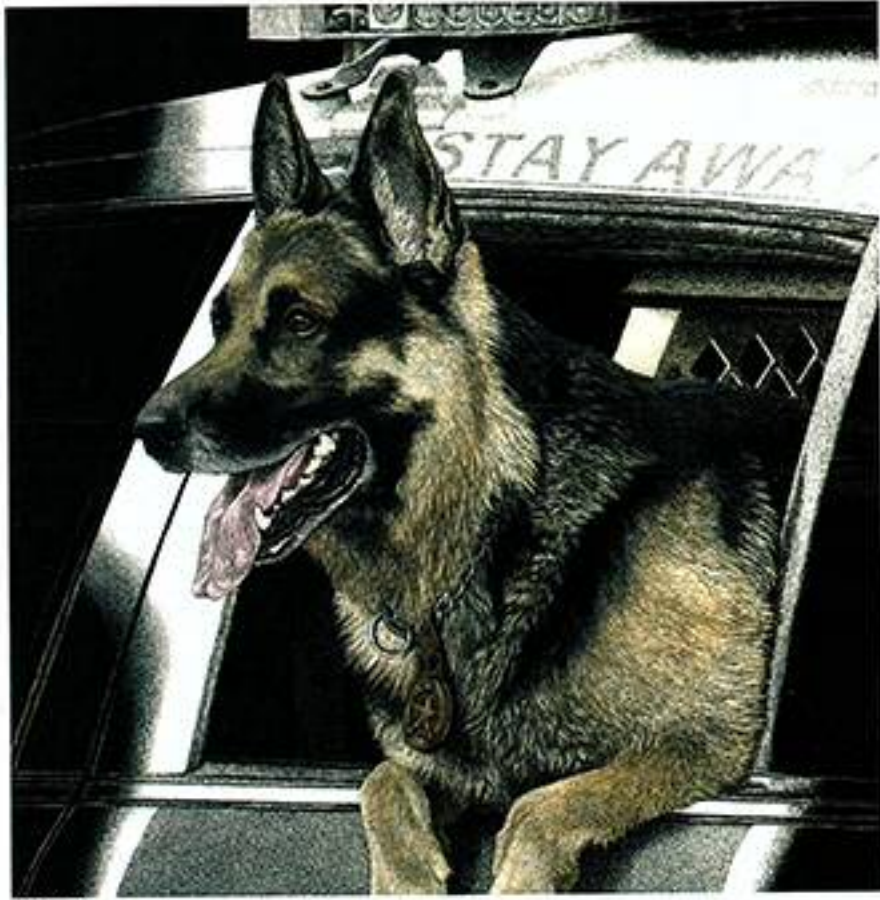
STAGE 5:
The pad under the dog's feet is finished and I'm continuing work on the dog.



STAGE 6:
Nearing completion of the scratching on the dog.



STAGE 7:
Scratching complete, ready for color. Any white area will accept color, the color doesn't have any effect on the portions left black.



STAGE 8:
The final, colored drawing. To color this drawing, I used Derwent Inktense Pencils, but I do not color directly on the board. I mix the colors with water & a brush on a palette and paint them on. Because the drawing is nearly finished at the "all scratched" stage, coloring does not take a lot of time. After the first pass of color, I did a little fine tuning with scratching/coloring in select areas, but it's not very obvious, so I did not include that intermediate scan.
Final Step, not shown:
The completed drawing is sprayed with 4 - 5 coats of the Lascaux sealer and does not need to be framed under glass.

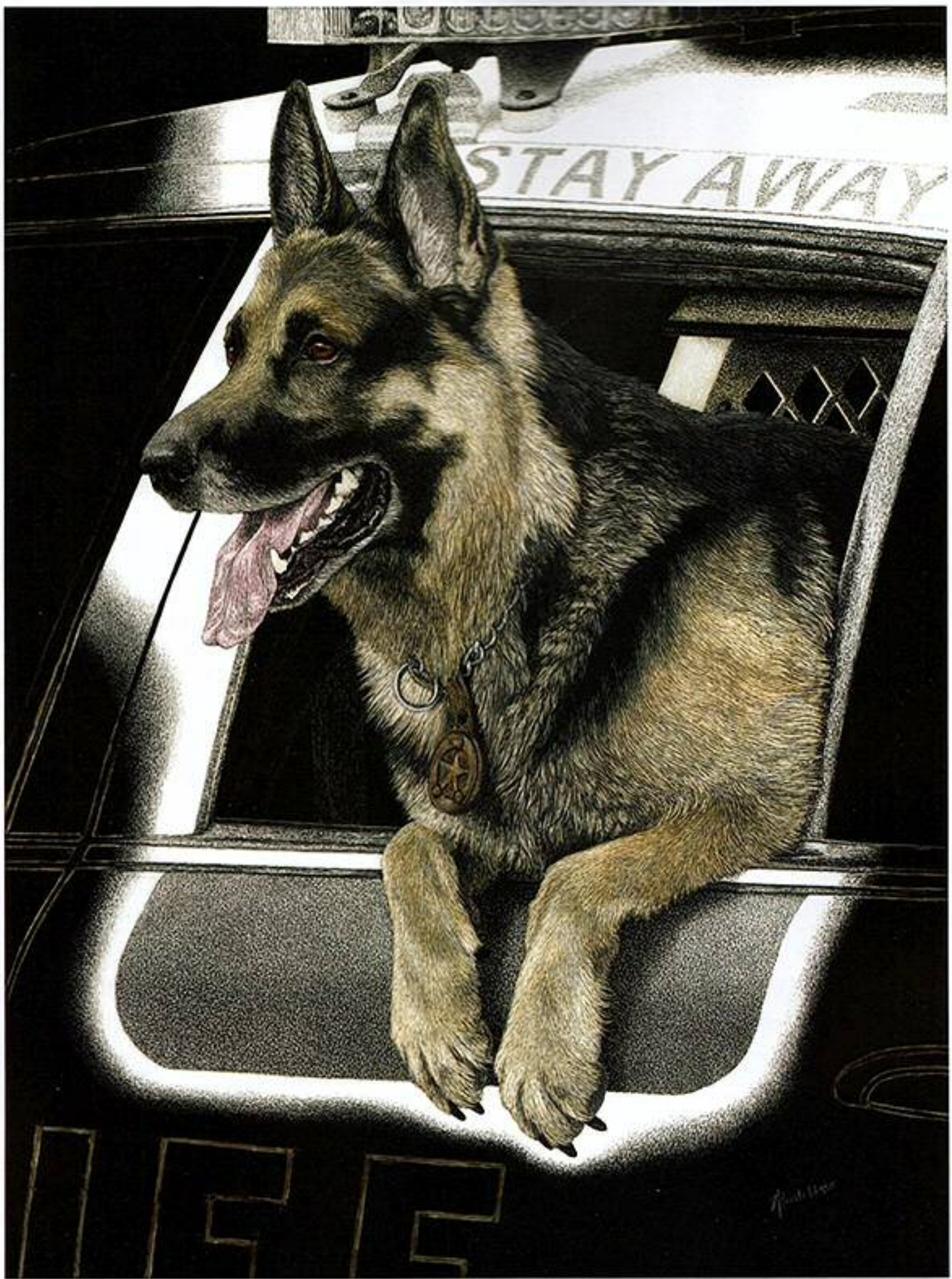


STAGE 7 DETAIL:
A close-up of the pad under the dog's feet and the completely scratched feet.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A graduate of California State University, Sacramento, with a bachelor's degree in biology, Ann is a Master member (MSA) of the International Society of Scratchboard Artists (ISSA), and an Associate member of the Society of Animal Artists. She has been drawing since she could hold a crayon. Animals have always been her muse, although she also enjoys nature subjects and is not averse to trying her hand at vehicles or chrome. Ann worked in pen & ink for many years, but when she discovered professional quality scratchboard at an illustrator's conference workshop in the late 90's she was hooked. "It truly was a light bulb moment", she says, "I discovered that a good quality scratchboard allows for great detail but is also forgiving".

www.ScratchboardArtByAnn.com



Scratchboard Drawing of K-9 Ronin, a German Shepherd with the Sacramento (CA) Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit.

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