



PHOTOS/JOANN VITELLI



JUST THE FACTS

Costs range from \$125 to \$300,

depending on the size of the drawing and the complexity of the detail. A watercolor wash adds up to \$75. For more information and a tour through Barbara McGinity's cyber-showroom, visit www.inkhouseportraits.com.

Home sweet home

Local artist Barbara McGinity renders houses immortal for families, real estate agents

The magnetic pull of home, a force both sentimental and inspirational, resonates in Barbara McGinity's studio. Working in a loft in her Marietta home after a full day processing medical insurance claims, McGinity draws portraits of houses.

People commission the drawings to immortalize a favorite home. They frame the pictures, put the images on note cards or invitations, and give limited-edition prints to each member of the family. Real estate agents give the drawings as housewarming gifts.

McGinity typically works from photographs, piecing together the best angle

of homes far away. It's a luxury when she gets to visit the home in person.

Yet, even from a distance, she is able to capture the feeling of the house, showcasing the features that express the home's personality.

"People love the personal detail," she said. "It's not an architectural rendering; it's all freehand. I use sunlight and shade to add depth and emphasize certain features."

Drawing first in pencil and then rendering the portrait with fine strokes of black ink, the images convey places of the heart and a sense of permanence, refuge and charm. She adds a watercolor wash, upon request,

to intensify the spirit of the piece.

McGinity has been drawing since she was a child, but she did not begin making income as an artist until 25 years ago. Her work life began with the Red Cross in Korea in the late 1960s, followed by work as a stock trader, a picture-framer and a nutritional supplement salesperson. She devoted much of those years to raising two children.

She continues to seek out creative challenges. Experimenting with charcoal and oil-based color, she now is working on portraits of people.

— Jan Costello