

friends and Friends

This show is happening because of the picture of Margaret Richie. I painted/pastelled it in the 1990s, at her suggestion. I think it is one of my better pictures, but I've rarely shown it, I think it was in a show at Cary Library early on, but since then has hung on the second-floor landing at 6 Upland.

Margaret was the wife of Dr Robert Richie, who had an office on Story St in Cambridge. They had five children, after the fourth Margaret lived in her own version of reality, still a very intelligent, interesting person but with some detours. She came regularly to midweek meeting in the early 1990s.

We got to be friends, often walking to her husband's office and going out for lunch after meeting.

I was in an early period of my pastel works, had set up the studio with a model stand, Arthur had made me a good easel and it was a hopeful time. Margaret wanted to pose, got up her costume, and we had a good time making the picture which she titled "The Question".

Within the next year she was diagnosed with incurable stomach cancer.

As well as wanting to show off my good work, I want to honor Margaret.

A show of friends and Friends is a good place for her picture.

Another good place in my artist life was facilitating a portrait group at Lexington Arts and Crafts - now called LexArt – for thirty years. In the search for models, I often recruited members of FMC. I have a fine trove of sketches done there for friends and Friends. Some are more finished than others, Chuck Woodbury for instance, but I think they are all recognizable.

So it all came together, and here it is.

-Sara Sue Pennell