



SOCIETY OF EQUESTRIAN ARTISTS

Newsletter

February 2007



Annual Exhibitions

www.equestrianartists.co.uk

*AT THE MALL GALLERIES, LONDON SW1
Monday 16th July to Saturday 21st July 2007*

*AT PALACE HOUSE, NEWMARKET,
Thursday 4th October to Saturday 20th October 2007*

*AT YORKO GALLERY, HARROGATE,
Saturday 21st April to Saturday 12th May 2007*

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 29th April 2007 - 1.30pm



President - The Rt Hon The Lord Oaksey OBE

SOCIETY OF EQUESTRIAN ARTISTS

www.equestrianartists.co.uk
enquiries@equestrianartists.co.uk

Dear SEA Member,

I do hope that you spent a wonderful Christmas but of course now its back to the grindstone for all of us as we prepare for the events of 2007.

It is difficult to believe that another year has passed since I sat down to write the January report for 2006 which of course was particularly important in setting the scene for the Annual Exhibition.

In the September Newsletter I indicated that the financial result of the exhibition was very favourable despite the poor sales at the private view, and we were hoping for a similar situation at Newmarket.

Once again, many people thought that the content was excellent as we opened the exhibition but for some reason that we are still trying to understand, the attendance at the private view was disappointing and the sales were accordingly low.

We had worked hard on publicity around Newmarket however, and we experienced a steady flow of visitors into Palace House, over the course of the next two weeks, including two art lovers who purchased, 'The Ploughing Match' by Malcolm Coward and 'Dancing on the Headland' by Michael Miller which helped boost the revenue considerably, and it was also very pleasing that Malcolm, Katie Sodeau and Janette Lockett all sold three paintings each in the course of the event.

When the dust finally settled on both exhibitions, we were pleased that the efforts of so many helpers, and the decision to take the shared gallery at the Mall seemed justified, when the financial result came out as a minimal financial loss, which had been our target at the start of the year.

This position means that the Society will finish the year with a reasonable surplus, which is quite a turn around after significant losses in 2004 and 2005

The financial details will of course be available following the accountants audit, and reviewed at the AGM, but we will be happy to send the accounts to any member who is interested and not able to attend the meeting.

We now need to develop a plan to sustain this achievement for the exhibitions this year and within the good news reported earlier we do have concerns that the sales at both private views were poor at both events and approx. 30% of the sales revenue was generated from just three paintings, a position that may not be repeated on a future occasion.

The situation of the PV at the London event was eased greatly by the private drinks party put on by the Saddle Club of the HAC where we sold as many pieces of work as at the official PV, but unfortunately, it would appear that they do not return to the scene of their crimes on consecutive years. We will of course be trying to find another partner this year, and apart from the effect on the SEA it is a good situation for any group wishing to hold a party / business meeting etc. in London since the rate of hire under these conditions is very attractive.

If any member is aware of any group that might wish to take advantage of this position, please contact me and I will send details as soon as possible.

One of the other major factors in the financial turnaround was using the Mall Galleries in this particular week and sharing in effect with the East Anglia Marine Artists and I am pleased that we have been able to negotiate a similar situation for 2007.

As before, this week falls within an intensive period of activity for the gallery, and I would ask you to follow the dates carefully for the submission & handing in.

Last year we decided that the 'preselection' process for 'Friends' should be an optional choice and agreed also to accept digital images for the first time. Virtually every artist taking advantage of the procedure chose to send in digital images and this method will be employed this year together with the opportunity of sending photographic prints of a minimum size. This process is designed to confirm whether it would be worthwhile to transport works to selection on the handing in day, and is strongly recommended for Friends living any significant distance from London. If as a friend, you choose this option, then your images should be sent with the form to John Jacobs, as indicated in the appropriate page of the newsletter.

Making this process optional does put more pressure on the helpers at the handing in day, and last year I added to this stress by opening the doors before the published times which meant that the receiving desk did not have sufficient time to prepare adequately.

This year we will prioritise work from any Full Members who arrive before 9.30 am in order to give the panel the opportunity of establishing a bench mark to judge all works, and we will begin accepting work from Associates and Friends from 10.30 am.

We have included a separate sheet of details relating to the selection process in this Newsletter which hopefully will be of use in planning your day if bringing work along to the Mall Galleries.

A decision has also been taken to return to Palace House in the autumn once again taking in the period that covers the important race meetings together with the Yearling Sales.

As you are aware the Northern Exhibition has become another important event for the Society. This year it will be based in Harrogate, and I am sure that the event will be a great success as usual.

We will publish further details relating to the exhibitions over the next few months both on the Website and in the next newsletter; but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or particularly if you have any ideas that may help to achieve the objectives for this year.

The AGM will also provide a forum for information relating to the important events before us, and I do hope to see as many of you as possible at Stevenage on Sunday 29th April.

This meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss your concerns, and express any views relating to the administration of your society, and in addition to the important business side of the meeting it is a day to meet old friends, and just enjoy coming up to date with equestrian art in all its forms.

The meeting is also of course an important event to those artists bringing a portfolio for promotion to Full Member and I do hope that many Full Members will make the trip in order to cast a vote.

With the much better financial result behind us for 2006, we have decided this year to offer refreshments and sandwiches for those attending the meeting and we anticipate this light lunch being available from Midday

In the September Newsletter I gave notice of the proposal that had been initiated at the AGM regarding the opportunity to change the terminology related to all grades of membership.

At the time, we believed that it was the type of issue that deserved a debate across the membership. I would like to thank those of you who contacted me to give views and I am grateful also to those committee members who researched the subject among their group so that we were able to discuss with this information behind us at the November meeting. The feedback tended to support the view that making changes as proposed might well cause more harm than good, and at this time, the vote was in favour of retaining the current names for each grade of membership for the foreseeable future.

At this time in the year it is incumbent on me to mention the subject of subscriptions. We have recently made a change to administration whereby James Moor (our Treasurer) will now assume responsibility for maintaining the membership database. A first examination of the complete database has indicated that a significant proportion of our members have not paid the subscription for 2006. We will be examining the database very closely to verify the status before sending reminder letters, but if in the mean time you recognise that you may have overlooked the payment for 2006 we would be really grateful to receive the appropriate sum which of course would mean a reduction of work required by our voluntary membership administration. It is opportune also to remind those members who have not paid for 2007 that subs are now due.

I would just repeat the plea to those members who pay income tax, and have not previously made arrangements to gift aid their subscription, as we are able to reclaim 28% of each sum from Gordon Brown, giving a welcome boost to the income of the Society. If you wish to help in this way, it only requires the completion of the bottom part of the standing order form enclosed in the newsletter which can be detached and forwarded to the Treasurer. It is understood also that we can actually make a claim for each individual going back over the last few years, not only tax year 2005 -2006.

Finally, I have been asked by a number of members to give a list of the prizes available at the Annual Exhibition. We have still to check and therefore confirm that the usual kind souls will be donating again but I have listed the prize winners of 2006 in the Newsletter which I hope will be a useful guide for this year.

I do hope that I have been able to put over the key decisions for the coming year, in a way that is interesting to you, further information being available from your local representatives or of course by contacting me directly. My contact details are included elsewhere in this newsletter; and I would be delighted to hear from you regarding any aspects related to our Society.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible at the AGM, then later at the exhibitions, and I wish you every success in your work for 2007.

With kindest regards,

Chairman
David Gell

President
President - The Rt Hon The Lord Oaksey OBE

Hon Secretary
John Jacobs

Annual Exhibition

www.equestrianartists.co.uk

*AT THE MALL GALLERIES, LONDON SW1
Monday 16th July to Saturday 21st July 2007*

*AT PALACE HOUSE, NEWMARKET
Thursday 4th October to Saturday 20th October 2007*

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY and INFORMATION SHEET **Please read this information before completing the Entry Form**

KEY DATES

Return of Entry Forms:	Friends: Images and Forms by 3rd June Associate Members and Full Members: (Forms only) - 17th June
Handing-in and Selection:	Sunday 24th June from 10.30am. to 3,30pm. (FM's from 9.30am.) at The Mall Galleries
Private Views:	Mall Galleries - Monday 16th July 6.30 to 9.00pm Palace House - Thursday 4th October 6.30 to 9pm
Opening times and duration of Public Exhibitions	Mall Galleries: Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm Saturday 10am to 1pm Palace House: Weekdays 9.30 am. to 5 pm Saturdays 9.30 to 4pm
Collection of unsold work	Mall Galleries: Unsold work may either: Be collected from the Mall Galleries between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Sat. 21st July, or Stored/shipped under other arrangements AT ARTISTS' EXPENSE
PRIVATE VIEW AND PRIZE-GIVING	All Full Members, Associate Members and Friends are entitled to attend the Private Views and may be accompanied by a partner or guest. Invitations will be issued at a later date.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY:	Entry of work is restricted to members of the Society whose current membership subscription, has been paid.
FORMAT OF WORK:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work must be original and the subjects must be equestrian.• Entries may be in any medium.
ENTRY FEE:	The Entry Fee is £5 for each work submitted. This covers both Exhibitions, and must be sent with the Entry Form. No refunds will be made.
NUMBER OF WORKS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FULL MEMBERS may submit a maximum of six works.• ASSOCIATE MEMBERS may submit a maximum of four works.• FRIENDS may submit a maximum of three works.
PRELIMINARY SELECTION (Required for Friends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary selection is an inexpensive process designed to confirm that it should be worth shipping/carrying your works to the Handing-In Day• Friends should send reasonably high definition images (JPEG up to 100 kb) by email to images2007@equestrianartists.co.uk with the form being sent to John Jacobs, or on a CD to the same postal address (given below) also accompanied by the form.• Friends may also submit an entry using a high quality photographic print (Minimum size 10 x 8 inches) with the form to John Jacobs.• It is advisable to show at least three views of a sculpture in order to maximise opportunity for acceptance• Images will be retained for administrative and publicity purposes

<p>HANDING-IN AND SELECTION OF WORK:</p>	<p>Handing-in and selection will be combined on Sun 24th June 9.30am. to 3.30pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL work will pass before the Selection Panel, where it will be judged without discussion or reference to membership status. • Work which does not get accepted for the exhibition will normally be available for collection within two hours of submission (see note on Uncollected Work below). • Intending exhibitors who are unable to bring their work to London personally on Handing-in day may wish to consider making arrangements with a specialist carrier, or checking to see if there are any transport facilities being organized through your Regional Representative (see SEA Website for contact details). • <i>Please be aware that processing 400-plus works over the desk (recording and accounting for them properly) and through the Selection Panel in 6 hours allows less than one minute per picture). There WILL be queues (especially at the beginning, when most people seem to arrive).</i> 										
<p>HANGING FEES:</p>	<p>Hanging Fees must be paid on the day of selection for each exhibition. These are:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>LONDON</td> <td>NEWMARKET</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• FULL MEMBERS - Free</td> <td>• FULL MEMBERS - Free</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - £7 per work</td> <td>• ASSOCIATE MEMBERS £3 per work</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• FRIENDS - £10 per work</td> <td>• FRIENDS £5 per work</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• NOT FOR SALE WORK - £25 per work</td> <td>• NOT FOR SALE WORK - £25 per work in both cases (one only from any one entrant)</td> </tr> </table>	LONDON	NEWMARKET	• FULL MEMBERS - Free	• FULL MEMBERS - Free	• ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - £7 per work	• ASSOCIATE MEMBERS £3 per work	• FRIENDS - £10 per work	• FRIENDS £5 per work	• NOT FOR SALE WORK - £25 per work	• NOT FOR SALE WORK - £25 per work in both cases (one only from any one entrant)
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<p>HANGING</p>	<p>Although every effort will be made to hang work which has been selected for exhibition this may not always be possible, and acceptance implies no obligation to hang.</p>										
<p>LABELLING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pictures/sculptures must be clearly labelled as detailed on the enclosed guidelines. • The label must be attached at the top of the picture, so that details may be viewed from the front during selection and hanging, but concealed during the exhibitions 										
<p>FRAMING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pictures must be properly framed as detailed in the enclosed guidelines. 										
<p>INSURANCE</p>	<p>Members are strongly advised to insure their work. For work on exhibition at The Mall Galleries, all-risks insurance may be arranged through the Society. The rates have not yet been confirmed by the insurers for 2007 but are expected to be of the order of £0.50 per £100 (rounded up to the next £100). Premiums on this policy will be collected on Handing-in day and cover will run from then until the close of the London Newmarket Exhibition. The Society accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to uninsured work, and hereby expressly disclaims liability for any form of loss or damage to exhibited work other than described, or for physical injury to an artist's reputation or for any other cause.</p>										
<p>WITHDRAWAL OF WORK</p>	<p>Work selected for hanging cannot be withdrawn until the close of an Exhibition.</p>										
<p>UNCOLLECTED WORK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work not selected for hanging: All work not selected for the London event should be collected by 5pm on Sunday 24th June. When this is not possible, the work must be collected during the following week. Any work which remains uncollected after 1st July, will be transferred and stored at the Artists expense. • Exhibited work (Mall Galleries): Any work which was not sold at the exhibition which remains uncollected after 5pm on 21st July, will be transferred and stored, with all costs being borne by the Artist unless a request to hold (for a few days only) is made to the Mall Galleries. 										
<p>COMMISSION</p>	<p>Commission of 35% of the catalogue price (excluding VAT if applicable, and less casting costs for sculpture) will be deducted on all sales.</p>										
<p>CONTACTS</p>	<p>Art Move Limited at Unit 3, Grant Road, London SW11 2NU (Tel: 020 7585 1801). (Please note that it is essential to contact Art Move Limited to check the availability of 'staff' before taking work there or calling to collect work)</p>										
<p>LOCATION</p>	<p>The Mall Galleries main entrance for the public is directly off the Mall, near Admiralty Arch. Handing in will be at the back of the gallery which is at Carlton House Terrace. Palace House, Palace House, Palace Street, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8EP Tel: 01638 667200</p> <p>Please return forms to John Jacobs 26 Tina Court, 71 Knolly's Road, London</p>										

Awards 2006

Congratulations are extended to the following artists as winners of the following awards at the Annual Exhibition.

Prize	Sponsor	Winner
The Presidents Medal	SEA	Malcolm Coward
The Hunting Prize	Graham North	Neil Cawthorne
Best Sculpture	British Sporting Art Trust	Judy Boyt
Best Coloured Horse	The Hollyland Stud	Donna Chaney
Best Racing Painting	Horse & Hound	Roy Miller
Best Oil Painting	o3 Gallery with the Osborne Group	Barrie Linklater
Best Sporting Painting	Juddmonte Farms	Sean McMahon
Best Horse & Rider	Ingleton-Beer Associates	Malcolm Coward
Best Exhibit by a Friend	Society of All Artists	Michael Miller
Most votes from visitors	Sally Mitchell Fine Arts	Franco Matania
Champagne Victor Prize	Victor Lanson	Vineta Sayer
Sally Mitchell Fine Arts Publishing Prize		Colin Allbrook

Congratulations are also due to the following artists who were promoted to Associate Member following the Annual Exhibition in 2006.

Jennifer Bell, Jean Buchanan, Debbie Dunbar, Anthony Evans, Carole Fitton, Victoria Manser, Vineta Sayer and Bill Twemlow

Attention All Young Artists

The Executive Committee believes that it is important to develop & encourage young artists who will be the Associate & Full Members in the years to come.

As part of this programme, we would like to introduce the idea of a competition which would be open to artists below the age of 18 in the field of equestrian art. It is envisaged that selected works would be featured in one section of the Annual Exhibition and the very best would be awarded significant prizes made up of vouchers for art materials e.g. from the Catalogue of the SAA.

The conditions etc. of the competition have still to be finalised, and the details will be published on the website or available from the Hon. Secretary, immediately after the committee meeting of 29th April.

We will also need to discuss how we can best publicise the competition in order to gain the widest possible interest, but in the meantime if any anyone is aware of any young artist who might be a possible entrant, then please urge them to get out the brushes and be ready as the information becomes available.

Notice to all Full Members, Associates & Friends

There have been a number of occasions recently when 'Friends' of the Society have used the term Member of the Society of Equestrian Artists in advertising literature etc. instead of the wording, Friend of the Society of equestrian Artists, sometimes causing confusion with respect to the status of an individual within the Society.

The Executive Committee acknowledges that all three categories make up the membership of the SEA, but respectfully request that the descriptions given below are used in communications in order to avoid confusion or misrepresentation.

Your cooperation in this matter will help in the smooth running in the administration of the Society and would be greatly appreciated.

Status	Description
Full Member	Member of the Society of Equestrian Artists
Associate	Associate of the Society of Equestrian Artists
Friend	Friend of the Society of Equestrian Artists

Annual General Meeting

1.30 Sunday 29th April 2007

Calling Notice and Agenda

Paragraph 11 of our Constitution requires that we convene an Annual General Meeting of the Society. This year it will be at 1.30 - 3.30 on Sunday 29th April 2007 at the Novotel Hotel, Knebworth near Stevenage.

Agenda

1. To approve the minutes of the last General Meeting (held 10th April 2006).
2. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2006
 - 2.1. Treasurers Report.
 - 2.2. Chairman's Report.
3. To appoint the Hon. Secretary.
4. To elect new Committee Members - Members of the committee who have served three years are currently being canvassed to determine their interest in standing for re-election, as required by the constitution. A list of any new candidates for possible vacancies will be available at the meeting
5. To approve changes in the constitution recommended by the Executive Committee.
6. To note changes in the byelaws agreed by Executive Committee.
7. To receive updates on:
 - 7.1. Annual Exhibitions (Mall Galleries, Palace House the Northern Exhibition.)
 - 7.2. Regional Groups.
 - 7.3. Society Website.
 - 7.4. Subscriptions.
 - 7.5. Feedback from questionnaires.
8. To discuss terminology related to grades of membership.
9. Any other relevant business tabled by the Chairman or from members. Such items should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary by 15th April 2007.

Apart from maintaining a review of the business of the Society and providing a guide to its development, the AGM provides an excellent opportunity to meet fellow artists of all abilities.

Refreshments and sandwiches will be provided by the Society, from midday. Meals etc. be purchased from the hotel bar, from 11am.

NOVOTEL Knebworth Stevenage - 01438346100 On Junction 7 of A1 (M)
Nearest Railway Station - Stevenage (Kings Cross Line)

Devon Art Workshop

Inspiration and Perspiration

Once again I am fighting the 'black dog' but luckily this year my 'bad' days are few and far between. Sadly since writing the article last year about the 'black dog syndrome' so many of you have said how you also suffer from it in the winter months. This article is to motivate you and if you are already motivated some events to inspire you. At the beginning of December Cathy, Malcolm and I went out to Madrid to see the Sargent/Sorolla exhibition at the Museum Thyssen. The exhibition is now travelling to Paris and is on show at the Petit Palais from the 12th February till the 13th of May. I feel very honoured to have seen these two great masters together with a number of paintings that have never been on public view before. The visit to Sorolla's studio was the icing on the cake and if you are ever in Madrid it is a must. But please do try and see this exhibition in Paris, as it isn't going to London, or at least treat yourself to the catalogue.

The Yoriko Gallery in Harrogate have offered the Society of Equestrian Artists the space to hold the Northern Exhibition. This is a new Gallery with three rooms that we can use. I have brought the exhibition forward to April so that we don't clash with the Mall, Newmarket and Obsidian and to give you a spring opportunity! The exhibition is open to all levels and you may submit up to six pieces of work. Entry Form enclosed in this newsletter. Please support this event, as Hong, the Gallery owner, is very keen on building a good partnership with the Society. Gallery 42 still wish to continue a relationship with us and I am grateful for the last four years support but I feel Harrogate is a better opportunity. Work will go before a selection committee but acceptance does not go towards promotion, only work accepted at the Main Annual Exhibition at the Mall is eligible.

Finally the Devon Art Workshop is going to be held on w/c 25th June. This is a brilliant opportunity to improve your work. Five days working with the Society's leading Artists and Sculptors, individual and group tuition, interesting models that are held, beautiful Devon countryside, good food and wine, working with like minded people, the opportunity to discuss your work/problems in private and in group discussions and if you are like Susie Wilson win a trophy for the most improved and go home with a donkey foal!! The cost of the course is £120 plus lunch fees. I am helping with the bookings this year as Wendy is in the middle of a Masters Degree – please look at the advert for further details or ring me on 01937 833008 or Wendy on 01363 776110.



Keep your brushes dirty
Glynis



DEVON ART WORKSHOP

25th June to 29th June 2007

Five days excellent individual and group tuition with the Society's leading Artists and Sculptors. Beginners to advanced catered for. Accommodation at local farms and B & B's.

Various equine models will be available all set in the beautiful Devon countryside (undercover if the weather is against us). The cost of the week is £120 plus lunch charges. To book please send a deposit of £30, with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, made payable to:

**Devon Art Workshop to Glynis Mills
41 Wharfedale Crescent
Tadcaster
North Yorkshire
LS24 9JH**

**For further details please ring either
Glynis on 01937 833008 or 07885222533 or
Wendy (evenings only) on 01363 776110.**

Book early as numbers are limited and this course is very popular.

Newmarket Group

The group had a workshop at the local polo club rained off last year – but we are planning to go to their later tournament this year, in the hope that we find better weather. We did have glorious weather for the Household Cavalry Summer Camp Open Day at Bodney Camp in Norfolk: a really fantastic day! We also enjoyed very useful days at a Connemara Stud in Suffolk and at the ILPH, Snetterton, Norfolk.

This year we are in the process of planning workshops at :

Sally Reece's Studio in Norfolk (sculpture).

Polo tournament (with a possible exhibition included).

August workshop using Jockey Club Room facilities.


With regard to the August workshop: the Jockey Club are offering us general support including a tour of the art collection, use of facilities at the Jockey Club (including overnight accommodation).

For more details of dates and costs see the next newsletter. If you think you would be interested and have the time available in August e-mail: cyril@equestrianartists.co.uk

You might be interested in a new book published by the Jockey Club:

“The Jockey Club Rooms” A catalogue and History of the Collection.

by David Oldrey



To order a copy at £35/\$75/€55 incl p&p.
please contact:
JOCKEY CLUB ESTATES LTD
101 High Street
Newmarket
Suffolk CB8 8JL
Tel: 01638 664151
Email: enquiries@jockey-club-estates.co.uk

Profits generated by the sale of the publication will be re-invested in racing.

The Kings Troop

The Kings Troop, housed in St. John's Wood, North London, has offered to have a group from the SEA for a day's visit on Tuesday 5th May 2007.

Up to 25 really lucky artists are welcome to attend, so if you would like to follow them through a day's work, which will include a trip to Wormwood Scrubs where they are to practise their many intricate movements with the guns, PLEASE get in touch with Jackie Henderson who runs the Watford Group as soon as possible.

The offer is open to everyone!!! This will be a truly outstanding event as we will be in the realms of a rich history of the horse serving in the British Army.

email; jackiehenderson@ukonline.co.uk, Tel.01442 890119"



The SEA Website

The Society's website includes reference information, an extensive SEA event calendar and up-to-the minute status of activities, such as the Annual Exhibition. If you've not already used it, please try it out!

One of the advantages of being a member of the Society is the ability to have your own area on the web site. With a portfolio of your work, text that you wish to have displayed and the flexibility to have your area updated as often as you like, this represents an asset which some web designers charge £200 per year for. This valuable facility is available FREE to members of the Society. Also included is an email forwarding service to allow you to use an address such as bruce.wynn@equestrianartists.co.uk offering a somewhat more professional image than bruce377@springfield.freereserve.co.uk or bruce377@hotmail.com.

For details of how to get your work on the web, see the website www.equestrianartists.co.uk and click on the link 'Members (all categories) - getting your work on the Web' at the top of the page. You will also find details of how to contact Bruce Wynn if you need advice in this area.

Windsor Group

Autumn Activities Review

In the late summer and autumn, the Windsor Group took part in several equestrian activities – some were advertised in the events programme, others not. Two extra visits to the Spanish Stud in Wokingham - towards the end of August and a week later on 1st September - were arranged primarily for artists who had missed the workshop on the 1st July. On both of these subsequent days we were able to watch Krystal (the daughter of Jane McCutcheon who owns the stud) practicing dressage on her two talented horses. At 15, Krystal is an extremely competent rider and a very promising prospect for Team GB – so the 'stunt riding' mentioned in the publicity for the first workshop at the stud was definitely off the agenda, as any injuries at that point to either Krys or her horses would have ruined her competition season!



The foals we had met a couple of months earlier had grown considerably and their coats were changing from dark brown or black into a grey speckle. On the second visit we went into the field with the foals and their mothers as we had on the first, but their previous shyness had disappeared and we were gently mugged by inquisitive little noses. There was never any threat, but on the next visit I thought it best to observe from the other side of the fence!

I'm disappointed that only Carole showed any interest in coming to the Carriage Driving Championships at Windsor Great Park in September. It provides a splendid visual spectacle and we had a very interesting day. Carole even had a go at driving one of the carriages! We met up with Derrick who is one of our members, an official at the event, and an all-round good egg. He had arranged tickets at the gate for us and advised where to go to see the best of the action.

Just a few days later came our visit to Ascot racecourse on Breeder's Cup Day, 22nd September. Some prime sites had been set aside for us and our sketching activities – which would have been wonderful had the weather not scupper'd our plans - it rained and rained! An arranged tour of the facilities was slightly curtailed so that we could watch the Stallion Parade, featuring such legends as the feisty Silver Patriarch, and the stunningly handsome Bollin Eric. With Premier Admission tickets we were required to arrive 'dressed for a smart occasion', so to protect our Sunday Best we all slunk inside the spectacular new grandstand to test out the many bars and restaurants, and to watch the racing in the dry from the viewing areas or on the hi-definition TV screens that are everywhere. Late into the afternoon the sun eventually made an appearance, and despite the weather the whole day was an experience not to be missed.

The Grand Finale of the year's programme was seeing the Spanish Riding School of Vienna at Wembley Arena in November. The group booking meant that we could attend a pre-show clinic, where we were given a brief glimpse into the history of the school (dating back some 430 years) and the methods of training that culminate in the seemingly effortless performances of these exquisitely noble Lipizzaner horses and their riders.

The main event was preceded by a mounted display team from the Metropolitan Police, to demonstrate the level of skill, agility, trust and timing required by working police horses and their riders in the line of duty.

Then at last, to the accompaniment of a rousing march composed during the height of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by Andreas Leonhardt, came the entrance of 'The Dancing Stallions of Vienna'. The horses and riders were introduced one by one, and gave short individual performances in elaborate sequence to show the ultimate perfection of Haute Ecole. On to the Pas de Deux: the perfect symmetry of two horses and riders as their movements mirror each-other. We saw work in hands and on the long rein, showing how horses are prepared and learn to find confidence and balance for Schools above the Ground – the Levade, the Courbette and the Capriole, which were performed to appreciative applause. Finally there was a Quadrille, performed by 10 horses and riders, which choreographed the various movements of classical dressage in a 20-minute sequence demanding ultimate concentration and stamina. Time just melted away as we watched, awestruck by such beauty. We had unrestricted views of the entire arena but the seating was rather too cramped to allow for much sketching. It was breathtaking, but Susan there was really no need to thank me for arranging for HRH The Queen to be there that evening; nothing's too much trouble for my gang!



It's been a bumper year, with no shortage of opportunities to inspire exciting artworks for the 2007 exhibitions. My thanks go to everyone who has helped me to arrange these activities, and to everyone who has attended. I hope to see even more of you in the coming months.

And so to 2007. No definite arrangements yet, but certainly a visit to a stud farm in Lambourne is on the cards - probably in May when the foals are tiny. Hopefully another visit to the HAC Light Cavalry stables in Windsor (and I'm working on an anatomy component again); perhaps a racing yard visit; the Spanish Stud again; and I haven't given up on sorting something out for the sculptors

As ever, if you're on my list I will contact you with details. If you're not but you're interested in any of the above, look out for more information in the next newsletter or on the website. Or get in touch with me.

Kristine Nason
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Book Review

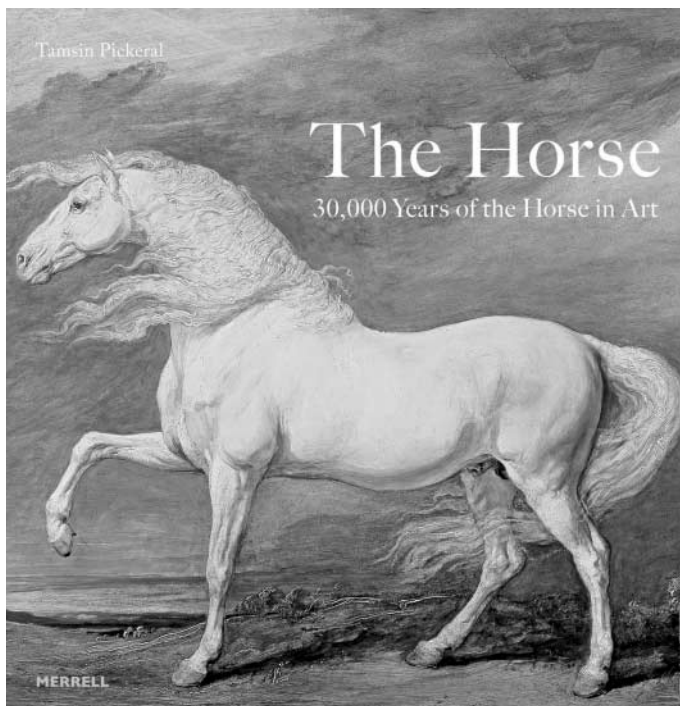
THE HORSE 30,000 YEARS OF THE HORSE IN ART

By Tamsin Pickeral

Merrell Publishers

merrellpublishers.com

Reviewed by Jan Scott ASEA



As artists we tend to view art history books from the practical viewpoint : how the included artwork is created, use of paint and composition. Through this perspective, Pickeral takes a dynamic sweep through the history of equine painting and shows the astonishing variety of techniques and composition employed by artists through the centuries

However, meanings attributed to horses and what they signify culturally are similar throughout western and eastern art. "The horse as greater glorification of the rider" exists in the dominant representations of the horse as a fiery, brave noble beast complementing the member of royalty such as 'Shah Jahan on Horseback' or the warrior, such as Chabod's Napoleon, sat astride it.

In the 18th century, primarily influenced by George Stubbs, a shift took place where the horse itself became the subject with Stubb's Whistlejacket being a prime example. The painting is just the rearing horse: no background or humans being in the work.

In the later section of the book 'The Modern Horse' Susan Crawford's painting of the racehorse Ribot carries on this tradition of centering the horse as the main subject. As we know from the wide variety of styles represented by the SEA, the modern era has encompassed many art influences and movements, but the beauty of the book is that it enables us to see the historical references across time. The simple and powerful work of Elisabeth Frink's Horse and Rider' and Franz Marc's 'Little Yellow Horses' can be seen as linked to the cave art horses of 25,000 years BC, with their print like quality and simple forms. John Skeaping's bronze of Hyperion at Newmarket continues the representation of the noble horse in bronze depicted by Roman artists.

The book is a must for us artists as it charts the history of our artistic endeavours from prehistory to us contemporaries! As Pickeral states 'the physical nature of the horse has evolved and the emphasis of the horse in art has altered alongside the role of the horse in human culture.'

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