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Stormcat Foal
By Joanne Mehl

J. MEHL '06



ARTIST: *Joanne Mehl*



An accomplished figurative artist best known for her equestrian subjects and portraiture, Joanne Mehl's paintings have a vivid impressionist feel, yet are grounded in the realistic depiction of relationships and scenes. Over thirty years of disciplined oil painting skills imbue her artwork with a depth of color, and her eye for composition brings dynamism to each piece. Joanne is also an avid, life-long horsewoman able to understand and render the intricacies of equine, canine, and human subjects; whether in terms of their anatomy, behavior, or interrelationships. Her artwork hangs in many venues, from the Kentucky's Governor's mansion to numerous private collections.



Joanne shares her thoughts and beautiful artwork...

2018 Foxhunting Show

"I was asked by the American Academy of Equine Art to be one of eight artists portraying (non-lethal) foxhunts in Northern Virginia, for a show last year at Virginia's Morven Park Museum. Well, if it means tromping around in muddy woods with my Nikon at dawn, with beautiful horses, riders and hounds milling about, deal me in! The show was pretty successful, I made a bunch of great new friends, and got a gallery to rep me there as well. I could've done without the ticks though, yuck."

Ethical Concerns

"I have my qualms painting certain equestrian pursuits such as racing or foxhunting, because of the potential for injury or abuse. So I wrestle with that. But there are qualities and histories to admire in those disciplines too, and I feel it's my job to go where the horses are and paint them as best I can. If horses are on Mars in twenty years, I'll be there."

MEHL



Devonwood Mural, acrylic on MDO board, 12' x 47'

Joanne On Her Transition to Fine Art

"I was rigorously trained in traditional drawing and painting skills, so when the illustration field went digital I decided to pursue fine art instead. But I didn't want to go into academia or rely on grants, I wanted to paint subjects that mattered to me and find my market. I'm a very hands-on person, and I just bootstrapped it.

Thankfully, I was always enamored of portraiture and could do it well. So I began doing high-end commissioned portraits of people, horses and pets, and it never fails to be interesting and challenging, because I'm portraying personalities and relationships.

I got a big break in the early 90's when Ginny Rattner of Devonwood Equestrian Centre hired me to do their 50-foot arena mural. I worked onsite in a shop building for 6 months, painting that monster! It was exciting to watch them hang the panels, they used a big forklift.

Not long after that I got a call from Cross Gate Gallery in Lexington, Kentucky, wondering if I'd ever considered painting racing scenes. So that led me to explore that whole world, with its history, pageantry and incredibly dynamic scenes. A high point was when the State of Kentucky bought a 4 x 7 foot painting for their Governor's mansion. That was pretty gratifying. We were in the Jeep heading for the John Day when we got the call. My burger pretty much went airborne."



"Pirouette", oil on panel, 10 x 12.5"



"Keeneland Classics", oil on canvas, 5' x 7'

Accomplishments Include

- ◇ The 2013 purchase of "Keeneland Classics" by the State of Kentucky for their governor's mansion.
- ◇ Having painted over 120 pieces of commissioned portraiture.
- ◇ 30 exhibitions, including 3 solo shows.
- ◇ Exhibited at Morven Park's Museum of Hound and Hunting art show, Year of the Hound, in 2018.
- ◇ Participating artist in the internationally recognized Sporting Art Auction, Keeneland, Kentucky, 2013 - present; with annual artwork sales.
- ◇ Purchase of "Keeneland Backstretch, 6 am" by the Keeneland Library, a global information repository dedicated to Thoroughbred horses.
- ◇ Artist-in-residence, Kentucky's Keeneland racetrack, October, 2015.
- ◇ A commissioned portrait for the English Springer Field Trial Hall of Fame, 2014.
- ◇ Painting the 2007 Breeders' Cup commemorative art for promotional uses and charity auction.
- ◇ Instructor of oil painting techniques and portraiture at Portland's Oregon Society of Artists.
- ◇ Over 40 published works in either coffee table art books, national or regional publications, or artist interviews.
- ◇ Best of Show at the Oregon Society of Artists Spring, 2016 Show for "Tardy Prince".
- ◇ Painting the 50-foot "Dressage at Devonwood Mural", in Sherwood, Oregon.
- ◇ Teaching positions as adjunct faculty in illustration and drawing.
- ◇ A Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors in Illustration, from Pasadena's Art Center College of Design in 1983.



For more info visit: JoanneMehl.com



"Red Cooler", gouache on acid free board, 8 x 10



"Colors of White", oil on panel, 14 x 11"



"Obie and Clowney, the Christmas Ponies", oil on panel, 20 x 24"



"Mare and Foal, Lexington, KY", gouache on acid free board, 16 x 18"



"Nancy Thorn and Monte", gouache on acid free board, 8 x 10"



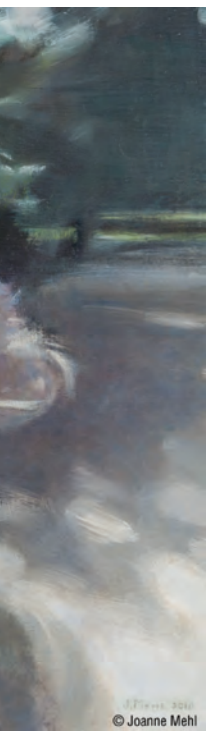
"A Brief Moment of Sun", oil on panel, 8 x 11"



"Waiting on Their Master", oil on panel, 16 x 20"



"Constellation", oil on panel, 18 x 25"



© Joanne Mehl



J MEHL 1996
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"Merry and Player", oil on panel, 11 x 14"

"Menlo Park", oil on panel, 9 x 9"

Joanne The Equestrian

"I started riding early as a girl in California, so I've been horse crazy my whole life. After school, I'd ride my bike miles across L.A to ride my TB filly.

I haven't been competing in dressage recently, but I did have the opportunity to ride Winnie, a fourth-level schoolmaster Dutch warmblood mare for the last three years. She really upped my game and it was a great experience. I got a taste of what an

upper level dressage horse feels like.

I've mostly boarded in SW Washington, but I used to board in Sherwood years ago.

I'm tall and have mostly had 17hh DWBs or TBs. I retired Dutch, my Dutch warmblood/TB cross, and I'm in the market for a dressage horse on an artist's budget."

Left: Joanne on Dutch



"Melia", Oil on Panel, 8 x 10"



"Streeper Bulldogs", gouache on acid free board, 9 x 12"