

**Contact:**  
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Joanne Mehl is an accomplished, working artist specializing in:

- Equestrian subjects
- Commissioned portraiture of people, horses, and pets

Joanne's love and knowledge of horses, and expertise in portraiture, has led to her successful career painting riders and their mounts. But success only came after decades of struggle.

### **Biography:**

Joanne was raised in modest circumstances in Southern California by emigrant German parents who encouraged her artistic talent as well as her passion for horses. She would ride her bike to the stables to care and ride, and her first two jobs were working with therapy horses and disabled children and adults. Joanne was then admitted to the well-regarded Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where she graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors in Illustration.

After a bit of teaching and commercial illustration for Bay area ad agencies, Joanne decided to forgo both of those career options and become a painter of equestrian scenes and portraits, the latter being a field that seemed passé to many.

After some initial success, a sudden divorce in the 1990's derailed her emotionally and financially, leaving her to rebuild her life in Portland, Oregon.

Eventually, her equestrian works and commissioned portraiture found wider appreciation. In 1999, a high profile, 50-foot mural commission for the Devonwood Equestrian Centre in Sherwood, Oregon, made a regional splash. Then one of the nation's premier sporting art galleries, Cross Gate of Lexington, Kentucky began carrying and promoting her work. Joanne painted the 2007 Breeders' Cup commemorative art, and "Keeneland Classics" for Kentucky's Governor's mansion in 2013, the latter marking a record price for Joanne's work. All the while, private collectors commissioned portraits of horses, families, spouses, kids, dogs, cats, donkeys... you name it.

Her commissioned portraits are typically \$3500 to \$7000, although they may range from \$1,500 to \$10,000; depending on size, complexity, and paint medium. Joanne

works directly with her clients, whom choose either a portrait based on an extensive photo shoot, or a traditional live sitting.

Many of Joanne's horseracing scenes have been carried and sold by Cross Gate Gallery in Lexington, Kentucky since 1999.

Joanne lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband, dog, and cats. She rides her 17-hand Dutch Warmblood/ TB cross "Dutch". Joanne currently does dressage, but has evented in the past.

**Accomplishments:**

- The 2013 purchase of "Keeneland Classics" by the State of Kentucky for their governor's mansion.
- Over 100 pieces of commissioned portraiture.
- Participating artist in the internationally recognized Sporting Art Auction, Keeneland, Kentucky, 2013 and 2014
- Painting the 50-foot "Mural at Devonwood", in Sherwood, Oregon.
- Painting the 2007 Breeders' Cup commemorative art for promotional uses and charity auction.
- 14 exhibitions, including 3 solo shows, and 11 juried shows.
- Over 40 published works in either coffee table art books, national or regional publications, or artist interviews.
- A commissioned portrait for the English Springer Field Trial Hall of Fame, 2014.
- Teaching positions as adjunct faculty in illustration and drawing.
- An early career in commercial illustration serving a variety of multinational ad agency clientele.
- A Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors in Illustration, from Art Center College of Design in 1983.

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