

Contact:
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Joanne Mehl Paintings
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Joanne Mehl is an accomplished, working artist specializing in the painting of:

- Commissioned portraiture of loved ones
- Equestrian subjects

Joanne bootstrapped a successful artistic career in painting while many compatriots went digital or the academic route, finding success only after decades of struggle.

Biography:

Joanne was raised in modest circumstances in Southern California by emigrant German parents, whom encouraged her artistic talent. Joanne was 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 teaching college a bit, and doing commercial illustration for San Francisco ad agencies, Joanne decided to forgo both options and become a portraitist, 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, Joanne's commissioned portraiture and equestrian works found wider appreciation. In the last twenty years, her clients have commissioned over 100 portraits of families, kids, pets, horses and more.

In 1999, a 50-foot mural commission for the Devonwood Equestrian Centre in Sherwood, Oregon made a regional splash. Soon after, one of the nation's premier sporting art galleries, Cross Gate of Lexington, began carrying and promoting her work. High profile paintings such as the 2007 Breeders' Cup commemorative art and "Keeneland Classics" for Kentucky's Governor's mansion followed.

Her commissioned oil or gouache portraits now range from \$1,000 to \$10,000; and a record price for one of her equestrian works was reached in 2013, when the State of Kentucky purchased "Keeneland Classics" for their Governor's mansion.

Joanne lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband, dog, and cats; and rides her horse "Dutch" when not painting.

Accomplishments:

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