

GALLERY

by Charlotte Bowskill ■ painting by Peter Smith



PETER SMITH

Peter Smith's status as one of his generations leading equestrian artists represents the culmination of a life-long fascination with horses and a well-nurtured natural artistic talent. He is well known for his masterly paintings of horses racing at full speed or exercising in the morning sun. His original works are much sought after and his canvases feature in art collections worldwide. Having been extensively collected in the U.K, North America, Middle East, South Africa and Australia. Born in Lanarkshire in 1949 to an English Mother and Scottish Father, Peter feels that his artistic attributes stem from his Portuguese grandfather who painted for most of his life. Peter's early interest in art and painting was matched by his passion for horses. He can trace his obsession with the equine form back to his childhood when he would stand transfixed by the sight of Gypsies travelling through his village with their entourage of ponies and painted wagons. His artistic abilities were noted and honed by the senior art teacher at his high school who provided him with materials and instructed him to copy works by masters such as Stubbs, Degas and many others. The influence of their superb draughtsmanship, sense of composition and understanding of how to use colour, paint and light is still evident in Smith's work. "I never made the connection between horses and art until I saw a Degas of a racecourse. It was only then that I realized I could put these two things together and make something of it," he recalls. "You can only really learn from the great masters, skills used to be passed down for centuries from master to pupil. Today, with no apprentice system, art is learned from no one, and the result is some pretty weird stuff pretending to be art," Smith muses. Peter went on to attend both the Carlisle College and the Glasgow School of Art. He then married his childhood sweetheart and settled in Ayrshire not far from the Racecourse where he had access to his beloved subjects. This

led to several commissions amongst the local racing fraternity, culminating in a 20 year sole agency agreement with a prestigious London art gallery who exhibited his work widely in the U.K and throughout the USA. Several years ago Peter was introduced to Charlotte Bowskill of Arabian Fine Art London. Realising they had much in common and both having a natural love of horses a great friendship formed. Charlotte introduced Peter to the magic of the pure bred Arabian horse and her enthusiasm was infectious! Initially finding them very different from thoroughbreds Peter was struck by the beau-

ty and magic of these proud creatures and it has sparked an innate passion. This ignited a new and challenging chapter for Peter. "The more you look at Arabian horses you can appreciate the aesthetic beauty of them. They are so well proportioned and balanced and therefore they are works of art in themselves" he explains "I try to capture the charm and allure of the Arabian horse in every painting". One of the features of Peter's work is his attention to detail and anatomical accuracy which was something that had attracted him to the work of Stubbs who knew the horse's anatomy like no one

else. He had an analytical mind that produced clear, classic compositions. One thing is for sure, Peter Smith knows his subject matter intimately. "When I've got the spark of an idea for a painting, I can draw the horses easily. Once you know how the anatomy works, you can make the horse on the canvas do anything you like. It's like having a little model of a horse in your head, and you can see how its legs, head, back and whole body moves. The secret is to visualise the subject in 3D, so you are fully aware of the muscle groups and contours, even the texture

refully bred to maintain their unique qualities, Peter's ultimate goal is to do them justice and try to capture something of their character, beauty and grace and transport these attributes onto canvas. Today Arabian Fine Art London leads the market in contemporary Arabian horse paintings and has over 20 years experience in the art world. Peter Smith will undertake commissions and horse portrait paintings through Arabian Fine Art. On the website you will find a selection of works, both original oil paintings and Giclee prints. □



FOR INFO

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SMITH

PETER

of the coat. In short you should imagine that what you have in front of you on the canvas is a living breathing creature. The result should be a finished work that suggests a solid three dimensional horse. Painting Arabian horses is a challenge and Smith fully understands this. Knowing that the pure bred Arab has such an ancient history and is ca-

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