

ERNA GOUDBEEK



*We live in a world where social media is of ever-growing importance.
Some time ago, I discovered a photo of a breath-taking oil painting on instagram.
The artwork turned out to be a masterpiece by Erna Goudbeek whose talent and eye for
Arabian horses and birds of prey deeply impressed me.*



■ *by Judith Wich-Wenning*

Erna Goudbeek, born in 1966, grew up in Almelo, Holland, a place where her passion for art began. "One of my first loves as a child was drawing with pencil," Erna remembers, "I spent all my time drawing, animals mostly. In 1999 while I was still working at the NATO Base in Vriezenveen in the Netherlands, I pursued this love of drawing animals but moved on to pastels. By 2000, I decided to broaden my skills particularly painting and by joining a group of watercolour painters in Almelo, Holland. I worked with watercolours for another two years. In 2002, I made two major decisions in my life. I stopped working at the NATO Base and moved with my partner Brian to Neugnadenfeld, a small village in Germany and I learned to paint with oils. I was part of a painters group in Almelo (the Netherlands), the Peinturisten. This is when I feel my love and passion for my work really began.

While working with other painters in the Peinturisten, I studied with Mr. Guust van den Noort, a Dutch old Master!"

Erna explains. "When he was young he in turn studied with a Master of the school of Den Hague. He gave me a great gift; the confidence to paint – he always told me that I am a natural talent. This in turn gave me the will to develop my own technique. I believe by just following my inner artist, feeling at one with my work I could experiment with different styles and techniques. Alas, I am also a perfectionist, and I am never satisfied. I strive with each piece to get better and to become the best artist I can be."

Erna has always loved city-life. But at heart, in this little German village where she lives today, surrounded by nature and wildlife, she finds the inspiration she needs to create her oil paintings. Here, Erna feels like she has gone back in time yet finally has come home and settled down. Her partner Brian built a gallery for Erna; he is as passionate about her work as she is. When Erna is not travelling to events, exhibitions or Belgian and British Falconry fairs, where she finds a great deal of her inspiration, you can find her



Phantastic QR Marc, oil painting by Erna Goudbeek

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“Running Wild” by Erna Goudbeek

in her gallery. Here she can work peacefully, just painting. However, Erna Goudbeek continues to be inspired by the Dutch old Masters and the impressionistic oil painters of the school of Den Hague.

“As I grow as an artist, I still feel heavily influenced by my teacher Mr. Guust van den Noort.” Erna ponders. “Unfortunately, he recently passed away, but I feel he is always with me. When I need it, I just think of the last words he told me. ‘I believe in you and you will get there, just keep painting with your heart...’” Asked about her technique Erna Goudbeek describes: “The technique I use is oil – Dutch oil paints, but I started firstly drawing with pastels, then watercolour and eventually in 2002, I started with oils, which I work with on panel, as to my personnel

opinion, I can get the detail so much more defined than on other material.”

Erna has a deep love for nature, wildlife and a special feeling for Arabian horses. She remembers: “I think that I first became involved and interested in horses when I saw the beautiful horses of my uncle who bred horses at a farm in Holland. He had as I recall one or two Arabians. Years later, one of my friends bought an absolutely stunning Arabian and I think it was then when I fell in love with the Arabian horse! That Arabian had a wonderful temperament and I could feel that special bond between her and her horse!”

As of yet, Erna does not have a favourite Arabian. However, she says that one of the first Arabian horses that caught her eye and influenced her into painting Arabians was QR



Arabian Horse in the Mist

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Freedom

Marc (Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams)! Asked about her fascination for Arabian horses, Erna responds quickly and with great enthusiasm: "I am an animal lover! I love all horse breeds, but the fascination that I find most with Arabian horses is their raw beauty, words are not enough to describe what I feel when I am busy painting an Arabian horse! There is something special about the Arabian; their beauty and grace is overwhelming, the eyes... large and beautiful, the long arching neck and high tail carriage. I can feel its energy; it gives me energy when I paint such a unique horse! An Arabian horse promotes strength, intelligence, nobility, and elegance and of course its glorious 'floating trot'."

For Erna animals are both beautiful and awe inspiring. They exemplify aspects of life force that she wishes to portray in her work. Erna states: "Like the purity and grace of an owl, or the strength of a horse or dog, the intensity of the hunt and stare of a bird of prey; their passion for life is the same passion I want to demonstrate in the feeling of my paintings. I want their presence to come to life on canvas."

Erna Goudbeek passionately relates: "I am most at peace while listening to beautiful music or just the sounds of nature around me when I start to think about painting. Each layer

upon layer brings the painting to life. I spend time looking at my work from angles and from a distance to gauge its potential impact on the viewer and to find the right "next wave of the brush" to evoke the greatest feelings. In my natural work I use quite fine detail in the painting, which means I work with very small brushes. As you can imagine it takes a lot of time to complete but I use this process to explore my own emotional expressions. There are times I feel my hand is being guided."

Then Erna continues: "Art plays a huge role in my life, it is my true passion, my paintings are a reflection of my soul! It also motivates me when I see the reactions and feelings from people when they see my work; everything leads up to those moments! Recently, I decided to concentrate more of my time to painting Arabians, but I will also keep painting birds of prey and other wildlife as well as any commissions that I receive. Arabians have a significant role in my life as an artist and my goal is to see these beautiful horses more and more in real life!"

Regarding visiting stud farms or shows, it is something that she has not had the opportunity to do yet, but it is certainly on her list for 2017. She has been to various Falconry Fairs in Europe and was one of the finalists in the "Third



Free Spirit

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Oil painting "Arabian Horses in the Mist"

International Falconry Fair" in Abu Dhabi where she was invited in 2011. "Then in 2014 I was invited to the Mara'ee in Bahrain, where I could exhibit my work." Erna Goudbeek relates. "I was introduced to the King of Bahrain, he loved my work and purchased some of my paintings. In 2015 I joined the International Art Fair in Bahrain, which was a successful event. This year I have been very busy building up a stock of paintings as well as doing commission work and as I mentioned before, I decided to concentrate more on painting Arabian horses. That is why I am getting more and more excited to go to Arabian horse shows and show my work where possible, I also would love to go to stud farms to meet the owners/breeders/trainers in person to talk about the(ir) beautiful Arabian horse and see them in real life!"

Furthermore, Erna Goudbeek had numerous group and solo

exhibitions in Holland, her works were displayed at several Falconry Fairs in England and Belgium, at the Race Track Duindigt in Holland and at the "Arabian Qatar Racing Day".

Regarding her hopes for the future, Erna explains: "My plan for the future is to build up a network of contacts and to be able to exhibit my work further around the world. I now have contact with China and hopefully will be able to exhibit my work there, and I would love to return to the Middle East again to exhibit my work and to enjoy the atmosphere and warm hospitality of the people! Recently I have started to look for interesting Arabian horse shows, I found out that there are some really interesting shows held in Germany, no doubt there are many more around the world." □



Portrait of an Arabian Horse



Portrait of Magic Mon Ami (FS Bengali x Magic Mon Amour)

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Two young Saker Falcons

Horse Racing in Saudi Arabia



Horse Racing in Bahrain





Peacefully

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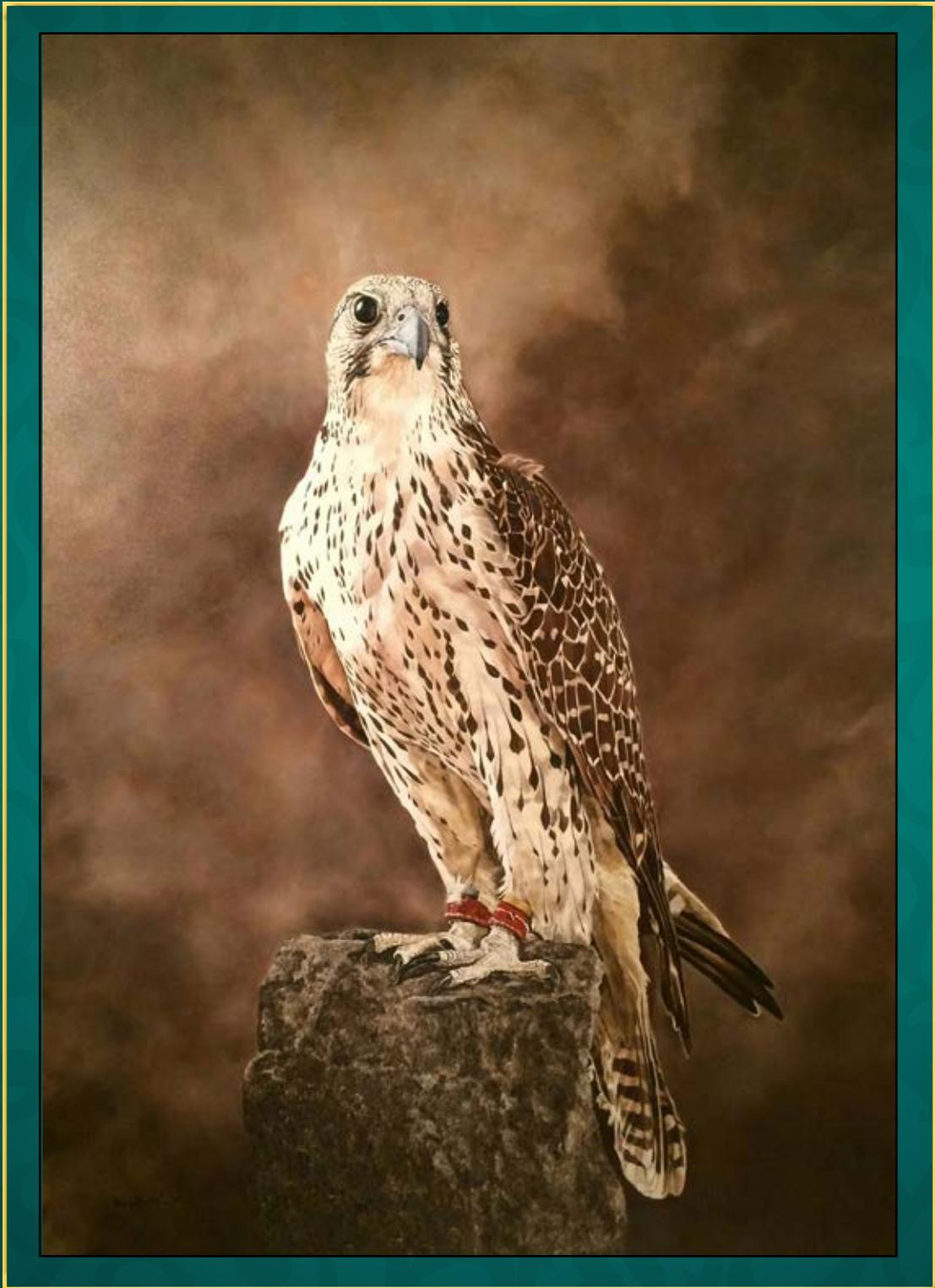
*“Saker Falcons on a Rock”,
oil painting sold to HRH the King of Bahrain*



The atmosphere of the desert: “Saluki”



Sand Gazelle



Saker Falcon on a Rock