

# A PORTRAIT OF *Emad Al Taay*

■ *by Judith Wich-Wenning*

Have you already seen an artwork by Emad Al Taay?

His paintings of Arabian horses are true eye-catchers:

First class Arabians in vibrant colors immediately enchant the spectator. His mostly realistic style is easy to recognize and mesmerizes immediately.

No wonder that his works have a fast growing group of enthusiasts around the globe.



*The artist behind this has a very unusual, even dramatic story to tell. Emad Al Taay was born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1973. He first started painting when he was a child. Emad took his inspiration from his uncle who was an excellent artist, despite never enjoying an art education. His uncle painted the walls and ceilings at home, using everything as his canvas. Art and painting always fascinated Emad*

*Al Taay and was determined to become his lasting passion. In 1996 he graduated from Baghdad University with a Bachelor degree of Fine Arts. He then worked as a teacher at the Baghdad Institute of Art and started also his own studio. Emad was awarded several first prizes in drawing and painting competitions in these years. His works were displayed in numerous exhibitions.*





*In 2005 Emad had his own studio in Iraq and was just building a house when he finally had to leave his risky home country. This was not an easy step for Emad. He had never travelled anywhere before and had to leave all his family, friends as well as his career behind. He first went to Jordan. "I was lucky to get there," Emad Al Taay*

*recalls. Here he soon managed to impress with his artwork and participated at several Jordanian art exhibitions. He even had several solo exhibitions in Amman and Beirut at that time. Moreover, he worked as a private art teacher in Jordan and H.R.H. Princess Zein Al Hussain started to collect his paintings.*







*In 2009 Emad was resettled to England. Everything was new to him then. He knew Great Britain only from movies and did not have any friends or acquaintances in this country. After spending nine months in Sheffield, Emad moved to London and set up his own studio. Emad is an amazing personality and nothing can stop him. He wanted not only to live in London but his aim was to achieve something there and have success with his work. Emad started to visit museums and galleries around his new home. Here in London he finally had the opportunity to see the world famous paintings he had always admired in books and magazines. A dream came true for Emad!*

*When he arrived in Great Britain, Emad spoke only a few words in English; in the meantime he has even received the British citizenship. "I was a victim in Iraq, but I can't accept myself as a victim forever," Emad Al Taay ponders,*

*"I can't change the world, but I can help other people who are suffering to leave that aside for half an hour while they look at my paintings."*

*For many years, Emad Al Taay was famous for his traditional and realistic paintings of the Middle East. Numerous of his works are inspired by his previous environment in Iraq. However, his new life in the city of London stimulated him to paint also more abstractly and in strong, bold colors. "I feel being in London adds a lot to me," Emad remarks.*

*Emad became interested in Arabian horses in a very early age. "The Arabian horse is a part of our culture," he explains. "It was already one of my favorite motives to scribble when I was a child. I love just everything about*





these animals and I am so much fascinated by the beauty of the Arabian horse!" Emad paints exclusively in oil on canvas. He is always looking for the best quality regarding colors and canvas to enhance the results. "As a fine artist, it is my duty to portray my passion of every aspect concerning Arabian horses, their environment, heritage and stories. As I am a son of the Middle East, I can see many details, which are often missing in Arabian horse artworks." Emad continues: "Every day I am learning something new which brings constant evolution to my paintings. It's just a blessing!" His artworks were exhibited in numerous countries around the world, as for example Morocco, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, USA, South Africa, France, Great Britain, etc.

Emad has already reached many of his goals, but his dreams and plans continue. "I wish I could have my own stud farm to paint closer to the horse," he ponders. "Can you imagine the amount of beauty we would see?! Well, and right now I am looking forward to prepare my upcoming solo exhibition, aiming to show my own vision of the global citizen – the Arabian horse!"

