

Deborah Rush



A GIFT TO THE WORLD

■ by *Judith Wich-Wenning*

Paintings by the American artist Deborah Rush are internationally collected since over 40 years. Her artwork is represented in 22 different countries worldwide. Deborah Rush's favorite techniques are oil, drawings and acrylics. She has also created fascinating porcelain statues of Arabian horses called "One-of-a-Kind" as well as bronzes. Deborah Rush's style of painting is mostly realism and she has a wide creative repertoire regarding her art.

What sets her works apart from others is not least the fact that she depicts also flaws of the portrayed horses and does

not necessarily create a "perfect" dream horse. Deborah Rush loves to underline the beauty of the Arabian horse by fantastic settings and backgrounds. Some of her artworks are also available as limited-edition prints.

Deborah Rush was born in Western New York as a gifted child. She already drew legible figures at the age of 18 months and began sculpting in clay at two and a half years. "The school told my mother twice (unheard of back then), they wanted to put me from 1st grade to 3rd. But the answer was a 'no'. Life was not easy during my childhood and teenage





years. My solace was in being near-daily, immersed in the local native, semi-wild landscape, along with attending to my mother's horses from age seven," Deborah Rush remembers. "Although I daily moved close-behind and in front of her large, mixed breed riding horses, I was never hurt doing my chores. Meanwhile I drew and played in clay constantly. I made a 'secret pact' with myself: from nine years on, to see how long could I go, drawing daily without a break? At the age of 15, taking stock, there were four days

missed. I focused mostly on horses as my favorite subject from nine years on."

"I was drawing other breeds of horses since very early childhood," Deborah Rush ponders. "But when I saw a half Arabian mare, she instantly captivated me. Her huge, dark eyes spoke depth of soul I had not encountered among other, local horses. A few years later, about 1977, my mother had old Arabian horse magazines on her table. They were like



finding pearls, a treasure!" Deborah Rush was inspired to use Arabians from that point on as the basis for a large part of her creative endeavors.

Deborah Rush married early at the age of 17, having three children. "Naturally we gravitated to rustic farm life, including my first Arabians," Deborah Rush relates. "My husband James Rush died in 1992. Our oldest son tragically also passed away in 2004. Even past all the losses, all the years,

I'm still freshly inspired! The horses' beauty is a compelling, timeless, perfect 'vehicle' for artistic expression in many ways. From classical realism to the imaginative abstract, impressionistic, literal, 'illustrative style' works (which I do not do)," Deborah Rush explains. "I use no photocopier, no projector, which I respectfully understand that many – including some of the world's top, successful artists create with and depend on. I love the energy in impressionistic works, the vibrant free flow that tries to match the energy



that is "Horse"! In all my endeavors the challenge is, will it convey 'life' and a depth that carries the spirit of the subject? Will it be a true work of art? Does it create an inner dialogue in the viewer that speaks back to make a work "special"? Also mysterious, affirming, gladdening is what I try to convey in my art. This is my gift to the world."

Asked about her techniques, Deborah Rush points out: "Currently I both paint in nontoxic oils and draw in pencil. Occasionally, as with a past 7.5 meter x 2.5 meter mural, I also use acrylics. In the past I sculpted in porcelain clay, the "One-of-a-Kind" originals from 1980 to 2009. My style is either classical realism or in bold colorful more impressionistic works."

Deborah Rush finds her inspiration also by periodically contemplating the Masters as for example Rembrandt,

Delacroix, Bonheur, Stubbs, Herring, De Dreux etc. From 1982 on, Deborah Rush began to widely travel. She exhibited her Arabian-themed art at the U.S. Nationals, followed by several Arabian show venues in the Eastern half of the States and Canada. Later, representatives would sell her prints and small originals at the same venues annually. Many times she had a 'sell-out'. Travelling to farms, she delivered many commissions, for example for Taylor Ranch, Utah in the 1990's. She flew over with the commissioned large porcelain sculptures of Nariadni and later Muscat on the floor beneath her plane's seat.

In the early years she visited many farms in over 15 states. From 2004 to 2007 she went over to Jordan and Israel, teaching art and exhibiting her artwork.

"I am a longtime resident in very pretty and rural Western New York state. I have had Arabians for over 36 years. My





3rd-generation homebred mare 'Kaateeva' lives with me. Now I am buying back my 'love of my life' three-hectare small old farm, I had owned 12 years ago, above Little Valley, NY," Deborah Rush relates.

Since 2008 Deborah Rush signs her paintings with "Arte DeRosier". "I took up our ancestral family name. In pain from health issues, I wanted to give a fresh-restart to my image, my art business, and give myself a new outlook and focus. The response was also totally positive! I am still Deborah Rush in private life or legally. But I also believe my ancestral name identifies me better. It means 'noble keeper of the roses'," Deborah Rush points out.

Asked about her plans for the future, Deborah Rush smiles: "If I'm alive and if I can still create by then, I wish in 2019/2020 to be in Kuwait and create a 3 meter wide 'scroll-style' mural, featuring the life-course of a Bedu and

his mare from birth to rebirth of the next, when the Sheikh is very old. This is a dear point; I had studied Bedouin culture for 10 years. A great honor was to sit in an aged Bedu's tent, at the edge of the Negeb desert, in 2004. Since I knew their customs, it was like home; there was no awkwardness. Just that he no longer had a horse, but Salukis. Besides that, soon I hope to teach in my home studio, opening to art students, beginners to advanced, techniques to draw better. I have developed a 'fusion' style of accumulated insights to share. My goal too will be to help other artist's with stress and burnout issues. In our art world, fellow creatives can be under great stressors. It is a tough career to be in, at times. We all need assurances and validations. This goal is also dear to my heart. Besides a deep gratitude to all my wonderful collectors in over 20 countries, there is this corresponding sense of expanding knowledge, to share with artistic-minded people, art collectors and breeders. All in accord with our mutual admiration of the magnificent Arabian horse." □



About the author

Judith Wich-Wenning is a well-known prolific journalist from Germany. She has published the highly appreciated book "Jewels of the Desert" as well as numerous articles and photos in various international Arabian horse magazines. The Arabian horse in art is one of her most favorite subjects. Her travels have taken her around the world and especially to the Middle East. Judith Wich-Wenning breeds fine Arabians of straight Egyptian bloodlines at her stud farm "Orienta Arabians".

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