

# Augusta Hammock

## A MODERN TOUCH

■ by *Judith Wich-Wenning*

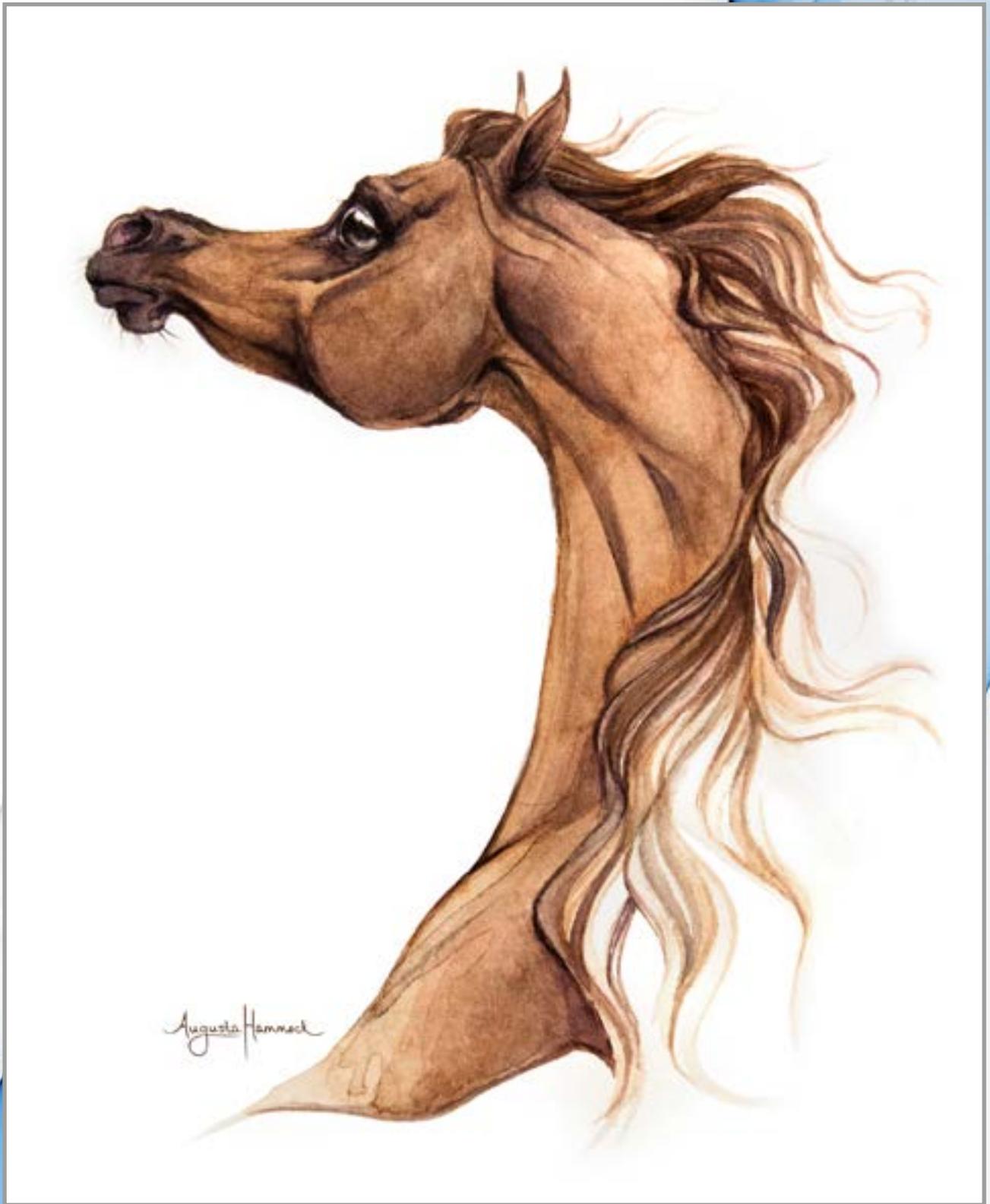
The American Augusta Hammock is a young modern artist with a different approach. State of the art techniques as her computer and Internet play an important role for her work. Besides of traditional paintings of Arabian horses on hand-made paper, Augusta Hammock designs equine art for greeting cards, logos, websites and advertisements.

*Augusta Hammock was born in Georgia, USA, which is also where she grew up. Most of her childhood was spent in the metro Atlanta area. "It's no secret that my passion for horses fuels just about everything I do", August Hammock relates. "As a child, I was spellbound by every equine I saw, and to be completely honest, not much has changed since then! I was born into a family that knew next to nothing about horses and, much to my dismay, had no plans to own them either. That never stopped this horse-crazy girl, though! My bookshelves were filled with classically illustrated horse books and my sketchbooks were teeming with royal steeds. Horse figurines sat atop my dresser and chest of drawers, and Saturday mornings were met with elation, as my mom would drive me to my weekly riding lessons... All of this and more, yet there was still something missing. How I longed*

*for a horse of my own! But, that part of the tale came a little later on."*

*Then Augusta Hammock became interested in Arabian horses: "When I was very young, about 10 years or so, I was introduced to the breed when I read about Arabians in an article online. I had been taking riding lessons for several years prior, and after learning about Arabians, I wanted to ride these horses that sounded so fantastic! I found a farm close to my home that specialized in Arabians, and began taking riding and halter lessons there. I have been committed to the breed ever since."*

*Augusta Hammock continues: "In the 1990s I realized my love for Internet technology, design, and the majestic*





*Arabian horse, all cornerstones of who I am today. In the summer of 2005 my grandmother and my parents gifted me with a handsome Egyptian-sired Arabian gelding named Valentino, who has since brought me incredible experiences and priceless friendships. Upon his breeder's recommendation, we travelled to picturesque Lexington, Kentucky to attend the Egyptian Event that year. This show changed a lot for me. I fell in love with horses all over again, and I began*

*to dream of becoming a breeder of these remarkable horses. In 2013, the ruby red Egyptian mare, Amirat Al Yakout (Amirah) (AA Al Bashir x NF Anna Halima Shah), joined my humble herd, and my journey as a breeder began."*

*Regarding her favourite Arabian horse, Augusta Hancock raves: "Everyone has their personal preference for the style of Arabian they prefer. In early 2018, I purchased a yearling*



*filly named Arianna JM (Aria Impresario x Aflames Anara JM) who meets my aesthetic ideal in so many ways. She inspires much of my equine art with her form, charisma, and personality! Not to mention, she brings so much joy to my life.”*

*Art and Arabian horses are both a source of relaxation and reflection for her. “The horses allow me to disconnect from*

*the daily grind and mentally reset”, Augusta Hammock explains. “My art helps me to explore and understand my own perspective of the world. I have a sense of enduring peace when both horses and art have primary roles in my life.”*

*Augusta Hammock continues: “The construction of a well-bred Arabian horse is one of nature’s finest representations of*





*form fused with function. Something so beautiful that is also capable of overcoming strenuous physical feats are amazing to me.”*

*Asked about her visits to Arabian horse stud farms and shows, Augusta Hammock responds: “I have travelled to many farms and shows within the United States, and each one has its own unique qualities that set it apart. I couldn’t possibly choose a favourite farm, as I have gleaned valuable information and inspiration from each one I have visited. However, the Region 12 Championship show in Perry, GA is my favourite show of the year! We enjoy camaraderie*

*and good sportsmanship while exhibiting in extremely competitive classes – and we have so much fun all the while. The variety of horses seen there is refreshing, from purebreds to half-Arabians to Straight Egyptians. It’s a worthy showcase of what our wonderful breed has to offer.”*

*Talking about her artwork and her art education, Augusta Hammock explains: “I am 28 years old, and I am a completely self-taught artist. I began drawing cartoon animals when I was very young, because I was inspired by animated children’s movies. I originally had aspirations of becoming a concept artist for Disney or Dreamworks, but I ultimately*



*chose to pursue a more autonomous path for my creative work where I would not be limited to creating art to bring someone else's ideas to life. I was gifted my first drawing tablet as a Christmas present from my parents when I was 12 years old, and I began working with digital art at that time. Since then, I have learned many forms of digital*

*mediums, primarily using Adobe products like Photoshop and Illustrator. In early 2015, I began using watercolour for the first time when I was prompted by my best friend, a CGI (computer generated imagery) animator and professional creative in her own right. I have enjoyed great success with the watercolour medium even though I am still very new to*



*it and have much more to learn. Today, I work primarily in watercolour and digital mediums, as each one affords very unique options and end results.*

*Most of my learning has been through trial and error, trying many different techniques on my own. There are so many readily available resources online, and I've made heavy use of these over the past 15 years. I try to keep an open mind about techniques, because the ideas I have for artwork vary so much in aesthetic.*

*I like to make heavy use of negative space and create artwork that makes the viewer engage with the piece, connecting lines*

*and filling in implied details in their own minds. In my opinion, this gives a piece so much life when you invite your viewers to really think about what they are seeing. Examples for this are my works Porcelain, Seasons, Tempest, and Ma Petite Fleur.*

*I also like to make use of organic lines and textures to create sketch-like pieces. I have found that many art enthusiasts including myself love to see what artwork looks like before it is completed and polished, which gives an inside view of the creative process. There is something special about seeing a piece in its most essential form. (Examples: Discernment, Wisdom, Always, Antiquity).*





*On occasion, I like to create a completed digital painting, mimicking what might otherwise be an oil or acrylic piece in traditional terms. The overall look is quite soft, because I prefer a calm, ambient mood in my pieces. I use neutral tones and diffused light direction to help with this as well. I use Adobe Photoshop and a Wacom Intuos tablet for pieces like this. (Examples: Servitude, Indomitus).”*

*Augusta Hammock continues: “I am largely inspired by the work of other artists. When I see something I really like, I analyse the piece to determine what stands out to me, then I will transpose that quality into my own style. Of course, the end result ends up being drastically different from the source of inspiration itself, but that is how many artists push their own boundaries. We are always indirectly challenging each other to try new things by putting out unique and inspiring work.”*



*The late artist Shary B. Akers has a very special place in Augusta Hammock’s heart. “I met Shary when I was merely 15 years old when she had a booth set up at a horse show”, she remembers. “I was speaking with her about her artwork when she noticed I was carrying a sketch book, which she asked if I minded sharing with her.*





*Of course, it was an honour to show my amateurish drawings to such a great artist, so I gladly obliged. She made a point to instil confidence in me as a very young artist, encouraging me to keep practicing and learning and to never give up on my art. Her kindness and selflessness made a lasting impression on me, and I strive to be the kind of person who inspires.”*

*Asked about her plans and hopes for the future Augusta Hammock ponders: “I create art primarily to express my emotions and thoughts, but it is important to me that others find inspiration and enjoyment in my work as well. I like to keep my options open for what road my journey as an artist may lead me down, but I know for certain that will be continuously honing my craft, working hard to master the mediums I use, and trying new things as often as possible.” □*

