



# Katja Sauer

## CAPTURING THE INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER

■ by *Judith Wich-Wenning*

Exclusive Arabian horse art is the specialty of equine painter Katja Sauer. This charming and very positive young lady is a relative newcomer to the scene and certainly has a long career ahead of her. Her artwork is very realistic in style and captures the essence and character of the portrayed horse.

*Katja Sauer is a German freelance artist who lives and works near the attractive spa town Baden-Baden, close to the Black Forest. In her childhood she discovered a passion for drawing animals, especially horses. "Animals have always played an important role in my life", she explains, "And to draw them*

*gives me such great pleasure. I love horses since my early childhood. I used every opportunity to draw them. Even my exercise books were full of horse sketches! As a child, I read all horse books I could get, watched every horse film and never missed a TV episode of Fury or Black Beauty. Moreover, I*

Estopa



was fascinated by desert movies – Bedouins, camels and of course horses mesmerised me. At school my favourite subject was always art.” After school Katja Sauer first went into a completely different direction. She did an apprenticeship and was then 11 years active in the field of media analysis.

However, art has not let go of her and was to determine her life a little later on. Besides of the art education at school, Katja Sauer is an autodidact. Since around 2005, she has read numerous art books and taught herself various techniques. Over the years she has experimented with different kinds of art, always driven by her deep passion for painting and equines. Afterwards she started to draw and portray animals after photos. Her goal was always to immortalize animals as true to nature as possible. Showing the individual character of each animal she portrays is very important for Katja. Her favourite techniques are today charcoal, pencil and pastels. “I love these drawing techniques because they allow you to blur

and overlay the colours and work out details.” Katja explains passionately. “With pastel pencils you can also apply light colours above dark colours and highlight light reflections.” In the future Katja Sauer would like to experiment more. Photographing animals and landscapes has become another passion for Katja Sauer.

The All Nations Cup in Aachen is a very important event for Katja. “In 2012 I attended for the first time as a visitor”, Katja Sauer remembers. “I enjoyed it so much!” Since 2016 Katja Sauer was commissioned to draw the “Horse of the Year” for the yearly Lifetime Award at the All Nations Cup in Aachen. The portrayed legends were Al Lahab, Estopa, Gazal Al Shaqab and Padrons Psyche. Katja Sauer owed this prestigious job to a dear friend of her, Mr Wolfgang Eberhardt (chairman of the German registry VZAP) who was a great admirer of Katja Sauer’s art. Sadly he passed away last year.

#### Presenting the painting “Al Lahab” at the All Nations Cup in Aachen







### Saala El Dine

Furthermore, Katja's work was already shown at several national exhibitions and she has contributed to calendars with her art. Since 2011 she has started to create individual commissioned works of the beloved family members for customers from all over the world. Each painting requires an enormous amount of working hours. Katja Sauer ponders: "Ever since I have started to do commissioned art, I was moved by the stories behind the photographs I receive for drawing. This shows me how important animals are to our modern lives and how they can make us more 'human'. This is also one of the reasons why I enjoy my work thoroughly. Horses and art play a very big role in my life. It gives me great pleasure to immortalise them on paper, to carve out the characteristics and their beauty. Every horse is unique

and I try to capture that in my pictures. The eyes are always the last part for me to draw. They bring the artwork to life."

Katja Sauer finds the inspiration for her work through photos and films about Arabian horses. "And of course I am inspired by my mother's Arabian horse 'Shahin'. She owns him since around twenty years. It is important for me to study his movements and posture closely", Katja Sauer relates.

When talking about Old Masters, Katja Sauer remarks that besides of Albrecht Duerer she very much admires Horace Vernet. "He was a genius I think!", Katja points out. "And of course I love the Polish painters Juliusz Kossak and his son Wojciech Kossak. Generally speaking, I have always been



El Tay Mashour

Gazal Al Shaqab



With Gazal Al Shaqab at the All Nations Cup in Aachen



**Rabbit Emma**



**Cat Matzi**

*fascinated by photorealistic art.” Then she continues with a smile: “I am very thankful to the photographers who allow me to work after their pictures. Without them my art would not be possible. I especially have to thank Martin Kubat, Julia Moll, Gregor Aymar, Gigi Grasso, Rik van Lent Jr., Stuart Vesty and Betty Finke.”*

*Regarding her hopes for the future, Katja Sauer ponders: “I would like to immortalise many, many more Arabian horses on paper. My plans for the future are to make many more people happy with my drawings and paintings. In addition, I hope that someday everybody will respect animals for what they are: living beings!” □*



**Cat Slayer**

Creating the pastel painting of Ansata Hejazi



Debowa Wola



NK Hafid Jamil