

The Biography of *Peter Smith*



"Mares in the Bedouin Tent"

Peter Smith has an intimate knowledge of horses but refuses to own one. Instead, Smith savours every moment that he spends observing these majestic creatures on race track, along beaches of his native Scotland and in the deserts of the Middle East.

"I believe that if you see too much of something, you stop looking at it. When you're up on the gallops in the early morning, with the sun just rising, and you hear the sound of hooves coming up the rise onto the gallops - it's like something you've never seen before, a completely fresh view", Smith explains.

A talented draughtsman, Smith is well known for his depiction of thoroughbred race horses and pure bred Arabians. "I love all horses, they are all noble creatures, but an Arabian will behave almost as if he knows his own pedigree. Arabians have a dignity and an apparent self knowledge, which makes them unique," Smith says.

His oil paintings have an outstanding sense of colour and excitement and convey, with ease and grace, the beauty of the pure bred Arabian and it's surroundings. His understanding of equine anatomy and ability to paint landscapes are complemented by the unique aura of natural light.



"Reflection of Beauty"

The first thing Smith remembers drawing was a horse, but his first love, at least initially, was for the animal itself "I used to doodle a lot, and it was always horses that I drew. At age 10, I discovered a local riding school. I couldn't always afford the lessons, which were 10 schillings each, but I would spend hours watching the horses. However I never made the connection between horses and art until I saw a Degas of a racecourse. It was only then that I realised I could put these two things together and make something of it" he recalls.

Stubbs and Munnings have a big influence on Smith's artwork. "The two are very different. Stubbs knew the horse's anatomy like no one else. He had an analytical mind that produced clear, classic compositions with no risk. Munnings took all the risks, pushing composition to the limit with things that shouldn't work. But, he then put in something to drive the eye back to the picture



"The Bedouin Tent"



"Ansata Hejazi"



"The Queen of the Nile"



After graduating from high school Peter went on to attend both the Carlisle College and the Glasgow School of Art. He then married Margery his childhood sweetheart and settled in Ayrshire.

Recent works have included an ongoing series of Arab horse subjects which Peter feels has brought him full circle - the Arab horse being the ancestor of all thoroughbreds. Collectors of Peter's work now include Lord Strathclyde, Sir Henry Cecil, Sir Bobby MacAlpine, John Francome, HRH Prince Khaled Al Saud and other patrons throughout the world.

"For me, a painting is never really finished because there is always something more I would like to do on it" Peter explains. "The answer is to correct it in the next painting, and in the next. If I ever felt completely satisfied with a painting there would be nothing left to do."

One thing is sure, Peter Smith knows his subject matter intimately. "When I've got the spark of an idea for a picture, I can draw the horses easily. Once you know how the anatomy works, you can make the horse on the canvas do anything you like. It's like having a little model of a horse in your head, and you can see how it's legs, head, back and whole body moves."



"The Lion Encounter"

The magnificent presence of these beasts is boldly transported onto the canvas by Smith. The taut muscles and flared nostrils of his action scenes bear down on the viewer so convincingly that you could be standing right next to these magnificent creatures. The huge oil paintings are impressive not just for the precise, detailed portrayal of Arabian horses, but for the talent Peter has for observing landscape and perspective, giving his work an incredible feeling of space while not losing it's subject matter.

Peter Smith is exclusively signed to Charlotte Bowskill-Cozens of Arabian Fine Art London. Please contact her by Email: info@arabianfineart.co.uk, Ph.: +44 7772 222 829



"Mother Love"

