

# A PASSION FOR THE FINEST SCULPTURES

## J. Anne Butler



The British J. Anne Butler is a self-employed sculptor and designer with more than 25 years of international recognition for her artwork. Her refined and elegant works of art can be found in 38 countries all over the world. She sculpts from miniature bronze statues to monumental.

■ by Judith Wich-Wenning

*J. Anne Butler was born in Whitehaven, a small coastal, rural town in Northern England. She was raised close to nature in a farming community in the English Lake District. "I was brought up on a farm where every inch of ground had to earn money", Anne remembers. "I loved horses as long as I can remember. Unfortunately, for a long time I had to be satisfied with a bicycle! But I did eventually get a pony: a wild untamed mountain pony which I gentled down so eventually he became very friendly and amenable. Later our daughter had an Arabian mare, an Aswan granddaughter, that was a World Championship qualifier. We also bred*

*miniature Shetland ponies, beautiful yet very independent creatures."*

*J. Anne Butler owns a diploma in Fine Art and Design, Carlisle University, Carlisle, Cumbria, England. Asked after another profession beside this she remarks: "Art has been my passion and sole source of income for the last 35 years or so." When asked about the beginning of her love for the Arabian horse, she remembers: "My step daughter who was crazy about horses is the reason I started amongst Arabians and from there it just developed a life of its own." Then she*









*continues: "Today art is my life, my living, and consumes most of my time. I love the Arabian horse, its history and culture. I have enjoyed my limited travels to the Middle East and time permitting hope to visit again with my many friends in that region of the world. My scope as an artist is not restricted to the Arabian horse since I love to push the boundaries and create new innovative works of art."*

*Relating about her life, J. Anne Butler remarks: "I came to my sculpting career later in life than most artists and purely by chance. While working for an international figurine company as a painter, and raising my children alone, I returned to Art College to pursue a career in textile design."*







*Due to circumstances beyond my control I was unable to further my chosen path. Instead I was given the opportunity to work in the origination studio of the figurine company, where I initially started to sculpt by texturing clays that had been produced by Master Sculptors. I then moved on to undertake my own work for the company.” J. Anne Butler remembers: “To me there are no boundaries, I have always believed that anyone can do anything they want, if they want to hard enough. I am entirely self-taught, learning by my powers of observation, not having had formal education in sculpting or anatomy either equine or human. Soon after meeting my present husband Ray and his two children, I took the opportunity to start manufacturing my own sculptures, the earlier pieces came from my surroundings in the English countryside, for example busts of a Border collie and Swaledale Ram, Blue Faced Leicester sheep and a portrait sculpture of my father who had died 15 years*

*previously, holding a lamb, which has led to many portrait commissions. But it was Ray’s daughter that reawakened in me the passion for horses that I had experienced as a child, and through her influence I discovered the ethereal qualities of the Arabian horse.”*

*When asked about her main works, J. Anne Butler recalls: “The very first major work, a mixed media piece was a seven-inch-tall figure of the Lord Mayor of London and you should have seen his look of astonishment when his look alike statue passed him during the annual parade. My first bronze, “Out of the Desert” a pyramid with a different bas relief Arabian horse / culture tableau on each side has a special place in my heart. I like to push boundaries, tell a story with my art and hopefully make a lasting impact in my clients’ lives. I have a series of bronzes exploring the relationship between girl and horse which speak to me in profound way. Creating*



*my first life size or rather larger than life bronze was special in that the technical challenges were rewarding. I love all my bronzes just some a little more than others!"*

*In 2001 J. Anne Butler and her husband Raymond Tweedie moved to Arizona. Prior to that they had travelled to the United States three times a year to exhibit Anne's cold cast porcelain statues at Arabian horse shows. They live outside Scottsdale, which is said to be the Arabian horse capital of the*

*world. There they own an acre of Sonoran Desert, which they have transformed into their "English Country Garden", a green lush oasis. J. Anne Butler sculpts her bronzes watching the native wildlife and the exotic lovebirds that recently joined their menagerie. The production of her bronzes takes place at three bronze foundries, one in Arizona and two in Utah. There are no limits in size or subject matter their team can cast in bronze. Regarding her preferred medium she remarks: "When I started producing my sculptures, I worked*





*in cold cast porcelain personally hand painting each piece, now I enjoy working in bronze preferring the strength of the metal and the challenge of bringing it to life."*

*J. Anne Butler very much enjoys visiting Arabian horse stud farms and shows: "I have been privileged to spend time with some of the finest horses in the world and forge lasting friendships with many influential Arabian horse breeders", she ponders. "I get inspiration for my work from many sources. Like an especially beautiful horse, maybe a poem, a photo, the beauty of nature. The list is endless but they all have the ability to speak to my soul. I love old masters, my favourite is probably Leonardo Da Vinci because of the vast spectrum of his talents and abilities plus he was so far ahead of his time."*







Photo: Yvonne Barrios

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*She continues: "About Arabian horses I am fascinated by their beauty, power, the almost spiritual quality and their culture and background. My other interests besides art and horses are nature, music, and gardening. People are my passion: and hoping I can make a positive contribution to those around me whether I ever actually meet them or they are friends or clients in distant parts of the world."*

*Currently, J. Anne Butler's art can be found in private, public and corporate collections in 37 countries. Among her clients were for example HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh as well as His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, Sarah, Duchess of York, England, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Watts, Halsdon Arabians, U.K. and Ms. Bo Derek, USA as well as the late Mr. Patrick Swayze, USA. Already at the beginning of her career, J. Anne Butler executed specialized projects for various clients including Walt Disney and Schmidt and Enesco. She has also contributed to several major charitable organisations.*



*Asked about her plans for the future, J. Anne Butler responds: "I would like to sculpt in bronze a large-scale desert scene tableau incorporating as many aspects of Arabian culture as possible; the horses, camels, birds and wildlife epitomizing their relationships to the people of the desert. The diversity of my friends and clients is staggering, their lack of uniformity a joy, yet they are a shining example to all. My profound hope is that no matter who you are, where you live, your status or culture that you can relate to your fellow men in a positive caring manner." □*