

THE SCULPTOR

JENNA GEARING

FROM CLAY TO SOUL



■ *by Judith Wenning*

Some time ago, I came across the Instagram page of the young British artist Jenna Gearing by chance. Her sculptures immediately caught my attention and I wanted to know more... Usually, I tend to be fascinated by sculptures from the 19th century, but Jenna's works are an exception. They are refined, yet expressive, a real eye-catcher. She certainly has a long and great career in art ahead of her!

Jenna Gearing is a rising British sculptor, born in 1994, whose impressive body of work spans portraiture, wildlife, commemorative public art, and Arabian horses. Jenna relates with a smile: "I'm born and bred in the countryside and having always been around here, and have been so obsessed with horses since young."

Jenna Gearing discovered her passion for clay at age 11 during ceramics classes at St Leonards Mayfield School in East Sussex, initially creating small vessels and animal figures. By her late teens, Gearing had her first private exhibition in 2012 and soon began casting her sculptures in bronze. Jenna Gearing remembers: "I was an art scholar



to secondary school and studied there, but my first public art was a sculpture I made when I was 16 of a war veteran which ended up in two different museums. I also had a piece bought by the national portrait gallery aged 21.”

Jenna Gearing works in the trio-blend method of capturing interpreting representing, valuing traditional skills paired with a dynamic, modern approach. She frequently sculpts from live sittings or photographs, focusing on conveying emotion, character, and realism. Known works include Doe Grazing, Fighting Stags, and a sleek Dachshund. Her sculptures are celebrated for their energy, life, and anatomical accuracy. She specializes also in portraits of elderly war veterans and human figures with deep stories. Notable commissions include: Henry Allingham in the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Captain Eric Brown in the National Portrait Gallery, London. Jenna Gearing

is creating a statue of Billy Fiske (WWII pilot and athlete) near the U.S. Embassy in Wandsworth, London, supported by high-profile endorsement. She also sculpted a commemorative bronze of Eilidh MacLeod, a 14-year-old victim of the 2017 Manchester bombing, placed in Barra’s memorial garden.

Jenna Gearing explains: “My work embodies traditional sculpting skills with a dynamic, modern approach to the finished casting whilst aiming to capture personality and character. I sculpt primarily in clay and plasticine and my sculptures go through the lost wax process at local British foundries to turn into bronze or silver. I usually exhibit in the Gulf every year and this year I will be having a private exhibition in October in Dubai DIFC (Dubai International Financial Center). I regularly go to the gulf countries and work with many amazing clients there, specifically on their own horses and commissions.





My studio in England is in a wildlife park which is so wonderful and peaceful. I love to work daily at new sculptures and have many on the go at once so I can keep interest. In my pastime, I love to ride and train my horses. I like being in the country as I find the space and quiet really inspiring and love being around nature and having plenty of space to gallop my horses.”

Jenna Gearing actively merges impulsive energy with traditional patinas, aiming to capture a moment, gesture, or feeling that is instantly relatable. Jenna Gearing blends classical sculpting techniques with a contemporary sensibility, excelling in bronze animal figures and human

portraiture. Her commissions—ranging from museum pieces to public memorials—reflect her strengths in capturing emotion, narrative, and lifelike presence through sculpture.

When asked, how she became fascinated by Arabian horses, Jenna remembers: “My grandma had an Anglo Arab when I was growing up, we used to ride. Later I spent seven months living in Argentina and one of my favorite horses living with the gauchos was an imported Arabian called Lolo. He was quite sassy and opinionated but I loved him and after a little argument where he decided to be a bronco, we got on famously.”



A special encounter in the Middle East changed her career. Jenna relates: “But when I first started coming to the gulf after lockdown, I was introduced to the show Arabians and fell in love with their beauty and amazing features.”

Jenna Gearing spent also a lot of time studying fellow Arabian horse sculptors. “Of modern artists I love the work of Karen Kasper and Edwin Bogucki,” she explains. “I am very traditional in my approach but do try and occasionally incorporate more modern patination or mounting techniques for a modern twist.”

Asked what inspires her most, Jenna Gearing answers quickly: “My inspiration comes from living. I live in the rolling Sussex country hills surrounded by wildlife and my four dogs and 5 horses and see inspiration in daily life. I love to capture movement and expression and often my own animals help me with reference points. Nature is so beautiful and deserves to be immortalized in bronze.”



Then she continues: "Sometimes I struggle switching off a piece and can find myself so excited by it I'm still working on it into the early hours. I also work on multiple sculptures at the same time so sometimes I don't know which one to continue first."

Jenna Gearing explains: "Art has been my full-time career the last ten years and long may it continue. As mentioned, I'm planning a big exhibition in the DIFC of Dubai later this year to show some life size pieces and more dynamic styles to my work. I hope to be able to make more life size or even bigger horses in the future and I love making peoples own special and prized horses for them to cherish forever."

Asked about her dreams for the future, Jenna responds with a smile: "My dream is to get my own Arabians one day, I have two rescue horses and the rest are Irish breeds, one I bred myself." □

