

ART

# THE ARTISTIC JOURNEY OF MADELEINE BUNBURY

By Farah Rezeika





*"I was always obsessed with horses,"* Madeleine reminisces. Spending her school holidays at a local riding school on the Caribbean Island where she grew up, she developed a deep connection with these majestic animals. While studying art at the age of 17, her yearning to paint horses persisted. Weekends spent in the Umbrian countryside of Italy allowed her to indulge in her passion as she painted her friends' horses. This marked the beginning of her lifelong dedication to capturing the essence of horses in her art.

Madeleine's artistic style evolved during her time at Charles Cecil Studios in Florence, Italy. There, she immersed herself in the techniques of the old masters, painting from life under natural light. Inspired by renowned horse painters such as **George Stubbs** and **Edwin Landseer**, she improved her skills by creating life-sized equine portraits. *"The painting 'Whistlejacket' by George Stubbs was the first painting I fell in love with,"* she shares. This fascination with capturing horses on a grand scale became a defining characteristic of her style, one that she has maintained and perfected since her art school days.


LIKE MANY YOUNG GIRLS, MADELEINE BUNBURY WAS CAPTIVATED BY HORSES FROM AN EARLY AGE. THROUGH HER DEDICATION TO THE ART OF PAINTING AND HER UNWAVERING PASSION FOR THESE MAGNIFICENT CREATURES, SHE HAS CARVED A UNIQUE PATH AS AN EQUINE ARTIST. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE DELVE INTO MADELEINE'S ARTISTIC JOURNEY, EXPLORING THE INFLUENCES, CHALLENGES, AND REWARDS SHE HAS ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE WAY.

After completing her art education, Madeleine embarked on her career as a professional artist. Initially, she relied on the generosity of friends who provided her with the opportunity to paint their horses in exchange for accommodation and meals. As her skills improved, she began sharing her equine artwork on Instagram, attracting clients from around the world. Through word of mouth and social media, her reputation as a talented horse artist flourished, leading to commissions from horse owners across continents.

Working with horses presents unique challenges for Madeleine. Horses are constantly in motion, making it difficult to capture their fleeting expressions and movements. Additionally, painting in various weather conditions, from desert sunshine to tropical rainstorms, has tested her perseverance and adaptability. However, the rewards outweigh the challenges. The ultimate gratification for Madeleine comes when the finished portrait is shown to



the horse. *"The horse then neighs and snorts, approaches the canvas, and reacts as if they are greeting another horse,"* she shares. It is a powerful testament to the connection she has forged between her art and the equine spirit. One of the most significant moments in Madeleine's artistic journey was receiving a Royal commission to paint the *Queen of England's horses*. The opportunity to visit the Royal stables at Sandringham and create portraits that would be treasured by the Queen herself was a tremendous honor and source of excitement.

Currently, Madeleine is undertaking a grand project titled *"The Great British Breeds."* Traveling across Great Britain, she paints life-sized portraits of 18 British native horses and ponies. This ambitious endeavor aims to showcase the remarkable variety of horses from one small country and will culminate in an exhibition, potentially at the prestigious *Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace*. The project also contributes to raising funds for rare breeds associations. 

Check her full artwork:  
<https://www.bunburyart.com/>