

OSBORNE STUDIO GALLERY

HUBERT DE WATRIGANT

FRENCH EQUESTRIAN PAINTER WITH BREATHTAKING FLAIR

BY THEO WOODHAM SMITH



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Hubert de Watrigant was born in 1954 in the South West of France where his father bred and trained racehorses. He started sketching in his father's stables. At school he drew ceaselessly in the margins of his notebooks. Self-taught, he possesses an extraordinary gift to seize a fleeting moment, and to capture the transient effects of light. Watrigant uses a wide variety of materials including charcoal, pastel, watercolor and oils, and works on many different surfaces, sometimes including collage.

Influences on Watrigant's work include Delacroix, Gericault, and Rene Princeteau, the first teacher of Toulouse-Lautrec, another artist of noble family with a 'passion cheval.' Watrigant has a distinctly impressionist approach to the world of racing, allowing us freedom to interpret his vision.

Watrigant has been exhibiting his work since 1976, several times at Osborne Studio Gallery in London, but also in France, America, Spain, the Emirates and Japan. Private collectors include HM The Queen, HM the King of Morocco, HH Sheikh Mohammed al-Thani, and many other connoisseurs of equestrian

art, including Baron Guy de Rothschild, Lord and Lady Moynihan, the Wildenstein family, the Niarchos family, and David Naylor-Leyland.

In his own words:

"don't focus on the main events and principal actions, I prefer to linger on details. I am more interested in the jockey adjusting a stirrup, or the lad waiting with his horse. I pick up my binoculars when others put them down."

FACTBOX

Osborne Studio Gallery

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Website: www.osg.uk.com

COLLECTED BY HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II, HM THE KING OF MOROCCO, AND SHEIKH MOHAMMED AL-THANI, AMONG MANY OTHER NOTABLES, THE WORKS OF HUBERT DE WATRIGANT ARE FIRED BY PASSION FOR HORSES, A CONSTANT THEME THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF EQUESTRIAN ART.

