

HORSE TIMES



no. 70

FALL 2024

THE LEADING EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



A GLOBAL LEADER IN ARABIAN HORSES

AL JASSIMYA FARM



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VIEW POINT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear readers,

Welcome to a new issue of HorseTimes.

Let me start by reminding myself, along with everyone else, of the value of our sport, “horsemanship.” We should set an example of how we honor the horse through our commitment to the values of horsemanship. When all is illusive, this should be our anchor and our guide.

As for this issue, we start with Al Jassimya Farm in Qatar, a haven for Arabian horses and an international landmark of operations that has contributed exceptionally to Arabian horse breeding through the vision of Shiekh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

In depth with Ilonna Hannich, followed by the Brazilian showjumper Luiz Fransisco, who is a rider deeply rooted. Moreover, some insights as winter has come through on how to get your horse winter-ready, along with 60-seconds with Kathrin Meyer, a vaulting rider.

Plenty of commotion regarding dressage in Egypt and how it is evolving with bigger plans for the future. Finally, a softer tone with Madeleine Bunbury and her journey with art.

Read on and enjoy.

Khaled Assem





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AL JASSIMYA FARM

A GLOBAL LEADER IN ARABIAN HORSE BREEDING AND SHOWING

BY BIANCA LANDOLFI

EM



ALJASSIMYA FARM
Since 1979

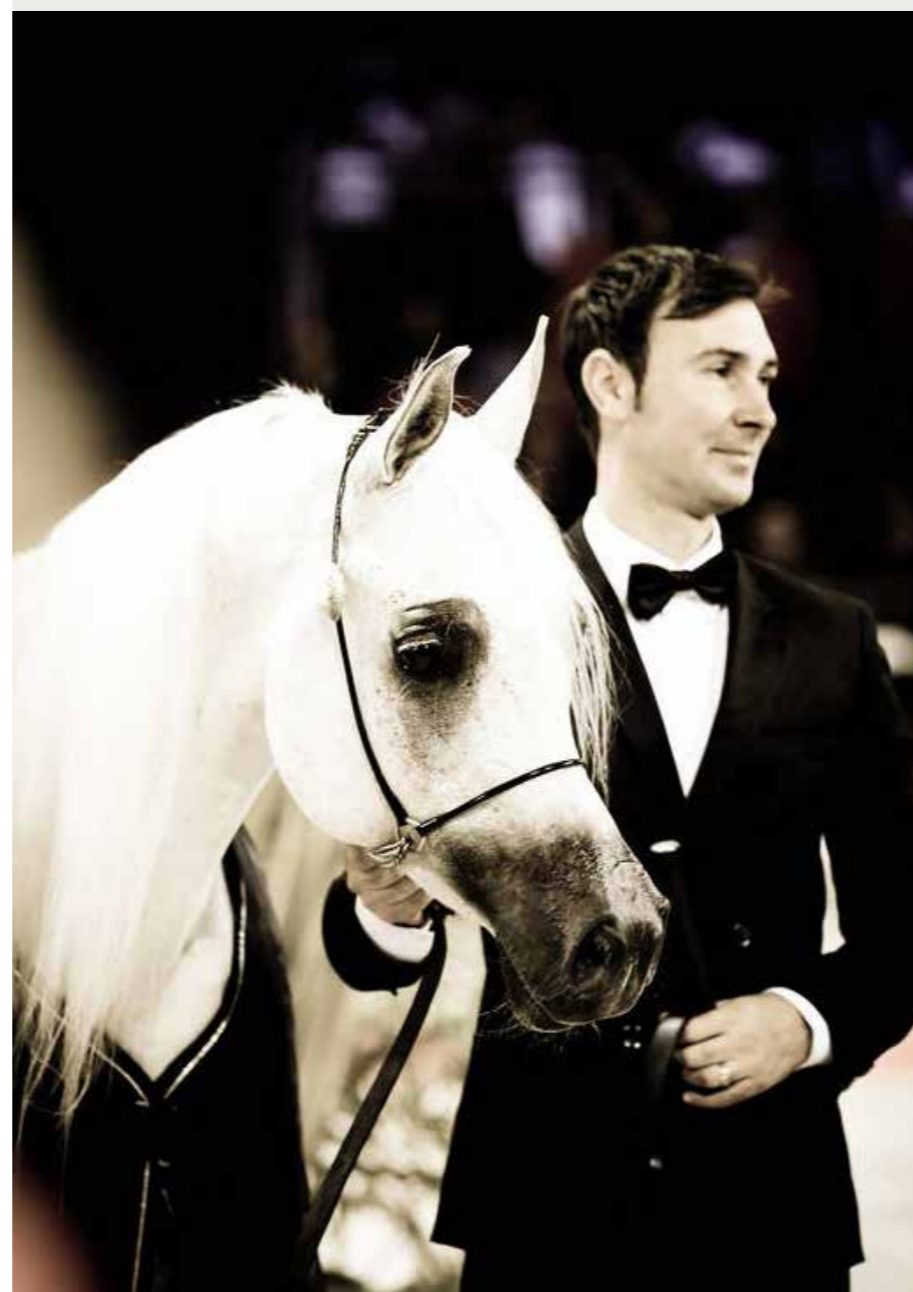


ALJASSIMYA FARM
Since 1979



Aljassimya Farm, established by Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani, has gained international recognition for its exceptional contributions to Arabian horse breeding, merging tradition with innovation to uphold the breed's heritage. Based in Qatar, with operations also in California, the farm has become a leader in the Arabian horse world, excelling in global competitions and initiatives.

Sheikh Jassim's passion for Arabian horses began more than a decade ago, but it was the 2011 World Champion Mare title of CR Jasmeenah **(WH Justice x Forget Me Not)** that marked his rise on the international scene. Since then, Aljassimya Farm has consistently reached new heights, producing a series of World Champion horses. Notable champions include Minwah, the 2013 World Champion Yearling Filly **(by Kahil Al Shaqab)**, Mona Lisa Aljassimya, the 2019 World Silver Champion **(by Equator)**, and Perfecta Aljassimya, the 2021 Reserve World Champion Yearling Filly



(by Picasso di Mar), all of which highlight the consistent quality of the farm's breeding program.

Beyond these famous names, Aljassimya Farm is dedicated to developing a distinctive lineage.

Early successes came with homebred champions such as Ghazwan Aljassimya **(by Marwan al Shaqab)** and Mai Aljassimya **(by FA El Rasheem)**. In 2018, Om El Aisha Aljassimya **(by WH Justice)** continued the legacy, winning the World Silver Champion Mare title, while her yearling son, Arraab Aljassimya **(by Al Ayal AA)**, also claimed a Silver title.

In 2022, two homebreds born the previous year brought further success: Bandar Aljassimya **(by Picasso di Mar)** earned the World Bronze Champion Yearling Colt title, and Baz Aljassimya **(by Exxalt)**, owned by Akmal Stud, became World Champion Yearling Colt. In the following year, Baz's maternal brother, Maayer Aljassimya, was crowned US National Champion.

The breeding success at Aljassimya is strongly influenced by the legendary stallion WH Justice, a



key figure in the program, alongside foundational mares such as Om El Aisha Aljassimya, Saskia RJ, and Toscana PGA. Through careful selection of elite bloodlines, Aljassimya Farm has established a distinctive look and type that stands out in the Arabian horse community.

A unique feature of Aljassimya Farm is its dual-location operation. The breeding program originally began at 100 Oaks Ranch LLC in the scenic Santa Ynez Valley, California, while the primary facility is now in Qatar. This allows Sheikh Jassim to stay personally connected to his horses, overseeing their training for international competitions and ensuring an ideal environment for breeding and raising the next generation of champions. Aljassimya's homebred horses have excelled in a variety of disciplines, with champions in Halter, Western, and Hunter Pleasure classes. Under the guidance of Sheikh Jassim's eldest son, Sheikh Khalifa, the farm has expanded into the world of show jumping. Sheikh Khalifa's dedication has

already resulted in impressive achievements, with wins in both Qatar and Italy.


Sheikh Jassim's dedication to the Arabian horse extends beyond breeding. He is committed to promoting the breed and attracting new audiences through initiatives such as the farm's annual Open House events. Held at Aljassimya's equestrian facilities, these gatherings bring together breeders, families, and honored guests to showcase the latest foal crop and highlight the farm's

cornerstone breeding horses. The events further solidify Aljassimya's reputation as a leader in the Arabian horse world.

In 2015, Aljassimya Farm launched the "Aljassimya Amateur Challenge," a signature initiative aimed at engaging new participants in the Arabian horse community. Starting with just three events, the challenge expanded to include ten countries, offering both halter and performance classes that have attracted hundreds of new handlers

and enthusiasts.

Even during the disruptions caused by the 2020 global pandemic, Aljassimya Farm adapted by organizing a series of online competitions. These virtual events allowed horses from around the world to compete via video submissions, with judging conducted through a custom app. This innovative approach not only entertained a global audience but also reinforced Aljassimya's role as a leader in utilizing technology to connect the global Arabian horse community.

Aljassimya Farm stands as a global leader in the Arabian horse world, excelling in both breeding and promoting the breed. Through its top-tier breeding program and pioneering initiatives, the farm continues to champion the Arabian horse and inspire new generations of enthusiasts, leaving an enduring legacy on the international stage. 



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IN-DEPTH WITH

ILONA HANNICH

By Farah Rezeika

ILONA HANNICH, A HIGHLY ACCOMPLISHED EQUESTRIAN VAULTING RIDER FROM SWITZERLAND AND HAS BECOME A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE WORLD OF VAULTING.

BORN WITH A DEEP PASSION FOR HORSES AND A LOVE FOR ACROBATICS, ILONA DISCOVERED EQUESTRIAN VAULTING AT A YOUNG AGE AND KNEW SHE HAD FOUND HER CALLING. QUALIFYING FOR HER FIRST WORLD CUP SEASON, COMPETING AT THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES, AND WINNING MULTIPLE MEDALS AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP ARE AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS THAT HAVE PROPELLED HER CAREER TO

NEW HEIGHTS.

HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN EQUESTRIAN VAULTING? CAN YOU SHARE THE STORY OF WHAT DREW YOU TO THIS SPORT AND HOW AND WHEN YOU GOT STARTED?

As a kid, I always wanted to ride and dreamed about doing something with horses in the future. I could occasionally ride during holidays, but my parents weren't that into it. I also did gymnastics when I was little and loved all things related to acrobatics and the circus. When I read about vaulting in a horse magazine, I instantly knew that this was it. It was the perfect combination of those worlds. I went to my mum and told her I had to try this. I was eight years old back then.

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE INITIAL CHALLENGES YOU FACED WHEN YOU BEGAN YOUR VAULTING JOURNEY?

For many years, my training was at a basic level and not structured very well. Additionally, I learned some technical exercises in completely the wrong way. It would have been easier if I had learned things correctly from the beginning and started off with more intensity.

DID YOU HAVE ANY ROLE MODELS OR MENTORS WHO INSPIRED AND GUIDED YOU ALONG THE WAY?

I could name at least 20 athletes who served as role models for me. But I also drew a lot of inspiration from people outside of our sport. My family has been one of the biggest sources of support and inspiration throughout the years.

Can you share a particularly memorable or significant moment from your early vaulting career?

I remember a moment when I trained with one of my biggest idols, I had just lost my father, and it was not the easiest time for me. We trained together, and not only did he tell me he saw one of the best vaulters in the world in me – which already blew my mind – but he also asked me what was going on because he saw the sadness. He then told me, *"It is okay to be weak sometimes."* This sentence moved me deeply.



WERE THERE ANY SPECIFIC COMPETITIONS OR ACHIEVEMENTS THAT MARKED MILESTONES IN YOUR JOURNEY?

One big milestone was qualifying for my first World Cup season in **2017/18**. Also, competing at the World Equestrian Games in Tryon **2018**. At the end of **2021**, I was asked to join the Lütisburg team. Winning my first championship medal in Herning 2022 with the squad was the next big milestone for me. And then, of course, the European Championship **2023**, where I won four medals.

EQUESTRIAN VAULTING INVOLVES WORKING CLOSELY WITH A HORSE. HOW DID YOU DEVELOP A BOND AND ESTABLISH A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR EQUINE PARTNER?

Building a bond with the horse is one of the most important things in our sport. The feeling of trust is especially important to me. It is also important to learn how a horse reacts and what each horse needs, and what I need to be mindful of.

HAVE YOU FACED ANY SETBACKS OR OBSTACLES IN YOUR VAULTING JOURNEY?

I qualified for the Championship at least twice after a hard start to the qualification series.

Those were only the sports-related hardships. What has truly shaken me was losing my father to suicide in 2017. It happened right before my first World Cup season, just a few months before the qualification competitions for Tryon.

Looking back on your journey, what advice or words of wisdom would you give to aspiring equestrian vaulting riders who are just starting out?

Learn to love hard work, strength training, and conditioning. 🐾



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HORSE TIMES INTERVIEW WITH

LUIZ FRANSISCO DE AZEVEDO

BY FARAH REZEIKA

LUIZ IS A BRAZILIAN RIDER BASED IN WELLINGTON. HE WAS PRACTICALLY BORN ON A HORSE, COMING FROM A FAMILY OF HORSEMEN. HIS FATHER IS A 2X OLYMPIC MEDALIST, AND HE ALWAYS DREAMED OF FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS. HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN A WORLD CUP FINAL, WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES, AND HAS BEEN SELECTED TWICE FOR THE BRAZILIAN OLYMPIC TEAM, REPRESENTING HIS COUNTRY IN LONDON 2012 AND TOKYO 2020.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SHOW JUMPING?

My dad is my greatest inspiration. I grew up seeing his successful career. Also, my brother is a professional and fantastic rider who has influenced me.

CAN YOU SHARE A MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM YOUR COMPETITIVE JOURNEY SO FAR, AND WHAT MADE IT STAND OUT FOR YOU?

Fortunately, I have had a few remarkable moments in my journey. But one that stands out a lot is the CSI 5* WEF Rolex Grand Prix, where I was in second place with my great companion Comic. Of course, being selected to represent my team in major championships is also a great achievement in my career.

AS SOMEONE WHO HAS ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS IN THEIR FIELD, HOW DO YOU STAY MOTIVATED AND CONTINUE PUSHING BOUNDARIES?

Our sport is so competitive and challenging that there is always something more to conquer. My motivation comes from my everyday work to keep improving and getting better each time.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THE SPORT EVOLVE OVER THE YEARS, AND WHAT DEVELOPMENTS EXCITE YOU MOST ABOUT ITS FUTURE?

Many things have changed. First, the quality of the horses, amazing facilities and the quantity of riders able to compete at the highest level are impressive.



DOES ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY CURRENTLY COMPETE OR HAVE EXPERIENCE IN SHOW JUMPING, AND IF SO, HOW HAVE THEY INFLUENCED YOUR OWN APPROACH TO THE SPORT?

Yes. My oldest brother, Luiz Felipe de Azevedo Filho, my sister-in-law, Celine de Azevedo and my nephew Luiz Felipe de Azevedo Neto. It's a great opportunity to share the same passion and to be able to exchange thoughts and opinions with people so close to me. In fact, we will all be competing together in the Global Champions Tour of Miami in April.

FAMILY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MANY ATHLETES' LIVES. HOW HAS YOUR FAMILY SUPPORTED YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR SHOWJUMPING JOURNEY, AND WHAT IMPACT HAVE THEY HAD ON YOUR SUCCESS?

As mentioned previously, my father is a fantastic rider and a great mentor. He gives me very incisive opinions that always yields results when put into practice. My wife is a great supporter and plays an important role in helping me maintain my focus.

WHAT'S THE MOST ADRENALINE-PUMPING SHOWJUMPING COMPETITION YOU'VE EVER PARTICIPATED IN, AND HOW DID YOU MENTALLY PREPARE FOR IT?

The World Equestrian Games at Tryon in 2018 required long preparation, spanning many years. It involved consistent training to keep my horse in the best shape and the confidence to always give my best.



AS A RENOWNED SHOWJUMPER, YOU'VE TRAVELED THE WORLD FOR COMPETITIONS. CAN YOU SHARE A DESTINATION THAT LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON YOU AND WHY IT WAS SO MEMORABLE?

My profession gives me the opportunity to be in amazing places and meet wonderful people. But there is one place that has a special feeling for me. **Rome, Piazza di Siena**, where I placed 3rd in the Nations Cup representing Brazil alongside my brother, who was also on the team. A real dream comes true.

LUIZ, IT HAS BEEN APPROXIMATELY A YEAR SINCE YOU OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE RETIREMENT OF YOUR ESTEEMED HORSE COMIC. LOOKING BACK ON THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY YOU SHARED TOGETHER, CAN YOU

REFLECT ON SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS YOU HAD WITH COMIC THROUGHOUT HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER?

Comic is definitely an esteemed horse. I would even say more; **he is part of my family**. The Boss of my house, there are pictures of Comic in every corner of it. In regards to results, I won't mention just one, but the day I actually tried him when he was only 6 years old. That day, I had the best feeling I have ever felt on a horse. Our connection was immediate. I knew he was the one.

FOR THOSE JUST STARTING, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP THREE TIPS FOR BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL SHOW JUMPING CAREER?

Work hard, be patient, and most importantly, love and respect the horses. 🐾





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HOW TO GET YOUR HORSE WINTER-READY?

By Farah Rezeika

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF FALL AND THE REFRESHING CHILL IN THE AIR, IT'S A SURE SIGN—WINTER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

WHETHER YOU LIVE IN FRIGID CLIMATES OR AREAS WITH RAINY, CHILLY WEATHER, WINTER CAN POSE CHALLENGES FOR HORSES. THANKFULLY, HEALTHY HORSES HAVE NATURAL DEFENSES, LIKE GROWING A THICK COAT AND INCREASING BODY FAT. NEVERTHELESS, THEY STILL NEED EXTRA CARE TO MAINTAIN THEIR HEALTH DURING THIS DEMANDING SEASON. WITH TEMPERATURES DROPPING, NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO ASSESS YOUR HORSE AND PREPARE FOR THE COLD AHEAD.





CONDITION CHECK

Start your winter preparations by evaluating your horse's body condition score (**BCS**). This score ranges from 1 to 9, with a score of around 5 indicating a healthy weight. Consult your veterinarian for an accurate assessment, considering factors like your horse's age, recent activities, injuries, and overall mental state.

FEEDING

Monitoring your horse's BCS helps determine its dietary needs. Is your horse gaining weight, losing it, or maintaining an ideal condition? Adequate body fat is crucial for insulation during winter. Check areas like the neck, ribs, and hips for fat coverage. For horses below a BCS of 5, increase caloric intake by adding more hay and grains. Stock up on high-quality hay in the fall to avoid shortages later.

WATERING

Proper hydration is key to encouraging your horse to eat enough hay and grains. Cold, frozen water can deter drinking and lead to dehydration. Studies show that warm water increases intake, so aim to keep water sources unfrozen and ideally warm (**around 39°F or 4°C**).

CLIPPING

A healthy horse naturally grows a thicker coat and longer hair in the fall to stay warm during winter. However, if the coat gets wet from sweat or rain, it can pose a serious risk for the horse when left outside. For horses that will be worked hard and kept warm with blankets, clipping their long hair can promote better health. Conversely, if a horse will spend a lot of time in the pasture without much exertion or if it's older and struggles to cope with the cold, it's best to allow it to keep its winter coat.

BLANKETING

When deciding on blanketing, consider your horse's coat, age, body condition, shelter, and local climate. A good winter coat typically suffices, but clipped horses or those in poor health may need additional warmth. Ensure your horse is dry before blanketing, and regularly check under the blanket for skin conditions.

SHELTERING

Horses in pastures must have access to shelter to escape harsh weather. Options include natural shelters like trees or constructed run-in sheds. Ensure shelters are spacious enough for all horses and consider multiple shelters if your herd has a hierarchy.

DENTAL CHECK


Winter diets often consist of dry feed, making dental health even more critical. Schedule a dental checkup before winter to ensure your horse can chew effectively, aiding digestion.



HOOF CARE

Regular hoof care is vital to prevent injuries. Schedule a farrier visit before winter to determine the best shoeing options for your area. Inspect the stability of stall floors and check hooves daily to prevent issues from snow or wet conditions.

EXERCISING

Cold weather can reduce motivation for exercise, but maintaining a regular light exercise routine is essential for your horse's fitness. Identify safe riding areas and prepare the ground to prevent injuries due to ice. Warm-up and cool-down sessions are particularly important in low temperatures, so consider using indoor facilities if available. 



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TRAINING TIPS
RIDING ESSENTIALS

BY KHALED ASSEM

IN THE WORLD OF HORSE RIDING, FORWARDNESS, STRAIGHTNESS, AND CONSISTENCY ARE THREE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS THAT FORM THE FOUNDATION OF A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HORSE AND RIDER. THESE PRINCIPLES, WHEN APPLIED EFFECTIVELY, CAN LEAD TO A MORE HARMONIOUS AND ENJOYABLE RIDING EXPERIENCE.



FORWARDNESS is the cornerstone of effective horse riding. It's the willingness of the horse to move forward with enthusiasm and energy. A horse that is forward is more likely to be confident and cooperative, making it easier for the rider to achieve their goals. However, it's crucial to strike a balance. Over-demanding a horse can quickly erode their forwardness and lead to a loss of confidence.

STRAIGHTNESS is another essential element in horse riding. A straight horse is easier to control and maneuver, and it allows the rider to harness the full power of the horse. Straightness is achieved through proper balance, consistency, and the use of a strong back. The horse's back plays a crucial role in carrying weight and power, and a strong back is essential for maintaining straightness.



CONSISTENCY is key to maintaining a steady pace and achieving the correct number of strides in a given distance. A consistent pace helps the horse stay balanced and in control, making it easier for the rider to find the correct take-off point for jumps. Consistency also helps to prevent the horse from becoming rushed or hesitant, which can lead to mistakes.

The relationship between forwardness, straightness, and consistency is interconnected. A forward horse is more likely to be straight and consistent, while a straight and consistent horse is more likely to maintain its forwardness. By focusing on these three elements, riders can improve their overall horsemanship and achieve better results. 🏡

60-SECONDS WITH

KATHRIN MEYER

By Farah Rezeika



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START VAULTING?

A friend

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN VAULTING?

19 years

COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE PERFORMING?

I am really focused during my performance and feel motivated to show everyone what I am training for.

WHO HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST SUPPORTER THROUGHOUT YOUR VAULTING JOURNEY?

My mum

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A VAULTING CHAMPION?

The thing I am proudest of is the continuous work we did with my horse to grow together and achieve this.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE IN VAULTING?

The next goal will be the **World Championship** in Bern this year. In general, I want to improve my work with my horse to become smoother in my movements around and on the horse.

WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE FAN INTERACTION YOU'VE HAD?

Some girls came to Wiesbaden to take a picture with me, and they were super happy afterward.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO RELAX AND UNWIND AFTER A COMPETITION?

Sleeping a lot, eating nice food, and enjoying some rest with my horses.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY BESIDES VAULTING?

I think it is dancing. I started to support my vaulting skills, but I really enjoy my time at dancing lessons.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL?

That's difficult, I would say dogs.



ARE YOU A SUMMER OR WINTER PERSON?

Summer

WHAT IS THE LAST PLACE YOU HAVE BEEN TOO?

Reno, Nevada

WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO MEAL?

Pasta and pesto

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

Maldives

IF YOU COULD STEP INTO THE SHOES OF ANY ATHLETE FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD IT BE?

I think Pauline Schäfer or Alica Schmidt

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, WHAT IS THE QUOTE OR MOTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?

I try to enjoy the moment. Not only the competition is the part we should enjoy, it's the smallest parts of our life. 🐾



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A GROWING DISCIPLINE

DRESSAGE IN EGYPT

By Emad Zaghloul

DRESSAGE, AN ELEGANT AND PRECISE EQUESTRIAN SPORT, HAS BEEN MAKING STEADY STRIDES IN EGYPT. WHILE ITS HISTORY IN THE COUNTRY IS RELATIVELY SHORT COMPARED TO OTHER EQUESTRIAN DISCIPLINES, EGYPT HAS SHOWN SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY IN RECENT YEARS.

Dressage in Egypt gained prominence after the Pan Arab Games held in Cairo in 2007. Despite limited international participation, Egyptian and Syrian riders showcased their skills, marking the beginning of a new era for the sport. Subsequent competitions, such as the Seif Al Sham in Syria and the African Equestrian Federation competition, have further solidified Egypt's position on the dressage map.

CAN EGYPT OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES IN DRESSAGE?

One of the major challenges facing dressage in Egypt has been the limited availability of suitable horses. While some dressage horses have been imported from Europe, their numbers are relatively small. This has led to a reliance on horses previously used in showjumping, which often require retraining for dressage.

The training of riders and coaches has also been a key area of focus. While many Egyptian trainers have extensive riding experience, international exposure and specialized training in dressage have been limited. However, the presence of international dressage trainers and clinics has provided valuable opportunities for Egyptian riders to learn from experts.

IS EGYPT'S OLYMPIC DREAM FOR DRESSAGE WITHIN REACH?

Qualifying for the Olympics in dressage is a demanding task that requires exceptional skill and dedication. In addition to the rider, horse, and trainer, a strong support team, including a veterinarian, farrier, and groom, is essential. Unfortunately, the development of such support systems has been slow in Egypt.

Despite these challenges, Egypt's dressage community is determined to elevate the sport to new heights. With continued dedication, investment, and international collaboration, Egypt has the potential to become a competitive force in the world of dressage.

AS EGYPT'S DRESSAGE SCENE CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, THE COUNTRY'S EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY REMAINS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ITS FUTURE. WITH DEDICATED RIDERS, TALENTED HORSES, AND GROWING INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE, EGYPT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE GLOBAL DRESSAGE ARENA. 🇪🇬



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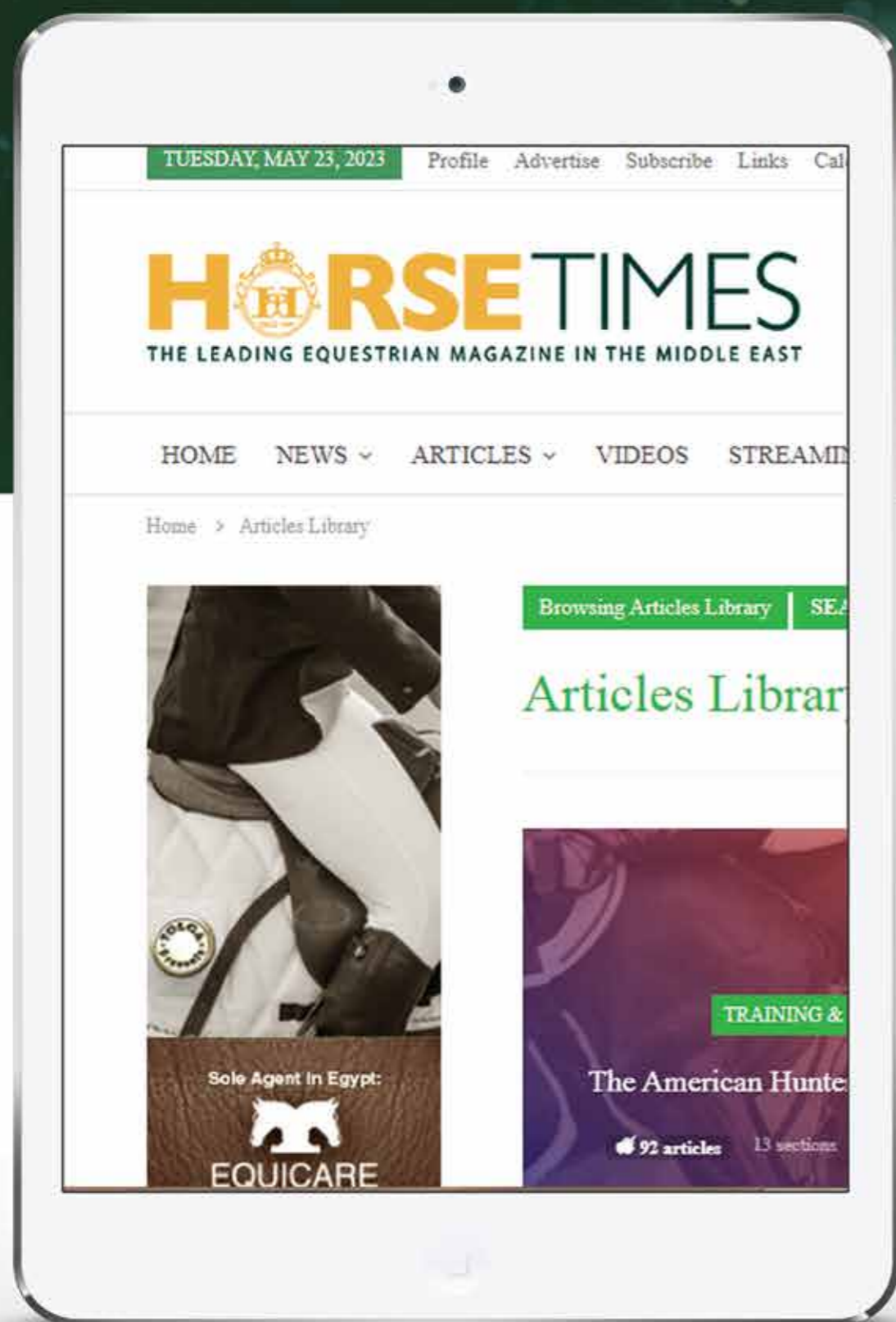


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ART

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/>

ART

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