



**HORSE ART
IN-DEPTH WITH THE AMERICAN
ARTIST BROOKE MAJOR**

By: Nermin Marwan

BROOKE MAJOR IS AN AMERICAN ARTIST BORN IN 1979 IN ATLANTA, GA. BROOKE MAJOR HAS BEEN LIVING AND WORKING AS A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST, SHARING HER TIME BETWEEN GEORGIA, USA AND FRANCE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS. BROOKE SCULPTS OIL PAINT, USING PALLET KNIVES CHALLENGING BOTH TECHNIQUES OF PAINTING AND SCULPTING AND EXEMPLIFYING LIGHT AND SHADOW.

Can you give us a deeper insight into your background and how you became an artist?

I have always loved art and started painting **non-stop** since the age of **three**. I have mainly been influenced by all periods of painting, especially the romanticists mostly focusing on **Gericault, Delacroix, and Princteau**; the French impressionists of which I am largely inspired by Monet, Manet, and Pissarro following **post-impressionist Van Gogh** and with **no exception**, following the **intelligent philosophies** of **Dadaist** artists like **Marcel Duchamp**.

When I was in school, my art teachers remarked my work and creativity and I was often given first place throughout high school for my paintings and work. When I graduated and moved to Paris to study **International Relations** I paralleled my study time with **auditing painting courses** at the **Paris** Fine Arts school.

This experience allowed me to study the **technicality** of **mixings of paint with chemicals**, as well as the usage of epoxy and varnishes. My advancement in drawing techniques was also refined and the classes taught me the essentials of painting techniques, **shadow, light, perspective, and depth**.

After school, I moved to **Normandy** to be completely immersed in

Nature, with **horses** and I certainly needed a bigger space to paint. Thanks to this move, I was lucky to have as a mentor a Russian set designer named **Nikolai Dvigoubsky**, who taught me how to be a professional artist and especially how to paint on a **large dimension and format**.

Specializing in Equine art, you must love horses. How did that passion start?

Horses and painting are my life. I also started **riding at the age of three** and the bug stayed. As a youngster, I rode in the hunter ring, and seeing my talent as a rider, I was at horse shows on weekends and training my horse after school. My dream was to **breed horses** and I was always attracted to the **Selle Francais**. Then by chance, I moved to **France**, and to **Normandy** where I was introduced to some of the most famous riders and breeders of the **Selle Francais breed**. I became very involved with the **breeding business** which led me to purchase broodmares of the oldest Normand bloodlines of showjumping stock.

I spent **6 years** specializing in **show jumper breeding, training, and showing on an intensive level**. I proceeded to obtain my accreditation and licensing for judging at national



shadow, light, perspective, and depth.

"Horses and painting are my life"





French young horse competitions in the hunter division. The horses I have trained and shown have been very successful in their careers, one of them won the French young horse championships as a **5yo** in **2013**, another winning the **Nations Cup** in Wellington twice, placing 7th in the World Cup and **3rd** at **Hermes jumping in Paris**, among numerous others who compete in **5-star Grand Prix**. Today I have lowered the number of horses in my stock to **9, 3 broodmares** and **7 youngsters**, including a **4yo** mare who is already qualified for this year's finals!

Spending your time between Georgia USA and France over the past 20 years, did that affect your exposure to various types of art?

I have been lucky to not only have been residing in France and in the **USA**, I have been privileged to travel all over **Europe** and I have also been frequently to **Mexico, Central America, and Asia**. Travel is essential for the growth of appreciation and an opening to creativity in art and is unequal to one who experiences little travel. Architecture, climate, **environment, culture, scents, languages, values, and beliefs of different countries** can all be **influencing factors in future creations**. With each travel ending in a **strong desire** to create new work, I can draw from each of these experiences a freshly acquired knowledge in architecture or in a culture that allows my **maturity and growth** as a professional artist.

Your **passion and appreciation for horses** are exhibited in your art.

Describe the studio where you create your art?

My easel is always next to a wood-burning fire and a coffee pot. I live in an **18th-century** farmhouse about **200 meters** from the **sea** and my horses live behind my house in a big field. In the back of our home, we have a large Veranda which I am using in warmer months. My favorite time of the year is now, for while I am painting, I sit in the veranda and can keep an eye on anticipated foals with the hopes to capture the moment of **new life**.

Do you have a muse that inspires and drives your creativity?

My **5 year-old son** is my inspirational **motivation** and as all children are artists he helps me stay a child myself.

What enhances your motivation? do you paint every day or when the mood strikes you?

New exhibitions and orders as well as deadlines for

openings are the best **motivating factors** for me. I try to **paint or draw** every day and if I'm not creating work, I spend time preparing for shows, responding to new calls or updating inventory, and managing inventory in the galleries where they are exhibited.

How has the pandemic impacted your work or your way of operating?

I used the **pandemic** as a time of rest from all of the hectic art show openings and art fairs. I **concentrated on my horses and my family**. I was very productive in terms of making paintings, exploring portraiture, various landscapes, and deepening my knowledge of **equine anatomy**.

Do you have a favorite painting in your own collection? Why?

All of **my paintings** are **my children** and I love them all equally. A recent portrait of **my son** that I have painted is a painting that **I would never sell**.

What are you currently painting?

I am currently working on three orders, one of the **Rouen Cathedral's library**, one of **Notre Dame** and one **the Mont Saint Michel**.

Do have a story for any of the paintings that you would never forget?

One of my paintings was selected for an **important auction in Atlanta, GA**. When the object passed at the sale, at first no bids were being heard. Within **30 seconds**, people started bidding on it and all of a sudden, my painting ended up being **the best sale of the evening!**

What was the most challenging period in your life?

Running a stud farm of 30 horses and at the same time, an **art career** proved to be the hardest most tiring **five years** of my life. It demanded constant presence in both fields requiring that I had to organize exhibits around horse shows which clearly was a deciding point of staying a professional artist and keeping the number of horses to a manageable level.

What is your goal or your lifelong dream?

To win **the golden lion at the Venice Biennale** and be exhibited in **the best museums in the world**.

Do you have a role model that inspires you?

Marcel Duchamp 🇫🇷