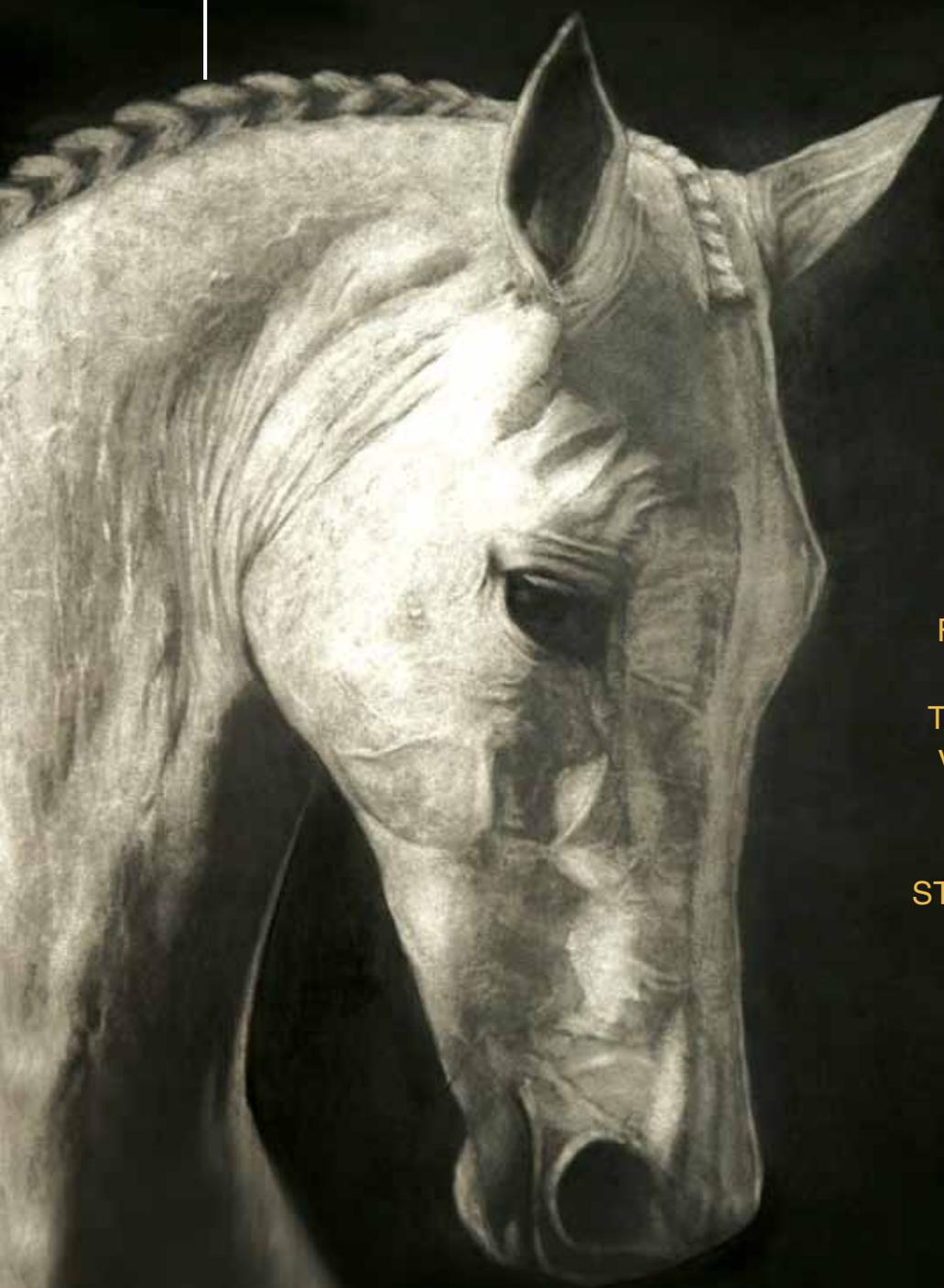


HORSES IN ART

PADDY LENNON



PADDY LENNON WAS BORN IN 1955 IN DUBLIN, 8TH OF A LARGE FAMILY OF 12 CHILDREN. THE ONLY HORSE THAT WAS FEATURED IN THEIR LIVES WAS AN OLD IRISH COB THAT PULLED A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CART, WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS ADORED BY EVERYONE IN THE STREET AND THE LENNONS CONSIDERED HIM QUITE STRIKING.



One of the first jobs which Paddy got and which also left an early impact on him was being an assistant to a sculptor's assistant. The job mainly involved picking lumps and stones from clay, but in order to continue supporting himself, he worked in an accounts office. He then started to attend Fine Art classes four evenings a week; eventually, Paddy gained admission to Art College and four years later received a First Class Honours Diploma in that field.

Paddy's main artistic technique is drawing. He explains, "I feel that drawing has everything that is most important in art. It is much harder work than painting but is deeper and richer. There is nowhere to hide in a drawing; it's all laid open to the world. Due to the fact that I can't source-card large enough to draw full life-sized horses, I concentrate on the upper part of their bodies; mainly the head and neck."

Regarding how Paddy started painting and painting horses in particular, he continues, "I have always tried to convey a certain feeling through my work, be it painting or drawing. When I lived in the West of Ireland, the landscape was overwhelming which had a strong effect on my work. However my wife is a horsewoman, and when we all, including our children, moved to live beside a lovely beach, she opened a riding centre and I now find myself surrounded by horses. And since I am now immersed in a world of these creatures, they have proved to be a rich source of inspiration for me regarding subject matter. I ride every day on a lovely strand, hunt and mess around with a bit of show jumping, though nothing to frighten the Irish show jumping team! My studio is in the equestrian yard so I don't have far to go for the source of my work. It's totally different but, funnily enough, I think I can express

the same feeling that I want people to feel when they look at my work."

As for his methods and materials used, Paddy continues, "I'm fairly wide ranging. For my drawings I use Siberian compressed charcoal for the larger work, and water colour pencils or polychromous or simply pencil for my smaller sketches. Also, oil on canvas for some of my paintings or something I developed myself which is a mixed media involving charcoal, board, turpentines and oil paint. This method I developed through trial and error and it can be difficult to pull off; as such, I don't use it too often." 🐾

Paddy Lennon will next be seen exhibiting at ADIHEX, September 2011

Contact information:
paddylennon@msn.com
phone: +353 53 9133962
www.paddylennon.net