

The Arabian Horses

of Marine Oussedik

by Judith Wich-Wenning

Since many years, I follow the meteoric career of Marine Oussedik. Her style of painting is very typical: light horses, swift and elegant, a desert colored background and the specific, rather sparingly use of bright colors are characteristic for Marine Oussedik's works. Many years ago, I had the pleasure to meet her for the first time at the World Championships in Paris. It was very interesting to note that positive energy, vivacity and authenticity distinguished not only her art, but also Marine Oussedik herself.

But what is the background behind this gifted artist? Marine Oussedik was born in Paris in 1967. Her mother came from Northern France while her father was a Kabyle from Algeria. Marine discovered her love for horses when she was five years old, riding ponies at a park in Paris. From then on she began to draw horses. She really started equestrianism at the age of ten years and went to a riding school. Except her sister, nobody in her family was ever especially interested in horses. When Marine grew up, her dream was to become a veterinarian, but as she was not

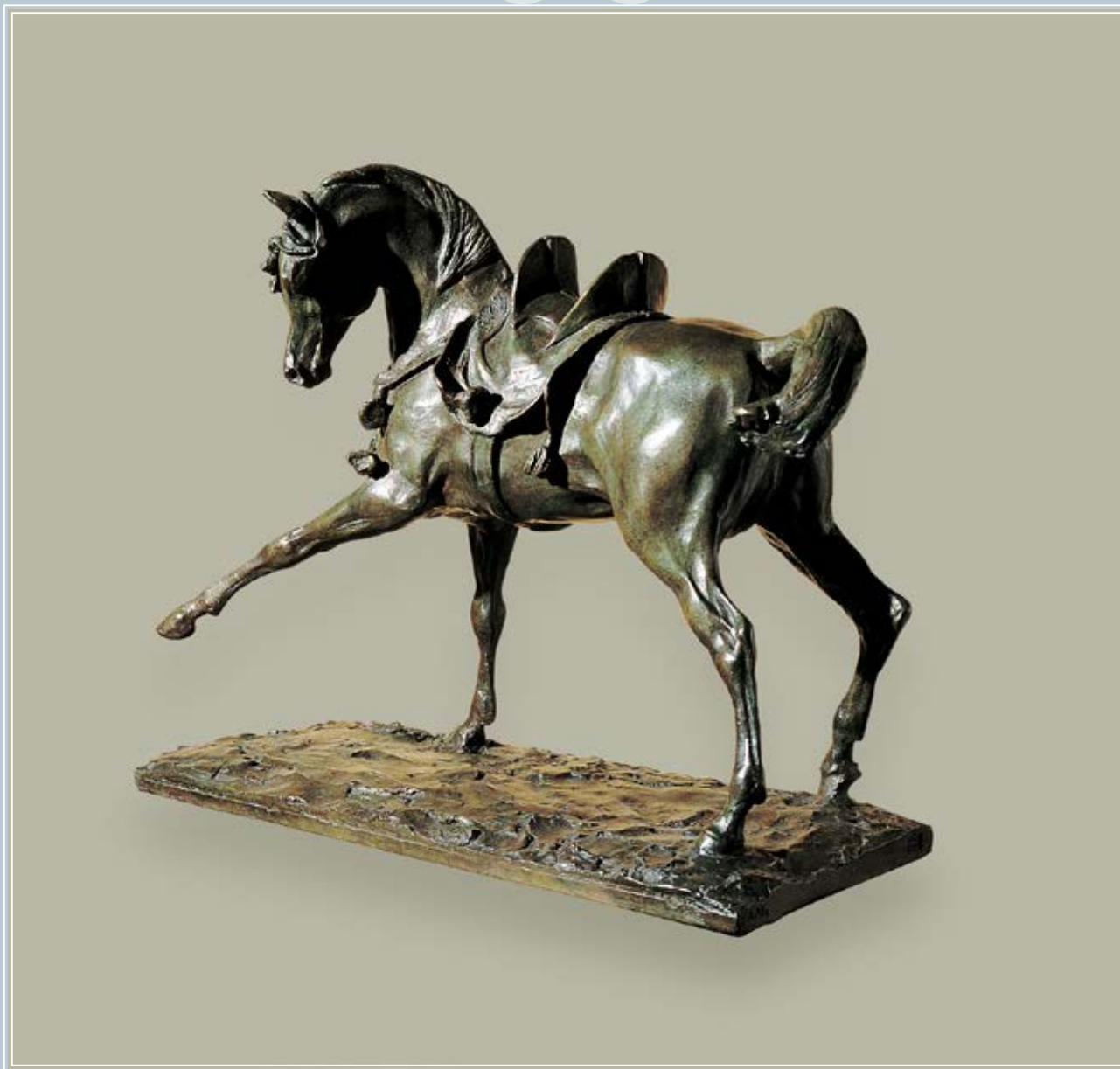


The artist Marine Oussedik.

good enough in mathematics, she took another direction. Thanks to her artistic talent, she entered the Higher College of Graphic Arts in Paris. She graduated after presenting a humorous booklet about horse breeds.

In 1991, Marine Oussedik exhibited for the first time in public. Her ink drawings shown in a gallery in Paris attracted immediately lots of attention.

Then Yves Bienaimé discovered Oussedik's art. He was the founder of the "Museum of the Horse", a special museum in Chantilly, France devoted to equine art and culture. He asked Marine to prepare a number of artworks for permanent display in two rooms of the museum. The first room was dedicated to Arabian horses in Arabian proverbs and the second to the horse shows as performed within the museum. Especially the Arabian proverbs' room was soon one of the most popular exhibitions there. It was open to the public until 2008, when some renovations started at the museum. This display led also to the creation of Marine Oussedik's first art book called "Les Chevaux d'Encre" ("The Ink Horses"). It was published by the Living Museum of the Horse in 1993 and comprises a selection of



"Arabian Stallion", a bronze sculpture by Marine Oussedik.

Arabian proverbs regarding Arabian horses. As this book is no longer available, it became in the meantime a true collector's item.

Shortly after her first exhibition in 1991, Marine Oussedik's works have been in high demand all over the world. She has sold her art to Switzerland, Great Britain, Belgium, USA, the United Arab Emirates and even to the Far East as e.g. South Korea and China. Marine uses colour inks on paper. With this technique, she can use a nib, which

gives a very precise stroke. She chooses handmade paper with different textures and colors. Marine Oussedik also uses charcoal and chalk and sometimes paints in oil on canvas.

In 1996, Marine discovered another medium to express her artistic talent. She created her first bronze sculptures of horses. Also here Marine was very successful. She was asked to sculpt some of the trophies for the World Championships of Arabian horses in Paris, including the Most Beautiful





"Le Vent" ("The Wind"), an imposing sculpture by Marine Oussedik.

Head Trophy. Asked if she has a favorite Arabian horse, Marine Oussedik quickly responds: "No, I love them all. I like the 'old type' from the Arabian Desert as much as the horses you see at shows nowadays."

In the year 2004 Marine received the Prix Pégase (Pegasus literary prize) by the French Academy for the Advancement of Equestrian Culture – a special recognition

for her wonderful artwork. A first retrospective of the artist's work was held in 2010 at the castle-museum Saint-Jean in Nogent-le-Rotrou (France). It celebrated her first 20 years of passion for equine art.

The famous porcelain company "Gien" dedicated several series of china to Marine Oussedik's illustrations. So her elegant Arabian horses dance and prance now on plates,





"The Eagle", painting by Marine Oussedik.

tea cups, napkins etc. Thanks to the great success, Marine produced also a few unique pieces enhanced with gold for an exhibition at Dubai Mall. In addition to this, Marine who calls herself "a child at heart" creates also toys. Her colorfully painted wooden Arabian horse on wheels will capture any little Arabian horse enthusiast (and numerous grown-ups as well!).

Marine Oussedik published several impressive books

with her art. Moreover, she contributed to a number of books and equestrian magazines. The French TV has also reported about Marine and her work. Interestingly, Marine Oussedik does not use photos as a pattern for her paintings. She draws from memory and her experience and equestrian knowledge help her in that. She feels that drawing after a photo would result in a lack of life and movement. Her works full of power, esprit, femininity and





"The Birds", beautifully colored painting by Marine Oussedik.



"Horses and Sloughis".



elegance prove that this is right for her.

Today Marine Oussedik lives on her family estate in the French countryside, around 100 km North of Paris. Here she finds the peace of mind and the light she needs for her work. She keeps two Warmblood horses and rides regularly. Marine very much enjoys classical dressage. However, the development of a good relationship to her horses is more important for her than competition. Her everyday life is centered around horses, painting and sculpting depending on the climate and light.

"The Arabian horse is so beautiful and expressive", Marine Oussedik explains. "There

Large porcelain plate out of the series "Chevaux du vent", limited edition.



"The Falcon" by Marine Oussedik.



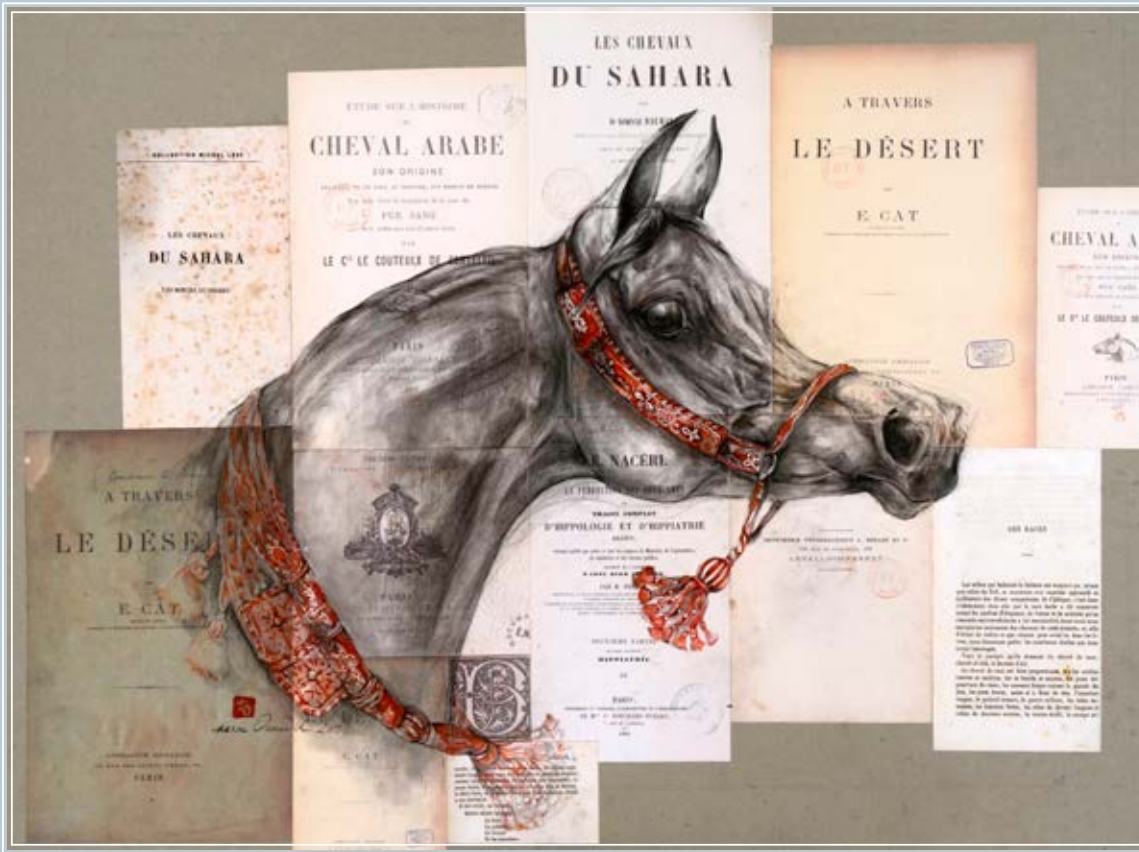
is vibrancy and febricity in this so particular horse. I love his head, the eyes – full of life and passion and then his tiny crescent moon's ears... I love Orientalism, drawings of the desert with tents and palm trees. Or magnificent palaces full of luxury carpets where Arabian horses, wearing beautiful harnesses, are like jewels in the casket. " Asked after the role Arabian horses and art play in her life, Marine ponders: "It's difficult to say. You can't explain a passion; you live it, just like you breathe, it's natural!" Then she concludes: "With Arabian horses I discovered a fairy-tale universe and I will never let it go." □

Bronze "Falcon".



"The Trio" bronze sculpture.





"The Desert" – extraordinary collage by Marine Oussedik.



Board game with Arabian horses, designed by Marine Oussedik.



Charming Arabian rocking horse designed by Marine Oussedik.

