

LIFE WITH NO LIMITS

the art of Claudia Duffe

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One of the most interesting European horse photographers and world's most talented painters. Privately – former gymnastic, horse riding teacher and exercise rider for steeple-chase horses! Her work is a subject of art exhibitions sponsored by Middle Eastern studs during prestigious race meetings (like Arc weekend in France) or during Arabian horse shows (like European Breeders Cup). Her dream is to travel around the world with camera...and paint brush!

Claudia Duffe can be caught while carrying around the camera at one of European events or at some Egyptian Arabian horse farms – that is her special admiration.

Not many people in horse industry know that she is also top rank sportswoman, who practised gymnastics at an early age, certified horse riding teacher, an eventing rider and, later, an exercise rider for Jacques Ortet and Guillaume Macaire, steeple-chase trainers!

When her sport career had to stop after diagnosing a serious back problems, probably

because of her intensive gymnastic career in East Germany where she comes from, Claudia turned into her other passion - art. She inherited the talent with her genes – from both parents graduated Art school. She developed her technical skills at Atelier de l'Estuaire with Pascal Garin and worked with Carolle Beaudry, famous painter of horses in Canada.

Nowadays her favourite portraits show horses in action - during training or famous sport horses like General - twice winner of the Arabian World Cup, Sea the Stars, winner of the Arc in 2009 or Suprem Rock, Pippa Funnell's horse, twice medal winner at 2004 Olympic Games.

She also used to be popular amongst horse





Duff
Arabian Horse Photography
CLAUDIA DUFFE PAINTINGS



owners to make commissioned portraits on request. Important part of Claudia art work is to observe, learn and get to know with every horse and its owner. She also takes photos before painting to memorize horse characteristics, habits and its body language. The camera also travels with her to horse shows – but rarely you can see Claudia in the middle of arena like other photographers. You can rather meet her amongst people, taking photos from different angles, sometimes a paparazzi-like shots telling backstage stories of the meetings. „I like these meetings, I like listening to people, talk about their horses! - she says - I got really moved when the owner of a horse discovers the painting. I don't mind making painting on order. When you don't choose your model it becomes a real challenge too, like a school exercise. That doesn't stop me from being true to my self as a painter." She also started a new subject of art in collaboration with Andreas Syring, graduated from modern movie making school in Berlin - to make horse, studs and show videos. Their first collaborated kick outs are from European Breeders Championships in Berlin (over 1 hour reportage) or El Gamil Stud in Egypt video footage. "My work is the storyboard, I choose movies, the light...I have my view and he realize this in a new, fresh modern way - artistic but sometimes even provocative...".

The photography and video filming gives to Claudia another opportunities – to play with light, zoom, catching up the atmosphere of a moment. Famous are her photos from the old El Zahraa farm in Egypt – where you can almost touch the magic atmosphere of ancient times. The latest photo impressions from El Zahraa could have been seen in one of last Tutto Arabi issues with the reportage of 14th B-International Arabian Horse Show El Zahraa 2012.

„What's fantastic with art is that are no limits: you create, you test, you make discoveries. What a freedom." - she used to say. And here is the place for the next step forward. Further dream of Claudia is to travel around the world – to the Middle East, Americas, around Europe – anywhere you can meet wonderful horses and catch beautiful memories, either on the photo or in a painting that can later make any of the horse lovers happy while hanging on the wall...



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