

That certain je ne sais quoi

Ella M. Bianco

Brigitte Morisson describes herself as a wildlife painter. Indeed, her creations are not limited to the equine world and in her collection you'll find amongst other animals, lions, buffalo, stags, elephants and ostriches, all painted with equal charm. Yet, it is her horse creations which have that certain je ne sais quoi.

Perhaps this is because Morisson is a horse woman herself; a talented dressage rider. She says from birth she, "adored horses", and the last horse she owned was a magnificent Lusitano stallion, "a coppered chestnut with a golden mane" whose influence can easily be discerned in her work. "I really was in love with him", she says. "We had a special relationship for 11 years and I'm still not comforted by his loss."

Morisson's love for horses is not in doubt. One only has to look at her work to see her passion. Her talent for portraying her subjects is clear. She started out using dry pastels for her portraits in 1985 but then diversified into another career, that of a decorator. It is this background which gives her paintings their stand out quality, using a lime wash in an Italian fresco style combined on the canvas with the oil.

She works on the matter as if she was working on a wall, and the result is striking. Her completed canvases developed in their popularity and eventually she stopped working as a decorator, winding down her company in 2006, devoting herself exclusively to her paintings. Since then, Morisson says, "Success has been fast and for me it was a revival."



Photo: Courtesy, Brigitte Morisson

French artist Brigitte Morisson made her UAE debut at the ADIHEX fair in Abu Dhabi where her paintings caught the eye of Equestrio. It's easy to see why; with their unique energy, movement and realism her paintings are enchanting.

Asked why she chose to paint animals and not people, she replies, "I didn't choose animals, they chose me - a gift of Heaven, maybe..." Whether or not the canvases are divinely inspired remains in the eye of the beholder. "Meetings with her paintings are moments of emotion", said one critic, "the power and expressiveness of her paintings enter the depths of us."

Brigitte confesses to be fascinated by the power of energy and the animals she paints convey this; the stalwart elephant, the galloping horses and the alert lioness. But her familiarity with horses, elevate those paintings above the others, they convey an astonishing and accurate fluidity of motion. In 2009, she exhibited in four exhibitions in France, one of which was the 'Salon des Indépendants' where the President of the French Senate admired her work. But Brigitte has not let the fanfare distract her from new conceptions and she remains committed to her paintings. She continues to take her influence from nature, the African bush and the equine world, particularly the Arabian horse of late a popular breed in her home nation France and perhaps inspired by her visit to Abu Dhabi.

Brigitte Morisson is available for commissions. All her creations are oil paintings and come with a certificate of authenticity.

www.brigitte-morisson.com



showcase

Painting has always been a passion for Brigitte Morisson. Her distinctive style comes from a fusion of experience. Once a full time decorator, her former career has undoubtedly influenced her creations, giving them a fresco appearance.

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