

# HORSES – Read the Story

## *Wind Spirits*



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## *Perspectives on Paradise*



I have thought about doing very different, interesting images; artistic representations that we don't see often. I have been looking at this piece of wood for quite some time and finally, when I got way out of the box with my visualizing, this is what I came up with and I love it. Mounting the piece on walnut took it to the next level. It's not surprising that the first of my "Unique Perspectives" series is a horse.

Original on Spalted Pecan

## ***Golden Soul***

While doing an art show in Ruidoso, I stayed with a friend who raises Haflinger horses. They are such beautiful, curious and hardy animals that it was a joy to watch them and just hang out with the herd. Long, flowing manes and tails accentuate their beauty as they move around me and it was easy to imagine myself among a herd of wild horses, as free and unfettered as the sunlight that bathed them in a golden glow.



## ***Dollar, A Good Mountain Horse***



Dollar is a horse I road on a pack trip in Colorado. On the ride into the wilderness he was a packhorse and I road behind him on Blackie. I noticed Dollar had a habit of racking on the steep trails and it made the packs really rock back and forth. I wondered why he did that and thought it might make him uncomfortable to ride. (Most appaloosas are very comfy.) None-the-less, we all fell in love with Dollar, he was so sweet and adorable. For the ride out our guide, Willie, asked me if I would ride Dollar because he wanted to pack Blackie and give Dollar a break with a lighter load. I jumped at the chance even though I thought it might be an uncomfortable 15 miles of mountain riding. Boy was I wrong. I don't know why but Dollar is smooth as silk and I felt fortunate to have him as my mount.

## ***Luna Blanca, Transitions***



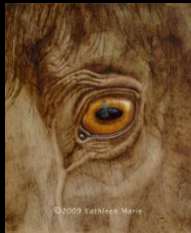
This piece evolved from several experiences I've had over the years. Blanca is a white mule that belongs to a friend and she has given him many years of faithful service as a pack and riding mule. She is now aging and he has retired her and will take care of her, as she has him, until the end of her life. Our animal family members deserve nothing less. I have had many animals in my lifetime and losing each one grieves me tremendously. I am trying to learn to accept these transitions with more grace. This picture is a representation of peace in that transition; crossing over or passing thru to another realm of beauty. It is a journey we will all take. I also had a glorious experience on the night of the vernal equinox, walking in the woods by the light of the moon. It was spiritual and I was given an awareness that I cannot describe.

## ***The Guardian***



This protective mother guards her foal and that of another mare as she gauges the danger. The foals I call Star Dancer and Angel Fire. The mare of course, is Thunderbolt and she will strike like lightning to protect these babies - and she means business.

## ***Golden Eye***



Horses eyes are incredible, so expressive. This guy has gorgeous color to his eyes and in certain light they look golden. I have often noticed my own image reflected in the eyes of horses so I put me here as a memory of some of my favorite things; horses, wilderness, camping, taking pictures and camaraderie with friends. This would be my first self-portrait.

## ***Heading Home***



Memories of horse packing trips of old and the anticipation of another trip to Utah inspired this image. The

wood is Banak and set the mood for me. The packer, always at home in the wilderness, could be going to camp or heading back to the ranch.

## ***Faithful and True***



Truly a spiritual piece for me, this one came after a drought of lack for inspiration. I would go to the woodshop and look at wood and no good ideas would come. Then I'd have a good idea, go try to find the right wood for it and couldn't get anywhere from that angle either. So then I prayed, asking for help.

This time when I went to the shop I walked over to a piece of mesquite and the thought of a white horse came to me. Good, a white horse would do well on mesquite. I started to visualize the horse and then for some reason thought of the story in

Revelations about a white horse. I didn't remember the story so I ran up to the house, got the Bible and said "Okay God, show me where it is". I had no idea which chapter it was in so I just opened to Revelations and there it was. (Smile.) 19:11 "And I saw heaven opened and behold, I saw a white horse; and he who sat upon him was called Faithful and True..." Wow!

So I realized that I needed to do two horses, Faithful and True. Faithful would be white and True would be black. I began to think of the composition, thought there may be more to it because of the way the ideas were unfolding, and decided to cut the board long. I felt there might need to be a 3rd horse but didn't have an idea about it yet. By the time I cut, planed, joined and sanded the wood I was ready to start the sketch. I decided to use no references at all but rather be guided by the master artist. Faithful and True went on beautifully with practically no erasing. That is unusual for me. I typically labor over the sketches and spend tons of time on them.

This board has some small knots running through it that made me think of an appaloosa horse. I had thought about that from the start but put it aside as just my infatuation with Appaloosas; I was focused on the white and black horses and working on their sketches when the phone rang. While we were talking I told my friend about the picture I was doing, and he said "You should put an Appaloosa horse in there". Okay, I got the message. After I hung up with Chuck it came to me that the Appaloosa is Joy. "Faithful and True meet Joy!" I was very excited and started sketching her but this was different. I was having problems, kept changing the composition, lots of erasing. I think I re-drew just one of the front legs 7 times and still didn't like it. Faithful and True went on perfectly, practically with my eyes closed, why was I running into a wall with Joy?

I finally decided to go look at a picture of an Appaloosa and maybe I'd get unstuck, so I went in the house and just as I sat down at my desk it hit me. This isn't Joy, it's supposed to be Hope. I'm trying to do an end run around Hope to get to Joy but I don't know what Joy looks like yet. I do know what Hope looks like. So I ran back out to the studio and erased all the spots and that darn front leg, again, and the ideas began to flow. I already had Hope touching noses with True and the rest of the body composition was good (except for that one leg). I got the leg right and then came the spots, what marked Hope. It started with the broken heart then the spots coming out of it like water from a fountain, then the circular patterns, circle of life, and a small, unbroken heart in one of the circles. Her face came next with the star and a small tear, the look of constellations representing the universe, and the Milky Way. Finally, the tail of the star, shaped like the tail of a g, this in remembrance of a powerful line from a wonderful story by Nancy Tester, "Revision".

## ***Texas Two-step***



A beautiful horse enjoying our Texas State grass, Side oats Gramma. This is one in my native Prairie Series highlighting grasses. Side oats is a very desirable forage grass. I have been struck with the beauty of grasses for some time and although most people enjoy seeing the seed heads swaying in the breeze, few people notice the flowers, which though small, are often quite lovely. This one has bright red flower parts.

## ***Apparition***



Inspired by a trip to Arches National Monument in Utah and a fabulous piece of cherry wood, I started this piece two years before finishing it. What was amazing and interesting was how the wood kept getting prettier as it sat waiting

for me. Some woods are like that; they continue to improve with age, like a lot of people I know!

## ***"Lunch Break" Black at Prior Creek, Gila Wilderness***



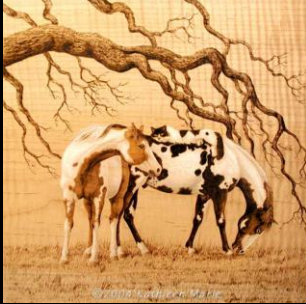
This is an image from my wilderness trip into the Gila. The magnificent Middle Fork section of the Gila Wilderness is one of my favorite places. We stopped for lunch one day while riding the canyon at this old homestead. It was a beautiful spot with a spring and wildflowers all around. The horses were very happy with the spot too. I saw Black munching flowers next to this old corral and thought "What a sight".

## ***Seated in Heavenly Places***



This is a memory of my horse packing trip in the Washakie Wilderness of Wyoming. Friend Jean is the subject and inspiration along with the mountains, horses, magnificent beauty and wonder of sharing this experience with the "Closet Cowgirls: the best group of horse camping buddies imaginable".

## ***Circle of Friends***



This is a very special image to me. The horses, Tia and Scout, belonged to my friend Debbie. She recently had to sell them and it just broke her heart to have to let her 'babies' go. The cat, Jack, is one of mine. I came up with the idea for this picture from a memory of one day when Deb and I were riding. She was running the horses in the round pen and one of her cats was hanging out in the pen with her while the horse galloped around them. He was playing with the whip when it was not in use. It was just so neat to see this little cat sitting calmly in the ring as the horses thundered around him waiting for the whip to stop cracking so he could play with it. What a great lesson for dealing with life. So Circle of Friends was born to capture memories, to represent the beauty and funny quirks of life and to honor a wonderful friendship.

## ***Waiting on the Girls***



This is an image inspired by my horse packing trip to Wyoming. One day we rode up to an old sheep camp and tied up the horses while we hiked, took pictures and enjoyed the spectacular scenery. The horses waited patiently for us to return and ride back down the mountain.