

Press release 23.3.11

## Society of Equestrian Artists

### Horse in Art, largest annual horse themed exhibition held in London.

The Society of Equestrian Artists, which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, has many years experience of exhibiting the most extensive exhibitions of contemporary equestrian art. This year s annual London exhibition takes place at the Mall Galleries between 2-7 August 2011.

For art enthusiasts this is a must see exhibition of over 200 works of equestrian art competing for over £7000 worth of prizes in a prestigious gallery situated the heart of London s galleries and Museums. It is rare to find so many varieties of horse and artistic interpretation - from race horse, work horse and war horse to winner of the Grand National, wild ponies, circus entertainers and family pets- in one show. Large and small paintings, sculptures in traditional medium and new materials will be exhibited in the recently renovated galleries. Showcasing among the society s long standing members are artists who represent the classical horse from the Greek traditions, through to Stubbs , the modern styles of the German Die Brucke to contemporary representations.

The exhibition will be judged by a panel of professional artists and experts looking for skill and originality when awarding prizes. Judges: Malcolm Coward SEA, Barry Peckham ROI SEA, Sally Martin SEA, Amanda Noott of the John Noott Gallery Broadway and Dennis Syrett PPROI, RBA,RSMA are familiar with their subject and will meet in July to select the works to be exhibited. Sally Martin, who won the prestigious Cuneo Medal prize at last year s exhibition, comments I will be looking for originality, character of horse, accuracy, skill.

The SEA particularly welcomes new talent to broaden the field and challenge the norm. Mark Heathcote, The Chairman of the SEA says,

There are a lot of new and exciting artists making clever and entertaining art based on the horse and rider. We hope that with a new generation of artists coming on board the exhibition will be varied. Those whose art is of exceptional standard will be rewarded.

The Society took the view last year that it should throw open its doors and hold an Open exhibition for anyone to enter whether they be a Society member or not. The rationale behind this decision was to give an opportunity for new artists to exhibit and to maximise the chances of attracting the best in originality and quality.

Visitor s Choice Award allows the visitor to vote for their favourite artist. Other prizes include the Best Work by an artist under 35 , the British Sporting Art Trust prize for best sculpture, Hollyland Trust prize for best coloured or spotted horse, Best Racing Picture and Best in Show prize sponsored by the Denford Stud. Please see website for the full list of prizes that can be won.

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The Society of Equestrian Artists was founded in 1979 to promote the practice of equestrian painting and sculpture and advance the public education and appreciation of the art form. The Society has a growing membership of artists, horse enthusiasts and supporters. The Society's President is Sir Mark Prescott Bt. It holds regional events during the year and a permanent exhibition at the National Horse Racing Museum in Newmarket. The SEA supports artists by running workshops and making their website available for members to show their work [www.equestrianartists.co.uk](http://www.equestrianartists.co.uk)

To become a Friend of the Society, artists and supporters, cost of £25 per annum. Artists can progress to become Associate Members by having work accepted consistently for the annual London Exhibition. Full Members (SEA) are elected by their peers on the basis of having achieved an exceptionally high standard of work over many years. There are currently about 450 members of whom approximately 50 are Full Members.

The Horse in Art exhibition held at the Mall Galleries, London, 2-7 August call for entries closes on 4 June.

Ends.

Notes to editors

1. Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1 open 10-5pm, [entrance fee £2.50 for more] ??? information please telephone 020 7930 6844
2. How to join the SEA; anyone can become a friend of the SEA and submit works of art for the annual exhibition. The Society will select and promote the Friends to Membership level and further promotion to Full Member. Full members are elected by their peers on the basis of having achieved an exceptionally high standard of work over many years exhibiting with the Society.
3. SEA Full Members continually exhibit with some of the finest equestrian artists of our time including, Stubbs, Munnings and Herring at The National Horse Racing Museum's new gallery in Newmarket owned by the Jockey Club, situated in the centre of Newmarket.
4. [www.equestrianartists.co.uk](http://www.equestrianartists.co.uk)
5. For more information on how to enter please contact [exhib.sec@equestrianartists.co.uk](mailto:exhib.sec@equestrianartists.co.uk)
6. For information on how to sponsor the exhibition please contact [chair2010@equestrianartists.co.uk](mailto:chair2010@equestrianartists.co.uk)
7. The benefits of joining the SEA include, publishing portfolios on the website and updates on members' activities and courses.
8. The Society of Equestrian Artists is a registered charity, 294729.