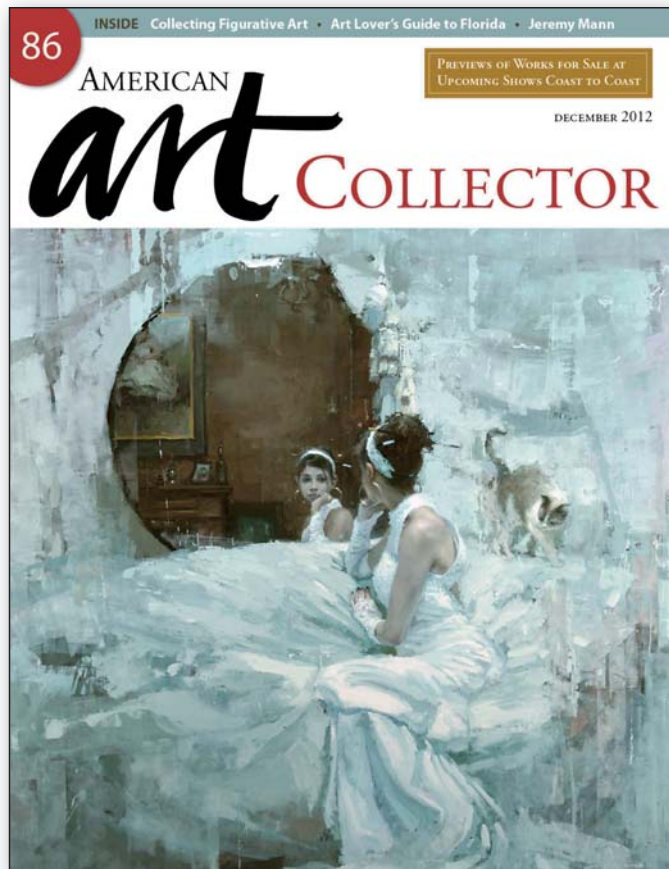


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PAINTED ELEGANCE

Bruce Lawes captures the beauty and form of horses and figures in his dynamic paintings.



Bruce Lawes at work in his studio.

Bruce Lawes creates elegant and formal paintings that set the mood through a dramatic use of lighting and classic style. While his recent work focuses on horses and wild mustangs, he is known for his diverse motifs.

"My subject matter is extremely varied and is a reflection of my interests and experiences," says Lawes. "I first and foremost paint for myself yet often seek out projects that will enable my work to be used for fundraising opportunities. The subjects I pick I enjoy to paint but it is really the joy of

painting that I love."

In his new work, Lawes often depicts a horse with a rider to show how the two subjects work in concert through different types of riding events.

"I want the rider and the horse to appear to be working as one," says Lawes. "When you think of dressage, it is a elegant dance between the rider and the horse. They are working as one unit and in doing so form a symbiotic relationship. To me, dressage is a natural dance that horse and rider do together."

Lawes is considered one of the top equine

artists working today and his newest series will focus on wild mustangs in Montana in an attempt to bring awareness to their plight. Unlike other equine artists, his love of horses has evolved through the process of painting them rather than through any sort of life or work experience.

"I'm not an avid rider and my path is much different than the typical path of a horse painter who only paints this subject matter," explains Lawes. "I did not grow up surrounded by them. I did a series of nudes and a client told me that if I could paint horses as well as



In the Wind, oil on linen, 48 x 30"



I painted nudes, I could capture the market. She asked me to do one and I was hooked. The bottom line is that I paint beautiful things. My goal is to create something that will be beautiful.”

Once Lawes started painting horses, he found an endless amount of material in their structure, shape and form.

“I look at the horse like I do the female form and try to capture the musculature and the beauty and form,” says Lawes. “They both have such an elegance and beauty to them because they both have such a stunning presence. And, when you capture this in a painting, it’s hard to turn away from them.”

Lawes’ new series of wild mustangs is meant to show people how much our culture has benefited from the use of horses throughout time.

“North America needs to do everything it can to protect these horses,” says Lawes. “If we didn’t have horses, we wouldn’t have had progress. Horses plowed the fields, allowed us to travel long distances, etc. We owe such a debt to the horse. They need to be protected and admired.”

Along with this, Lawes also is enjoying painting the individuality of each horse he encounters.

“There is such variation,” says Lawes. “In the type of horses and in the personalities you see in their faces. I’m painting race horses right now and they have such a different feel from the others. Their veins are so pronounced and they have such little body fat that all you see are the muscles. It’s like painting body builders.”

Lately, Lawes finds himself experimenting with large-scale paintings.

“I believe every composition has a perfect size that works in concert with all the elements of the painting,” says Lawes. “Too large or small can effect the impact or statement I may wish to convey. Unless commissioned, I generally do not size my paintings according to marketability.”



Lawes was the winner of *International Artist* magazine's Favorite Subjects Competition for Issue 88.

Opposite page: **Racing the Moon**, oil on linen, 60 x 40"

Top: **At First Light**, oil on canvas, 40 x 28"

Right: **Dal Cielo**, oil on linen, 40 x 56"