

# HORSE ART

## A JOURNEY INTO THE ARTISTIC WORLD OF NINON

By Farah Rezeika

NINON IS AN ARTIST WHO FINDS JOY AND INSPIRATION IN CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF ANIMALS AND NATURE. HER SCULPTURES, PAINTINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS CAPTURE THE ESSENCE AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE NATURAL WORLD, REFLECTING HER BELIEF THAT "ALL IS ONE."





**WHAT INITIALLY SPARKED YOUR PASSION FOR CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF HORSES IN YOUR ART?**

In the presence of horses, I feel an immediate heart connection; they make me instantly return to my own essence. I come back to just 'being' instead of 'being someone'. Horses are so powerful, and yet so gentle, so sensitive and graceful. When I make a sculpture, I believe I can literally charge my hands with love, and transmit this into the artwork.

**HOW DID YOUR ARTISTIC STYLE EVOLVE OVER TIME? WHAT WERE SOME KEY TURNING POINTS OR INFLUENCES THAT SHAPED YOUR CURRENT EXPRESSION?**

As a child, I had an innate notion of the proportions of animals or humans when modeling in clay. I think I owe it to horseback riding and being in such close contact with an animal. Later, my designs gradually became more minimalistic, capturing the essence with only the necessary lines and volumes. On one hand, backpacking around the world and seeing art from different times and cultures influenced this evolution. On the other hand, after I moved to Spain, I started to realize that making art for me is also very spiritual. More and more, I felt that 'all is one'.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE OF WORKING AS A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST?**

My first experience as an 'official artist' was when I participated in an exhibition in Barcelona, Spain. At the time, I only had ceramic sculptures, as I had no money to cast in bronze. Soon after, a lovely, brave man in the Netherlands gave me a commission to make a fountain for his private residence. He let me be completely free about what kind of fountain I would make for him. I decided to make dolphins in bronze, and he only saw the fountain when the truck delivered it to his home. His confidence meant a lot to me.

**WHAT UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND REWARDS DO YOU FACE AS A HORSE ARTIST?**

Whether the subject of my art is horses or something else, the challenges are the same; for example, practically, how to build the original sculpture in a way it does not collapse, decide on different materials, how to transport it to the bronze foundry, how to then transform it perfectly into wax and then into bronze, how to patinate it and transport it to a gallery, etc—all these are challenges one has to deal with beside the creative process.

I find it very rewarding when people contact me after they buy an artwork to tell me what it means to them. I

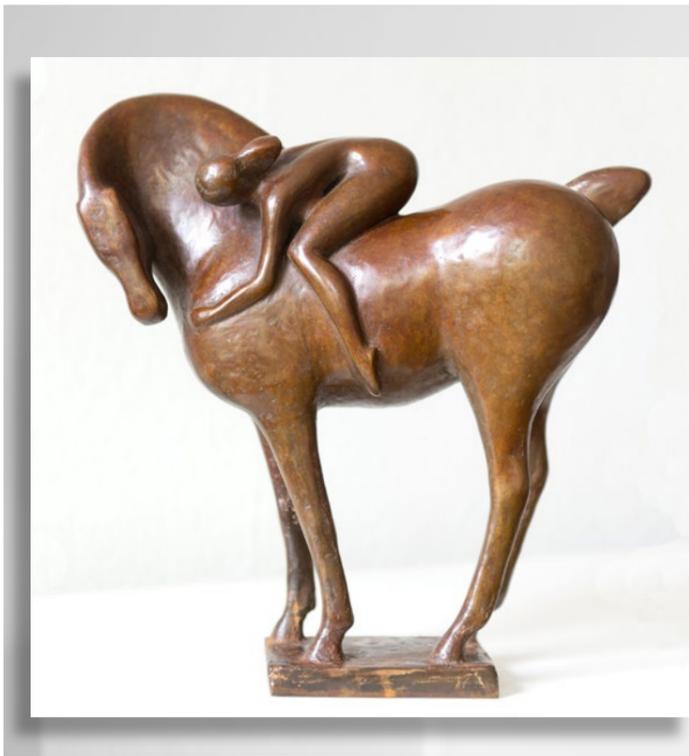
sometimes get long emails with stories of their lives, and this moves and motivates me a lot.

**WHICH OTHER ARTISTS HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR APPROACH TO EQUINE ART?**

I usually do not consciously get inspired by other artists but by nature, and in this case, real horses, but surely I was influenced by the art of various cultures I saw, like ancient Greek art, Roman art, Chinese ceramic horses, Etruscan art, and Inca art.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS OR PROJECTS IN YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?**

In my experience, significant moments can often be recognized in retrospect. Sometimes we do not recognize our progress when it happens. But at a certain point we look back and think, Wow! All this came in little steps, but all in all, it was a huge step! In this way, for me, it was significant when I made, after very much investigation, the big, well-known Red Hippo for the Conservatorium Hotel in Amsterdam, followed by a Hippo brother for the Royal Senchi Resort in Ghana, and for various private residencies in different countries.



**WHERE DO YOU FIND THE CONSTANT INSPIRATION TO CREATE SUCH STUNNING HORSE PORTRAITS AND SCULPTURES?**

As I am such an enthusiastic horse lover I have been welcomed to stables of fantastic trainers and riders, so I had the chance to see many beautiful horses. Of course, horses are my number one inspiration. I need grounding with a horse and a good ride out to prepare my mind for inspiration. An idea for a specific art piece always pops up once I succeed in not thinking too much.

**CAN YOU SHARE A PERSONAL STORY ABOUT A PARTICULAR HORSE THAT HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON YOU OR YOUR ART?**

I was living in Spain, and Spanish horses surely influenced my sculptures. They have a very noble character and a special way of moving. In the same year that I started to make horse sculptures, I took care of Jacky, a 'Menorquin', a beautiful black horse from the Spanish island of Menorca. His owner did not want to ride him, so she said he was 'mine'. In the beginning, he

just reared all the time. Luckily, I managed to make him understand we should just go on hikes together, so he started to love his life. He really was a great friend; when we would ride, I truly felt we were together as one.

**IF YOU COULD LEAVE ONE LASTING MESSAGE ABOUT HORSES AND ART, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

*All is one; horses can connect with humans on a level beyond the human mind; they make us connect with their hearts. We can celebrate this connection and their beauty in works of art.*

**WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU IN YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY? ARE THERE ANY NEW CHALLENGES OR PROJECTS YOU'RE EXCITED ABOUT?**

I am very excited about a book I am making. It is an art book with my English poems and photography. I hope I can publish it soon. And of course, I am excited to see what my next sculptures and paintings will be. We shall see what life brings! 🍷

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