

DR. NASR MAREI

CAPTURING A FREE SPIRIT

By HT Staff

HE WHO GAUGES TYPE, HEAD AND NECK, TOP-LINE, LEGS AND MOVEMENT - INTERNATIONAL BREEDER AND JUDGE DR. NASR MAREI LAUNCHES HIS NEW PHOTOGRAPHS BOOK 'THE ARABIAN HORSE OF EGYPT' IN CELEBRATION OF HIS YEARS OF INVENTIVELY PHOTOGRAPHING THE ARABIAN HORSE.

For more than four decades, Dr. Nasr Marei has been internationally recognised as a passionate breeder of the Arabian horse, but has also been famed for his innovative, inspirational and striking photography. On May 8th, the spacious gardens of Albadeia Arabian Horse Stud welcomed the book's publisher the American University in Cairo Press (AUC) and more than 100 guests and friends sharing the love for Egyptian Arabian horses.


In 2009, Dr. Marei approached the AUC Press and shared his portfolio of Arabian horse photographs that he had taken over several years. When asked about what inspired him to publish such a book, Dr. Marei explained, "My pictures capture some of the essence of this noble creature. It is my way to capture the free spirit, pride, beauty and charisma of the horse and freeze that instant in time. By doing this I can relive it for years to come and share the passion and beauty with everyone. It satisfies my artistic and aesthetic love of the beauty that abounds in nature."

He continued, "Photography is one of my passions. I was born with no talent in music although my mother tried so hard to turn me into another Mozart! It just did not work - even though, I do love music. I also had no talent in painting or drawing although I do appreciate and collect artwork. But photography was my means to satisfy and express my artistic tendencies. I began to study and work with photography when I was ten years old. My favourite subjects at the beginning were my family of course. They were driven crazy by my following them everywhere with my little Kodak black cubic box. After that phase, landscape, animals and underwater were my favourite subjects. My parents and family were quite relieved!"

Over the years, Horse Times magazine has used many of Dr. Marei's pictures

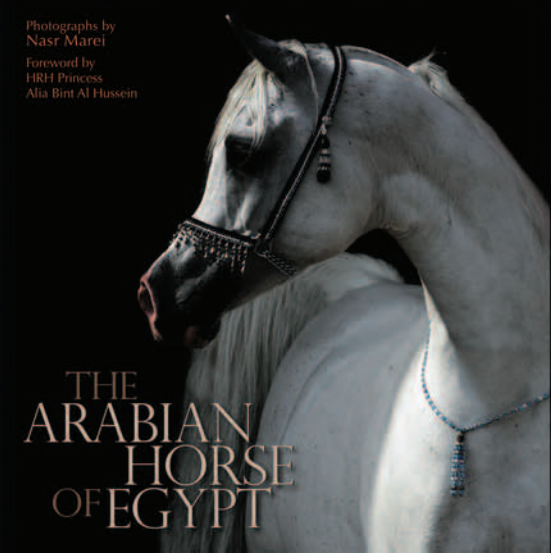
in Arabian horse pieces especially those that teach us about judging and understanding the composition of a perfect Arabian horse in the eyes of many breeders. Dr. Marei elaborated, "It has always been the horse that is at the core of my photography. Because of my years of experience with the horse, I am able to anticipate the movement and capture the essence of who I feel that horse to be. I try to capture the elegance, pride, and majesty of each horse, whether it is a mare or stallion, a foal, or a young horse feeling its power begin to explode in movement. As you look at the photographs, be sure to look carefully at the intelligence and curiosity in the expressions of the horses; their soft liquid eyes, flaring nostrils, flagging tails, and almost ethereal movements."

Even after so many years, Dr. Marei continues to strive to preserve and improve the Arabian horse, not with just photographs, but also with poetry:

"I wish to breed a horse that captures your minds and hearts. I wish there to be a vision that can trigger your imagination to see yourselves riding that horse across a great expanse of rolling desert, with the winds blowing as your horse's hooves fly across the sands. I wish your experience of seeing that horse to take your breath away; you will then feel some of the love and passion as well as the great respect I felt through my years with the Arabian horse. They have been my companions and my friends. To me, the Arabian horse is a gift that humans have received from the past and one that we must preserve and bequeath to the future. It is a gift and legacy that we must respect and treasure. This book is dedicated to the pure Egyptian Arabian horse and all those who feel and enjoy the majesty and magic of who they are, whether in art or in life." 



Photographs by
Nasr Marei
Foreword by
HRH Princess
Alia Bint Al Hussein



THE
ARABIAN
HORSE
OF EGYPT

