

IALHA 2019 ART CONTEST by Tania Radda



'Waiting'

This year we received several noteworthy entries, and selecting this year's winner was not an easy task. The contest asks the artist to portray the best representation of our breed, to provide art work that will grace our National Championship Show program, and to provide a beacon for some of our promotional materials.

We are pleased to announce that the 2019 winner is Lisa McKnett, whose oil painting titled "Waiting" shows a trio of riders and horses lined up together in a wintery backdrop. The clever composi-

tion and use of colors helps transport the viewer into the wintery scene, where the horses have been working, now exhaling their breath in a fog, with their riders on board keeping themselves warm in their traditional Marselles jackets. The horses are tacked with Portuguese double bridles adorned with "Conchos". This painting is a reference to the Golegã National Horse Fair (Feira Nacional do Cavalo), in Portugal. The "Feira Nacional do Cavalo de Golegã" is held in the month of November, and it is the most famous and oldest Horse Fair of its kind. It started back in 1571 and it was known as the "Feira de São Mar-

tinho” (Saint Martin’s Fair) in Golegã. In 1833 it gained popularity as it became a venue for breeders to present and to compete their best horses. In 1972, the São Martinho name was dropped, and the fair has since then been known as the “Feira Nacional do Cavalo de Golegã”. The fair attracts people from all over the world, where they come to see the best of the breed. It is the place to go to watch, participate, buy or sell the best Lusitanos that Portugal has to offer.



Lisa McKnett has been around horses and art as far back as she can remember. She grew up in Sun Valley, Idaho, riding horses and always found herself either drawing or painting as a young child. She started her formal training as an artist when she moved to California in 1977 where she attended the Art Center College of Design. Lisa McKnett has had a successful art career and has been juried into several professional art competitions. Her work is displayed in permanent exhibitions at San Juan Capistrano Mission Museum and Harvey Mudd College. She is also a member of The Plein Air Painters of

America, Portrait Society of America, The California Art Club, Laguna Plein Air Painter, Oil Painters of American and many others. She owns a gallery “Lisa McKnett Gallery” in Laguna Hills Mall (CA), where she keeps her studio and shows her work and the work of other contemporary artists.

Lisa is offering to do commission work, done in watercolor. Her work can be seen online at www.lisamcknettgallery.com

We were delighted with the other artists who submitted entries this year. For this art contest we ran, for the first time, a juried art contest. IALHA member Jan DeLipsey was a great help in organizing the event. We had many talented artists participate! Take note of the runner-up piece, Johanne Blaquiere’s charcoal drawing titled “Spain Breeze”. She beautifully captures the light and the shadows, bringing them into focus in the horse’s eye. She also captures the prowess and nobility of the Spanish horse.

We are sure you will enjoy these art pieces as much as we did.



Spain Breeze



Johanne Blaquiere