



Images of the Horse As Never Before: Lindsay Robertson Comes to Rolex 2013

By L.A. Pomeroy

Collectors of great photography know the name Ansel Adams and soon, appreciators of fine equine art will know that of Scottish photographer Lindsay Robertson. Robertson, the only photographer the Eastman House (NY) Museum of Photography has ever awarded the privilege to jointly exhibit alongside Adams, will introduce his exceptional equine portraiture to American audiences for the first time when HorseStudios.com Fine Art Photography comes to the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, presented by Bridgestone, April 25-28, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

His “statuesque” horse portraits, captured in a unique mobile studio, have become a runaway success in the United Kingdom, launching a 10-page feature, ‘Perfectly Portrayed,’ in Australia’s Equestrian Life, pictorials in Horse and Hound and Polo Times, and commissions by Great Britain’s Gold Medal-winning Olympic team.

Rolex is the first official presentation of his fine art horse photography in the United States: “Each study is meant to capture the stature and majesty of these amazing animals within surroundings sympathetic to their size and dominance, compelling the viewer to enter the captivating aura, beauty and energy these glorious animals possess and transmit.”

Including polo ponies. Robertson recounts his first portrait with a real-life embodiment of Kipling’s Maltese Cat, a retired polo pony named Kaz: “It was raining hard. The owner had a few horses that I had photographed and this was the last one of the day. Kaz came into the shed where I was set up, calmly walked in, sniffed around a bit, and I tickled its nose to say hello (don’t forget, I am still somewhat scared of these beasts). He was adorable and unfazed by it all and I took my time whilst it acclimated itself with the surroundings.

“I did quietly wonder if the horse had scored any goals during its career or had played against, or even beaten, a ‘Royal,’ but, being Scottish, didn’t feel I could I ask its very-English owner. The horse seemed to be enjoying retirement and probably fine dining every night, with maybe a snifter of Port or Stilton on the side. He posed perfectly, looked me straight in the eye and made it very easy for me, as his stablemates had taken quite a long time, but patience is one thing I have in bucket loads.

“Once the session was over, after about 20 minutes, I went up and tickled his nose again and thanked him for being an excellent ‘sitter,’ and he toddled off back to his palatial abode. I wondered if all polo ponies are as calm or if he was enjoying retirement after belting around a field every weekend. He was a joy to photograph and presented me with a very pleasant and calming experience.”

“The next experience we’re looking forward to,” he adds, “is exhibiting at Rolex.” No stranger to world-class venues, Robertson’s fine art has appeared in the Arsenal Gallery New York, in Sarasota, Florida, and has been exhibited and auctioned at Sotheby’s New York. The first photographer ever offered residency at The Hermitage, America’s invitation-only artist retreat, he came to the attention of the George Eastman (of Kodak fame) House while there, subsequently leading to its Ansel Adams exhibition, ‘Celebration of Genius’ appearing in Scotland and becoming the first photographer awarded the privilege by Eastman House to exhibit alongside the American master.

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