



CHILDREN AND THEIR HORSES - FINE ART PORTRAITURE GUIDE

*How to Choose the Right Artist to
Capture the true likeness and personality of
Your Child and her Horse*

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Wonderful! You're ready to have an artist create a portrait of your child and her horse!

Fine Art Portraits, unlike photography, can capture the subtle expressions and personality of your child and her horse in beautifully creative colors and textures. A camera and its resulting print simple cannot capture all the colors that the human eye sees! But how do you find the perfect artist for you?



ARTIST'S STYLE

Perhaps the most important aspect to consider first when selecting an artist to create a fine art portrait of your child and her horse is whether you like the artist's STYLE. Every artist is different. Some are very realistic and some are very abstract. When viewing the work of an artist, does that artist's style appeal to you? If the styles and the examples that you see appeal to you online, does the artist have a studio where you can see other examples of his/her work? Does the artist specialize in portraits of BOTH horses and people? Many artists concentrate on one or the other so make sure the artist you whose style you are considering has experience in creating portraits involving both subjects!

ARTIST and CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

That brings us to the next step when selecting an artist and that is the relationship between you and the artist. Here are some important aspects to consider:

Can you talk comfortably with the artist?

Does the artist seem comfortable around your child as well as horses?

Will the artist travel come to your location?

If you need to provide the photographs of your child and a particular horse, and no photography session will be necessary, will the artist work from your supplied photographs?

Do you feel as though the artist is professional and experienced?

Does the artist listen to you and treat your questions courteously?

Is your artist knowledgeable about horses?

Does the artist have testimonials or references from other clients he/she has worked with?

Do you feel that you could work comfortably with the artist if little changes needed to be made to your portrait within a particular time frame after its completion? This is an important consideration as your portrait will be displayed in your home for many years and you want to engage an artist who will work for you and with you! This is where the necessary experience separates the professional artist from the unprofessional!

The ARTIST'S Preferred MEDIUM

Most people do not have a clear idea of what the differences are with the assorted mediums that artists use. If you like the style of the artist, do you like the medium that the artist uses the most when creating a child's portrait with her horse? Your artist should be willing to explain to you what he/she uses and the reasons why they enjoy that particular medium. All of today's materials are designed to bring you many, many years of enjoyment so longevity of your artwork is no longer the issue it once was in some of the mediums. Artists all handle the fine art mediums differently but here are the basics of the most used:

OIL-a traditional oil based pigment used in all styles of portraiture. The colors can be very rich. A oil portrait can be subdued like an Old Master's painting or bright and vibrant. Normally worked on a canvas or linen stretched surface.



WATERCOLOR-A water based pigment that is usually a looser style than many of the other mediums. The traditional use is lighter and more transparent than the other mediums. Usually worked on traditional watercolor paper.



PASTELS- Dry pastels results vary greatly by the paper surface as well as the skills and techniques of the artist. The colors can range from very light to rich darks.

You captured so completely the sweetness of his face and his wise old eyes. You also captured perfectly the face of a little girl who thought he was just about the best friend anyone could have in life. Thank you for doing such a beautiful job. I will treasure it always." ...Kitty Yarborough



PENCILS- Both colored and traditional black and white pencils enjoy a following among its clients and need little explanation.

"Hi Theresa, I just received my pencil portrait. It is BEAUTIFUL! It is SO much more brilliant and vibrant in person that it ever was over the email. I am So excited and so happy that we did this and I just wanted to call and say Thank You" - Debbie Bost



YOUR CHILD AND HER HORSE-the Subjects

There is no one "perfect age" to have your child's fine art portrait created! All ages are appropriate ages. Many people don't stop with just one portrait. They may have a smaller one created for a gift, a large one for the livingroom, a series of images in a collage. The combinations are endless.

When you have spoken with your artist, he/she will share with you everything that you need to know to have a fun, relaxed photography session at a location best suited for your needs.

Many parents forget that the end result is not a photograph, so if there is a smudge on a face, a stained halter, or a loose strand of hair, don't panic. Let the artist do his/her job! It is nice to select clothes for the sitting that are timeless and not too trendy. Have your child wear the clothes whose style endures the test of time and fits the equestrian theme of what she does! It could be as simple as jeans and a Tee shirt or as formal as a full riding outfit. Keep in mind the tone of the portrait and what you want to convey about your child and her horse when choosing the clothes. Colors are an integral part of the reflected light around the subjects so don't be afraid to use color. Remember that your home decor will change over the years. Have your portrait created with the portrait in mind, not your livingroom couch!

The BACKGROUND

A background in a fine art portrait is always secondary to the subject. Your child and her horse will occupy a large space within the portrait and they are the focal point. The background simply provides a setting. If you choose to have a background in your portrait, it could suggest a particular show, or a particular location such in front of the barn, near a creek or a pasture or any place that adds meaning to your overall image. Keep it simple and in keeping with the character of your family. You can choose to have no background at all. There are no absolutes in fine art portraiture! By now you would have discussed with the artist whether or not the portrait be formal? Casual? Playful? Let your original discussion with the artist be your guide.

The PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION

Very few artists today create fine art portraits from live sittings and especially not with animals! Your artist will schedule a photography session around your schedule but you may have to give and take a little. With large animal portraits many times the photography session can happen right away if you and the artist and the subjects are all together in one location such as a horse show or event. Weather does play a role in the lighting and it is important to the final portrait to have reference photos with flattering light.

Most artists nowadays can sit down with you after the photography session and share the images with you the same day. It is possible that a sketchpad can be used by the artist to sketch out various sizes to help you visualize the size better. Many clients have an idea of what they want in a subject pose but that can change when they see the photographs! An experienced artist will also recommend certain poses. A skilled artist will be able to bring the best elements of different photos together to create the perfect look that you are seeking in your portrait!

All artists have different fee schedules. Regardless of what you will invest in your actual portrait and depending on what is involved, your artist will give you a breakdown of any additional fees. Your artist may charge a creation fee, many artists collect a separate fee for the photography, all will add travel and mileage outside a certain circumference. Framing is usually not included in the final investment but always ask who the artist would recommend. Some artists can do the framing as well for an additional cost. Most artists will collect a deposit at the photography sitting upon an agreement as to size, medium and any additional considerations. A professional artist will give you a time frame and also any information you may need. Some artists will let you see your portrait before it is completed, some do not. **Always ask questions if you are in doubt!**

YOUR INVESTMENT

As in all quality artwork, what you invest in your portrait will vary greatly! In selecting an artist, price is usually a consideration to most people.

As a general rule with most artists, the larger your portrait is and the more involved it is with additional people or animals, the more you will invest in that portrait. The type of medium that you choose may also determine your investment. It can be a mistake to limit the size of your portrait simply because of the price. In our experience, we have never had a client come to us later and say that they wished they had gone with a smaller size portrait. But we have had them come to us and say that they wished that they had gone larger with their portrait decision!

Regardless of what you invest in your portrait, think of how much you have invested in say, your car. Where will it be in 10 years? Your portrait will still be displayed on your wall! And as the years pass, it will become one of the most valuable emotional items that you own.

But all the other factors must also come into play to have the perfect artist for your particular needs.

Every artist will create a one of a kind original for you. But beforehand you must have already looked at style, compatibility, testimonials and mediums to then see if what you invest in your artist is compatible with your needs and your finances.

SUMMARY

With a knowledgeable and professional artist, having a beautiful fine art portrait created of your child and her horse is a seamless and pleasant experience! An inexperienced or unprofessional artist, just as in every profession, will likely be unable to achieve the end result that you are seeking in your portrait!

Remember that although your artist will be a creative individual, a professional artist is also working for you. Don't be afraid to ask your questions. If you have a deadline, let the artist know well in advance. Some artists will only create a few pieces during the year. Others are more prolific. But a good fine art portrait artist is always professional, courteous, skilled and willing to walk you through the creation process for having a beautiful portrait created for your child and her horse! And that, is priceless!

We hope you have enjoyed our Guide.

We would love to be YOUR artist for your child's portrait with her/his horse! If you have any additional questions or you're ready for us to start your portrait, just give us a call!

Warm Regards,
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