



ANDRE PATER

A SPORTING ARTIST FOR THE AGES

STORY BY JEN ROYTZ

Ask Andre Pater, one of the most acclaimed sporting artists in the world, from where the inspiration for his now hundreds of covered works of art originally came, and his answer is as simple as it is pure.

“I’ve always loved animals,” he says.

While many of Pater’s pieces hang in homes, offices and restaurants throughout the world, this autumn a carefully curated collection of Pater’s paintings and other artwork will be on display at the Headley-Whitney Museum. Titled *Andre Pater: An American Journey*, the exhibition, which runs from September 13 through November 17, will not only include notable pieces from throughout Pater’s career on loan or from his collection, but will also unveil several new works of art created especially for this exhibition.

“I turned 66-years-old this year, and we used this as a theme. Route 66, a true American journey. It shows not only some of my most serious pieces but some drawings and other works,” said Pater of the 90-piece exhibit. “I have drawings almost 30-years-old of my wife weeks before our son was born, so it’s very personal, but it’s my journey here to America as an immigrant, a husband, a father. The show was put together mostly by local collectors. Some were commissions, and some purchased at charity auctions. This collection is who I am as an artist and as a member of society.”

Growing up in the metropolitan city of Krakow, Poland, Pater was surrounded by galleries and museums. It was on his trips to the market with his grandparents and parents that he first fell in love with horses.

“I would watch them, pulling carts for the farmers filled with produce to be sold. For me to stand and watch and smell them – they were not top-class horses, but they were inspiring, and I began to draw them. Soon I was drawing many other types of horses,” he said. “The first painting I ever sold was of a soldier from the First World War sharing a loaf of bread with his horse.”



Pater and his wife first came to the U. S. via Dallas, Texas, where he first garnered acclaim for his portraits of Herford cattle, which were plentiful in the area. While sales of his paintings provided a steady source of income, he yearned to be immersed in the landscape and culture of equestrian sport, specifically Thoroughbreds, and soon he and his wife made the move to Lexington, Kentucky so he could pursue his passion fully.

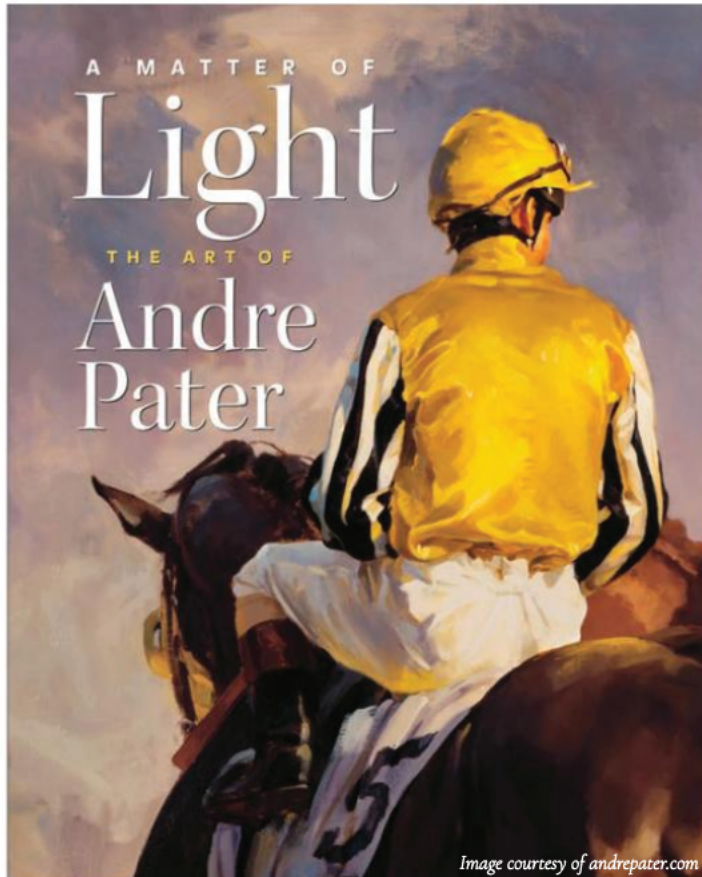
“We lived on a farm owned by Hillary Boone. He had fabulous hunting dogs, fox hunters, polo horses, and most of the horses were, of course, Thoroughbreds,” said Pater. “My horse fascinations have led me to do other things – other animals, jockeys, landscapes.”



Image courtesy
of andrepat.com

Paintings by Andre Pater | Photo by Paul Atkinson unless otherwise specified

Some of Pater's more recent works, which have garnered critical acclaim and high price tags when offered at auction or for sale, feature Native American scenes and subjects. It is the exploration of new subjects, and on new takes on old subjects, that he feels keep his artwork fresh and keep him eager to create more.



*"A Matter of Light, the Art of Andre Pater" By Andre Pater
With Contributors and a Foreword by the Duke of Devonshire*

"I did a period of horses galloping, mostly in Poland, but I evolved into a period of still-watching. You can use elements of expression, such as the way a horse carries his head, his tail, his musculature, the look in his eye. You don't have to capture the horse in motion to capture fabulous movement and emotion," he explained.

Andre Pater: An American Journey takes guests through the evolution of Pater's career, subjects and styles and is a showcase of his life story. It also is a compliment to his recently released *A Matter of Light, the Art of Andre Pater*, a 240-page coffee table book that features more than 200 of Pater's paintings and drawings, as well as essays, musings and observations.

"The book was the inspiration for the show and the show the inspiration for the book – they are completely intertwined," said Pater.

When asked if he had a favorite piece he's created through the years, he said each work is as much an evolution on canvas as it is emotionally for him. He can't choose a favorite but can reflect upon and appreciate the mindset he had while creating each one.

"When I begin, I have an idea of what I want to do, but the painting always evolves and starts to take its own direction, regardless of

what I'm doing. The best way to make peace with it is to follow it," he said. "By the time I'm done with a piece, I'm tired of it, but once I step away for a while, I can come back to it, and it makes an impression on me, like "wow, I created this." I can look at it with new eyes and experience what others might appreciate or see in it."

ANDRE PATER
An American Journey
September 13 - November 17, 2019
Headley-Whitney Museum
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