

Deborah Strong

Deborah Strong was born and raised in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia, Canada where she continues to reside today. Her formal education encompasses both fine arts and graphic design, her career as an artist has taken a dual path that embraces both. Over her more than 20-year career as a fine artist, Deborah's work has been featured in galleries across Canada. Additionally, she has completed numerous portraits of horses and other animals on commission, to the delight and satisfaction of her clients. She works in a variety of media, including coloured pencil and hand-painted silk.

Animals have always played a key role in Deborah's life, and her connection with them is reflected in her art. An avid equestrian, she has spent untold hours on horseback, exploring the countryside. Her saddlebred-quarterhorse Duke, who recently passed away at the venerable age of 30, was her partner on these treks for nearly three decades. Deborah has an abiding love of the outdoors that extends beyond the saddle — from the rugged BC coastline, to rambling forest walks, to the serenity of hours spent pottering in her garden. Her quest for adventure has taken to Canada's West Coast Trail, on 100-mile cross-country walks in Britain, and on sailing junkets in the Caribbean. Everywhere she goes, she connects with animals: horses, cats, dogs, birds, insects — whatever creatures great or small that happen to cross her path. And these encounters serve as inspiration for her art. Not currently featured in any galleries, Deborah's work can be viewed on her website: www.catnmousedesigns.com.

I've Never Seen A Purple Horse (hand-painted silk, 24"x24")
When I paint on silk, I love to experiment with colour. The subject of this painting was the same saddlebred stallion I also captured in coloured pencil, but in the medium of hand-painted silk his vivacious nature evoked the colour purple! The whimsical quality of the painting reminded me of the poem "I've Never Seen a Purple Cow" but in this case... it's a horse!



Northumberland Pony (coloured pencil, 14"x18")

I met this cheeky fellow outside a pub while trekking the Hadrian's Wall path in northern England. From his paddock by the pub he appeared to have taken on the role of official greeter to all visitors. He did a fine job of making me and my party feel welcome!

Saddlebred Stallion (coloured pencil, 18"x24")

I met this horse's acquaintance at a local horse-show and was enthralled by his energy, his spirit and his breathtaking beauty. He was in perpetual motion, and in his portrait I focused in on his face, allowing the rest of his body to fade into a rougher sketch in an attempt to capture the fleeting nature of a brief moment during which he stood poised and still.

