

Donna Bernstein

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by Sage Cotignola

“Creating my art is a bit of a bareback ride; I combine mediums in new and regenerative ways that evoke movement, energy and life. Many of my works are large or life-size urban equestrian paintings, “Urban Equines”.



Donna Bernstein. Courtesy of the artist.

By that I mean the energy, beauty, and classic equine form expressed in purely contemporary terms.”

What gives my work its edge is a deep personal familiarity with the physical horse... and an expansive sense that the movement is bigger than what you see.

My approach combines a passion for the anatomical horse with a love both of classic gestural drawing and the element of surprise. I would sketch from memory - rarely when I was with them. But my memory, my imagination, my energetic connection to horses became stylized in my art.

“Now I understand: It is not horses that I paint; I paint how they make me feel.”

My process is infused with this mythology, this spirit, and a sense of the uplifting. Intuitive and athletic I often move about large canvases placed strategically on the floor and allow these white spaces to co-create with me. With a focused attention to correctness in the attitude of the horse, I paint in quick, concentrated actions, much as the horse moves, mixing mediums in freshly layered spontaneity. Through a final series of wildly contained drips and splashes each horse’s unique personality, conformation and place in the overall composition is revealed.

I believe that no matter how our culture moves beyond the speed of the horse, the true horsepower lies in its ability to inspire. Equine classic form in art traditionally evokes elements of warmth and quality. As my art continues to mature I blend these enticing and persistent complexities of power and vulnerability.

Elegant and sophisticated, my paintings articulate a simplicity of what is beautiful, complementing the surroundings. Conveying intense energy and emotion, they are always in keeping with the client's aesthetic, at home in both formal collections as well as the large-scale spaces of modern design.

Website: www.donnabernstein.com, www.donnabcollection.com

Phone: 208-861-4331

Email: donna@donnabernstein.com



"Pink Lady" by Donna Bernstein, 2015. Acrylics on raw linen, 54 x 54 inches. Courtesy of the artist.



"Finish Line 2" by Donna Bernstein, 2018. Raw linen acrylic ink spray, 48 x 60 x 2 inches. Courtesy of the artist.



"The Patriot" by Donna Bernstein, 2015. Acrylic, 60 x 48 x 2 inches. Courtesy of the artist.



"Inspiration" by Donna

Bernstein, 2018. Archival ink spray, 42 x 54 x 2 inches. Courtesy of the artist.



“Gentle Soul” by Donna Bernstein, 2018. Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 inches. Courtesy of artist.



“Looking Back” by Donna Bernstein, 2018. Linen, 40 x 36 inches. Courtesy of the artist.