

The White Horses of Camargue Gallop Into Toronto



Written by Glenda Fordham

Professional photographic artist MANUELA STEFAN brings her photographic essay of equine power and grace to the Art Square Gallery located at

334 Dundas Street West in Toronto (across from the Art Gallery of Ontario) February 14th through 27th. "WHITE - Power and Grace" features stunning portraits of the mystical white horses of the Camargue region of southern France, photographed during her recent visit to the Rhone river delta which is home to these exquisite beasts.

"I had been searching for the famous white horses, asking local villagers where and when I could find them; a local photographer directed me to the marshlands and told me when they would be exercised," explains Manuela. "I was standing in the dunes, blinking into the sunlight and all of a sudden I saw the outline of horses galloping through the tall grasses and reeds. Within seconds I was surrounded by flying manes and stomping hooves."

As she explains, Manuela was overcome by a sense of reverence and awe as she was encircled by the excited horses. The herdsmen were laughing and joking but reassured her that she would be safe. "They said the horses were quite people-friendly" she continues, "and as I was talking with one young man, I felt a hot horsey breath on the back of my neck - a beautiful snow white stallion was nibbling my hair as a snack. He was so gentle, though, that I was able to turn around and snap a close-up of his face. He is now the poster boy for my exhibition!"

The Toronto-based Romanian-Canadian artist began her professional photographic career in 2005 after leaving the confines of the corporate world. Since then, Manuela has captured humans in some of the



most picturesque locations across Canada and the rest of the world, and while looking for new avenues of creative expression, she recently discovered the beauty of horses. This current exhibition features a selection of black and white fine art prints on canvas which are the foundation of the WHITE - Power and Grace series. The images range in size from 20" x 22" to 34" x 60" and prices range from \$500 to \$1,500 (unframed)

Embracing the inspiration of Camargue, Manuela is planning a 4-day western horse trek in Montana this coming May and you can bet she'll have her camera close at hand to capture images of the wild mustangs.

Manuela Stefan accepts horse/owner portrait commis-

sions, using her unique approach to tell compelling photographic stories.

Her website [www.grace-](http://www.grace-fulhorses.com)

fulhorses.com carries the evocative Camargue images as well as charming portraits of from Arizona stables.

