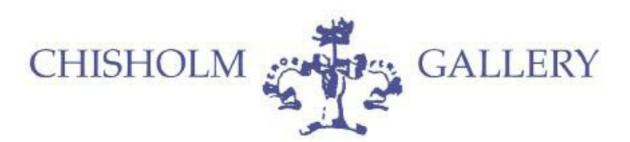
MARY BRIDGMAN Opera Paintings



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Jeanne Chisholm Chisholm Gallery, LLC



The Chisholm Gallery, LLC

Website: www.chisholmgallery.com Phone: 845.505.1147 Email: info@chisholmgallery.com





Bach and Cordoba Aida Oil on Canvas 12" x 14" \$1200 Pair

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Bach and Cordoba Carmen Oil on Linen 14" x 16" \$1200 Pair

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Cordoba and Rafi Aida Oil on Linen 14" x 16" \$1200 Pair

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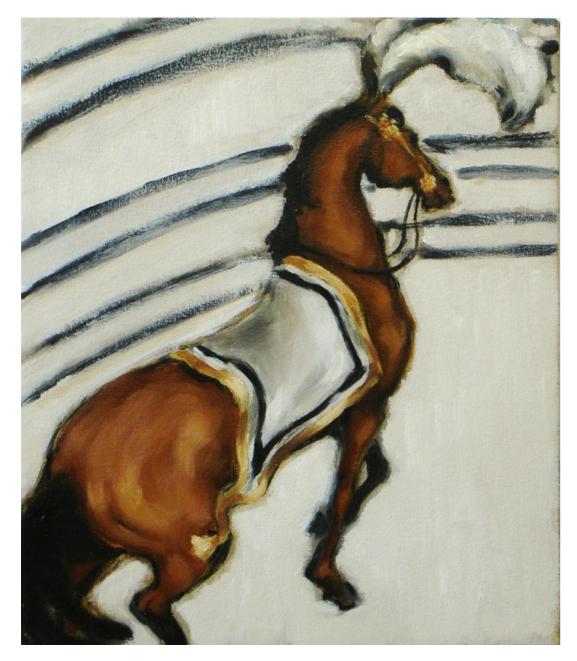


Penne and Galliano Carmen Oil on Linen 14" x 16" \$1200 Pair

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Bach and Cordoba Circus Oil on Canvas 14" x 12" \$1200 Pair

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Altai and Irtysh Oil on Linen 64" x 48" Signed \$8000 Pair

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Mary(on the right) with Nacho and Cordoba in dress rehearsal for AIDA backstage at the New York Metropolitan Opera House

I started volunteering to help with the horses backstage at the New York Metropolitan Opera House in 2005 through Claremont Riding Academy. I was instantly in love with the whole process, from the horses arriving, preparing and dressing them, leading them in and holding them for their entrance on to the stage. It was amazing. The pageantry and beauty and magnificence of the Zefferelli's productions and working with great directors on the others.

I worked with the horses, a couple of Donkeys and a Mule in productions including Carmen, Aida, La Boheme, War and Peace, Pagliacci, Cavalleria Rusticana, Il Trittiico and Fanciulla del West.

My personal relationship with the horses and their roles inspired me to paint a series based on my time there. To me their movements were lyrical and almost swirling. Imagined from different angles which can be seen backstage.





Mary with Cordoba, outside the Met Opera House during a performance.

Mary Bridgman was born in Waterville, Maine and earned a degree from Connecticut College before moving to New York City where she attended the Parsons School of Design. Mary continued her studies at the Art Students League, The New York Academy of Art and the School of Visual Arts.

Mary Bridgman's work draws upon a broad range of cultural influences from Renaissance paintings to Modern approaches to traditional artistic subject matter employing painting, drawing and photography.

Bridgman's equestrian paintings represent her long term relationship with the horse, both as creative inspiration and her favored form of transportation.

Her work has been in exhibitions in New York City, The Hudson Valley, Kentucky, Colorado, Virginia, Florida and South Carolina, Including The Museum At FIT, AAEA/The International Museum of the Horse, Parsons The New School for Design, and Cross Gate Gallery's MFHA Centennial Exhibition. Mary has a Solo Show in The Hudson Valley which opened in May featuring her Portraits. She is available for Custom Equine and Human Portraits.

In addition to Painting, Bridgman is a freelance Fashion Designer Fashion Illustrator and is on the faculty at the Fashion Institute of Technology.





For more information, contact: Emily Dulin | Brooke USA 305-505-6170 Emily.Dulin@BrookeUSA.org Kendall Bierer | Brooke USA 561-309-9873 Kendall.Bierer@BrookeUSA.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The donkey hide trade in East Africa has reached unprecedented levels: Hundreds of thousands of donkeys may die.

Lexington, KY – July 9, 2019 -- Donkeys across East Africa are being slaughtered for their hides to meet an ever-increasing demand for "Ejiao", which is used in traditional Chinese medicine and beauty products. Ejiao is made from the gelatin produced from donkey hides.

The treatment of donkeys in this process is often gruesome and has a huge impact on the livelihoods of people in the geographic areas funded by Brooke USA. Donkeys are being stolen, horrifically mistreated and cruelly slaughtered—sometimes in the brush or street just outside their owners' property. The current rate of theft, smuggling and slaughter in East Africa with Kenya at the epicenter has the potential to kill more than1,000 donkeys every single day.

Not only are donkeys suffering and being killed at an unprecedented rate, but the loss of a donkey is crushing for the people who depend on these animals to survive. Families that lose a donkey can suffer colossal damage. By losing a donkey, many lose access to water, to earning money, to the ability to send their children to school, to putting food on the table—all setbacks that can plunge an already poor family even deeper into poverty.

Last year alone, 360,000 donkeys in Kenya were slaughtered for their skins. Over 90,000 donkeys were stolen from people who depend on them for daily life and to make a living. At this rate, donkeys will vanish from the African continent by 2023. Emily Dulin, Executive Director of Brooke USA stated, "we must do something—we must ban the trade of donkey



skins, crack down on smuggling, and protect these donkeys." Brooke USA is supporting its sister organization Brooke in its call to public action by advocating for changes in local and national laws, protecting the innocent donkey owners, and safeguarding the donkeys. Brooke, already has a team working on the ground in Kenya.

Brooke USA is addressing this crisis by raising \$100,000, of which part of the goal is \$25,000 exclusively online at <u>www.donkeyhidecrisis.org</u>. To this end, the entire month of July is dedicated to this cause with posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Brooke USA is also asking friends and supporters to share the posts as many times as possible to garner attention for the impending crisis.

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Headquartered in Lexington KY and with a satellite office in Wellington, FL, Brooke USA's mission is to significantly improve the welfare of working horses, donkeys and mules and the people they serve throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Americas and the Caribbean by raising funds and responsibly directing them to the areas of greatest need.

We do this through a holistic approach to funding which includes capacity building, sustainability programming, female empowerment and international advocacy. Brooke USA connects private philanthropists with their passion for helping relieve the suffering of working equines and their owners.

For more information about Brooke USA, please visit <u>www.BrookeUSA.org</u>.

Note to the Editor: Due to graphic nature of the photography, Brooke USA has made a choice not to share photos. You may request photos at <u>Kendall.Bierer@BrookeUSA.org</u>.