Christine Seo

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I don't race, nor jump, nor dressage. But the horse is the spirit animal that liberated my art and my soul.

As a young mother of two left to my own devices in a new land where the language and everything else was so foreign, I lost footing in life. I had left a successful career as a sought-after art instructor in Seoul to immigrate to the States with my husband and sons. As a result, my painting also meandered.

That all changed when I visited the horse farm of a woman I had befriended—we had agreed to swap her English lessons for mine on watercolor basics.

The horses I saw there reconnected me with a primal urge to paint what I know I was born and meant all along to paint. But not ride.

To this day, I still haven't ridden a horse. Two bad falls as a child taught me more than lessons. That I'm not to ride, but to paint and perhaps just be. To be one with them in capturing their exquisite beauty, undeniable force and pure hearts with my rough, strong brush strokes and combination of brights and darks.

Koreans have a lot to say about the dreams you dream when pregnant. In retrospect, it is no surprise that the one dream I had each time was of two foals. Bringing horses to life continues to define and shape my art and very being.

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## **BIOGRAPHY**

Born and raised in Seoul, Christine Seo immigrated to the United States, first to California then New Jersey, with her husband and two sons in 2000. As a graduate of prestigious schools, Christine was a sought-after art instructor at the Fine Arts Academy she founded while in Korea.

While Christine focuses her oil and watercolor paintings on equine art, Christine also explores the intersectionality of Korean culture, portraiture and nature. She considers renowned artist, Roger Armstrong, as an influential mentor during her time in Laguna Beach.

Christine has exhibited at a variety of venues in Southern California, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, including several solo shows at

New Hope, PA, Tenafly, NJ and Cherry Hill and New York. Her work has also been awarded by the Arts Bridge, Catharine L. Wolfe Art Club, Morris Museum, Paul/Matthews, West Windsor Arts Council, and Winsor & Newton Company among others.

She currently lives in Northern Burlington County, New Jersey with her husband.

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