

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 25 works

Jan. 13-Feb. 3, 2012

Saks Galleries

3019 E. 2nd Avenue

Denver, CO 80206

(303) 333-4144

SHOW LOCATION DENVER, CO**JILL SOUKUP***Horses and other thoughts*

Themes of horses and architecture run through Jill Soukup's latest body of work on exhibit in her first solo show at Saks Galleries titled *Horses and Other Thoughts*. Opening January 13, the show will feature a diverse offering of various-sized oil paintings all informed by the interplay of shapes, values, edges, textures, and colors.

"There are mostly horse subject matter and a few bison and my architectural pieces," Soukup says of the new work. "There's also a little boy on a bike and a painting of a

sculpture from Barcelona's Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya. The sculpture is a figure of a woman sitting, almost kneeling—it's a great opportunity to push texture. It's a little bit different than I normally do; it's more of a high-key painting."

The Colorado artist is known for focusing on the abstract structure of a painting rather than the subject matter. New ideas often come from dynamic compositions that catch her eye. She then paints only the parts that interest her, cropping the subject in ways that are

unexpected. In the new equine paintings this means omitted legs or a rider's face or torso.

"I'm pushing some of the technical aspects like texture and value. I'm trying to push the boundaries a little bit so there'll be a few pieces representing that," explains Soukup.

In *About Face*, Soukup crops the rider, zeroing in on the core of the subject and motion of the horse stopped and changing direction.

"I felt I didn't need the whole rider to communicate that. In fact, I thought it distracted from that. It also simplifies the



Palomino Paint Cruising (study), oil, 7¼ x 11½"

The Gallery Says . . .

"Looking at one of Jill Soukup's paintings, we can focus on a single brushstroke. Each one is powerful and becomes an integral part of the final recognizable object—a horse or a building for example. Soukup's creative synthesis of abstraction and realism relates to artistic breakthroughs such as 'Impressionism' or 'Cubism' but offers the viewer something new—Soukup's unique signature style."

– Catherine Saks, owner, Saks Galleries



About Face, oil, 24 x 21½"



Brawl Bait, oil, 30 x 30"



Gearing Up, oil, 12 x 10"



Jill Soukup takes a break in her studio in Colorado. Her work continues to gain recognition as she receives awards, appears in national publications, and shows in important juried and solo exhibitions.



Peekaboo, oil, 48 x 30"

piece too," she says.

Brawl/ Bait best illustrates Soukup's exploration in the different levels of paint quality she can achieve with the level of dryness or wetness of paint.

"I started with a heavily textured canvas, which gives it bumpiness and a softness I don't normally achieve with brushstrokes," she continues. "I'm really pushing texture and the way I'm using brushes and palettes."

Each year Soukup visits the Zapata Ranch in Southern Colorado to gather reference material. This year's trip inspired several of her new equine pieces including *Peekaboo* and *Palomino Paint Cruising* (study), the latter of which reflects a linear quality and patterns of the Palomino—elements often shared in architecture. Soukup plans to do a larger version of this for the show.

"I got excited about the images from my trip to Zapata Ranch, they inspired more complex compositions," she adds.

Soukup's exploration of texture spurred the painting of a sculpture—a work in progress. It also prompted her to try a new product: Gamblin's Cold Wax Medium, which makes oil colors thicker and more matte. "It definitely adds to my exploration of texture," she says.

Pushing boundaries and exploration of different aspects of painting has led to Soukup gaining ground in both the Western art and contemporary art communities where her work appeals to collectors of both genres. Her participation in the 2009 *Coors Western Art Exhibit and Sale* marked a major turning point in her career, resulting in invitations from two galleries to join their roster. In 2011 she won the People's Choice award at the *Coors* show, where she will be returning this January with six new works. 🐾

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



www.westernartcollector.com

Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2012	\$990-\$1,590	\$2,200-\$6,570	\$8,040-\$20,800