

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works on show

March 1 – 30, 2007

Timmons Gallery

16091 San Dieguito Rd.

Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

(858) 756-8488

AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR

SHOW LOCATION
RANCHO SANTA FE, CA

JILL SOUKUP

Drawn to horses

A new exhibition of equestrian and architectural paintings has given Jill Soukup a chance to experiment not only with a recently discovered large format but also with painterly concerns like value, composition

and abstract shape.

“For me, everything comes down to core composition and a balance of shapes and values,” says Soukup. “When I see something beautiful I want to interpret it in my own way back in the studio. From

the dishes in my sink to a bustling city scene, I find inspiration everywhere: in the interplay of shapes, values, edges textures and colors. Intuition and a sense of composition bring these elements together.”

While Soukup has always been known for her diverse subject matter, she only recently started to paint horses because of the compositional elements they bring to the canvas. Once she started painting them, though, she has been inspired by a desire to paint one life-sized.

“I’ve wanted to do it for a long time,” says Soukup. “And I had so much fun doing them large—it’s easy to be expressive when you are painting large and they have been extremely well-received. Can you imagine having a life-sized horse in your own living room?”

Many of these new paintings combine the image of the horse with the human figure. While this particular combination is new to her, the theme is something that has been in her work since the beginning.

“Thematically, I find myself returning again and again to the juxtaposition between rigid, mechanical, man-made objects and the fluid, organic aspects of nature,” says Soukup. “Discovering that despite their contrasts, they share and exchange the same tendencies.”

◀ RED LANDING, OIL ON BOARD, 24 X 18"

The artist says: My main inspiration for this piece was the very strong dark and light structure of the composition. I wanted to see how far I could push the lightest shadows in the rider and the darkest parts in the light on the horse.

▶ CULMINATION, OIL ON BOARD, 36 X 24"

The artist says: This is Valletta, Malta. I loved the intricate, compact patterns the old city had to offer. In this particular scene, the buildings leading up to the dome had this rhythm and motion towards the pinnacle of the composition.





ITCH'N, OIL ON BOARD, 10 X 11 1/2"

The artist says: I loved the atypical composition for this horse. Something less majestic than one would expect from a painting of a horse, but, nonetheless, just as poetic.

The Gallery Says . . .

"Jill's masterful eye for color and composition is portrayed in her animal paintings, rural landscapes and cityscapes that are appealing to the emerging art collector."

*— Leigh Timmons,
Owner, Timmons Gallery*







Soukup is also interested in the ways the objects in the paintings are able to break down the space of the canvas into abstract shapes. Thus, tree branches, rooftops and other architectural elements all serve as ways to create smaller, geometric shapes within the picture plane.

"I'm interested in the way space is broken down," says Soukup. "For instance, a staircase gives a linear breakdown and breaks up the canvas into angular, abstract shapes. The same is true for winter trees with the branches breaking down the sky and whatever is behind it. I look at the world abstractly, and to me it is all about abstract structure and how things are put together fundamentally."

Soukup also favors a more expressive,

painterly style to achieve this look that she is after. This style also leaves room for collectors to have a more unique and personal reaction to each painting.

"My philosophy in painting is that it is really important to know technical aspects and you can't be expressive unless you understand these principles," says Soukup. "At the same time, you can get too caught up in the technical part of it because when you get too involved, something is missing. And, when you get excited about something, you want people notice it as well." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



www.americanartcollector.com

COACHED, OIL ON BOARD, 12 X 12"

The artist says: Ahh, horses! Ever classic. Like Red Landing, there was a nice play of the dark animal integrated with the other dark shapes of the composition. I'm not typically interested in telling a story, but I thought this one had a great dialogue between the coach, rider and horse.

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
2000	\$475	\$1,000	\$3,500
2006	\$1,035	\$2,500	\$7,000