



Elizabeth Cameron

The Art Crop of Elizabeth Cameron

Cameron lives with a pack of dogs and small herd of horses on her Wisconsin farm. She drives "Harrison", her blue Ford tractor to bale the hay she grows, and plows snow from her barnyard with it depending on the season. However the continual crop harvested no matter what the weather, is Cameron's art. Living on river delta land is fertile for the hay as well as Cameron's painting. Her equine subjects graze in lush pasture beneath her studio window. The apple didn't fall far from the tree. She grew up 60 miles south, in Libertyville, Illinois, while riding her family's ponies along the nearby Des Plaines river. Today her current of creativity flows in a remarkably similar setting, and she is very active in local conservation work to keep it that way.

A professional portrait artist for 21 years, "Libby" puts a lot of mileage on her paintbrushes. She graduated with a BFA painting degree from Milwaukee's Layton School of Art & Design in 1974. Career counseling was not part of the program for a painter there, and she naively thought waitressing would give her lots of time to paint. Libby wised up fast. She earned \$3k the first year out of school, and saved a third of it to buy a Volkswagen to get to job interviews.

For the next 9 years she worked for the largest USA children's book publisher as an editor/artist of Activity books such as paint-by-number, paper dolls, coloring and punch outs. Her days were filled with characters ranging from Barbie to Mickey Mouse and Sesame Street. Her nights were left for painting and her vow of never being without a horse in her life. Luck found Libby often and she moved into a charming barn apartment on an heiress's 80 acres. Trail riding had always been her love, and there was much to enjoy. Always a consistent vein in her work, horses and dogs became primary subjects, and she also began to branch out into portraits of riding friends. The publishing world afforded an idyllic lifestyle until the business climate changed and it became more corporate and less satisfying.

In 1986 Cameron quit that steady publishing job, jumped off the deep end and bought a ticket to Spain. Arriving as a complete unknown with one suitcase of clothes and another holding art supplies, Cameron spent the first two days at a hotel in culture shock and tears. She adjusted quickly to the beauty of the coastal town of Marbella. The Spanish Riviera was a major life turning point when she met a fellow American who turned out to be Countess Brenda Cassini (sister in law to Oleg Cassini).

Within 3 weeks Libby had a backlog of portrait commissions and the Cassinis had given her a car and many introductions to their friends. One of these new portrait clients were so thrilled with the painting Libby did of their dog, that they gave her the use of a beautiful apartment in a setting overflowing with Bougainvillea and 3 swimming pools! Cameron often traveled to Italy with the Cassinis, but after a year came to another life crossroads of missing her family in the USA and bid a tearful goodbye. She returned to her horse and began a Midwestern portrait career.

For more editorial information about this artist, please contact the artist directly:

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Image Tiff files provided:

Cameron_CirclingGame.tif

"Circling Game" 34w x 17h oil

Cameron_Hark.tif

"Hark" 28w x 24h oil

CameronOutstanding.tif

Elizabeth Cameron on her Morgan mare "Roy-el's Faerietale"

continued



Elizabeth Cameron *Continued*

Fast-forward 20 years and the fruit of Libby’s labors is apparent. Her “Faerietale Farm” studio is a hothouse of creativity with a steady outpouring of portrait commissions featuring people and animals. She was recently featured in a Sunday Chicago Tribune article (11/19/2006) about her work. Clients normally find her through word of mouth, and her work appears regularly on various horse publications. Cameron primarily does commissioned portraits but recently began a series of paintings on foxhunting scenes and another of gray ponies and burros. She is exhibiting these and also sells privately from her studio.

Cameron works in oils, acrylics or watercolor-mixed media from photographs (which she normally shoots herself unless the client already has a favorite for reference). She uses an old masters technique of layering color over a monochromatic under painting to give her oils and acrylics rich depth and atmosphere and combines the best of realism and impressionism.

Someone special who has been very influential in Libby’s life, has influenced millions of other artists as well. This is her sister: Julia Cameron. You might call these sisters “mutual muses”. Julia is the best selling author of the creativity classic *The Artist’s Way, A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* (Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, 222 pages, \$15.95). Julia has twenty-four other published books, 5 of which are cartoon books about creativity and spirituality which are populated by Libby’s whimsical dog characters. You will see Libby’s name often mentioned in the artist anecdotes of Julia’s newest book “Finding Water: the Art of Perseverance.” (Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, 286 pages, \$25.95).

Elizabeth “Libby” Cameron can be reached at horseart@execpc.com (262) 681-3203. Her website www.ElizabethCameron.com has many photos of her work, including an ongoing series of portraits of her family.

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