

# Artist Statement

## Equus

“The Horse”

By Anne M. Connor

Strength. Beauty. Grace. These are but a few of the words used to describe the amazing animals you'll see throughout the Griffin Museum during this exhibition. They have been immortalized in art, movies and literature since time immemorial. There is something about horses, even for those who don't ride or care for them, that viewers connect with. They are both exciting and calming, powerful yet vulnerable.

I have always been attracted to horses. I was one of those horse-crazy girls who dreamed about ponies and horse camp and more. So deep was my obsession, that I sometimes wrote stories about running away with the circus and caring for the horses. While growing up, our family was a one-sport-family and that sport was golf. We didn't have a lot of money so I would clean tack and stalls to earn extra rides at our local stable, which only deepened my resolve that I, too, would one day have horses. That day arrived when I was in college and there were very few years between then and now that I haven't ridden, photographed or cared for these beautiful animals.

A few decades ago, my husband and I purchased forty acres in the beautiful Driftless Area of SW Wisconsin. We showed horses at the time ... he in eventing and me in dressage, and I often photographed cross-country and stadium jumping rounds for friends and family. It was during that time, when I was also covering shows for horse publications, that I started paying more attention to the different breeds. I fell in love with how different horses move, how their fine legs propelled the strong, muscled bodies through a field or over a series of fences. I spent a lot of time watching, studying the anatomy of the horse and what made them tick.

I was a writer at the time but found photography an equally powerful way to tell the story of the horse. I am drawn to shadows and light, motion and quiet moments, the many moods of the horse.

Many of the horses featured in this exhibit live on our farm. Others are those we've met along the way. I hope you enjoy the images presented in Equus. They tell the story of how horses spark the imagination of little girls like me and how it never really leaves you. These images are my contribution to that story, nothing more, nothing less, than one horse crazy girl's love affair with all things equine.