

Cheval

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OUR LOVE LIFE HORSE // Special Report

[...]

Existential Relationship

In addition to the initial love and the way someone sees the horse, the strong connections between the two are influenced by personal experience. Like in a couple, hardship and shared emotional moments reinforce the connection.

"I remember the story of this great grandfather who was saved by his mare, tells the painter Marie Sand as she remembers the stories of horse riders she interviews for her commissioned art pieces.

"He has been sent on a mission heading a group of six men to chase a gang that was taking advantage of the war chaos in 1922. He rides his favorite horse. And suddenly his mare, who always obeys his orders, stops. He finally decides to abort the mission and turns around. A few months later, the gangsters are arrested. He hears that they were on the top of the hill, waiting for him. If he had pushed his horse further, after a few steps, they were going to get him. His horse saved his life."

If there are strong connections between humans and horses, it is in part because of the nature of the horse and his position in the society. Unlike other animals, it is quite common that a horse has several owners during its life. Despite what the horse does, the strong emotional connection exists. Marie Sand who hears many stories perceives very often this attachment to the horse.

"When I talk with horse lovers, I very often hear how horses help people to reconnect to themselves in the present moment. Horses invite us to live intensely the moment and to feel alive, in part because they are powerful and sometimes unpredictable. The relationship with horses is existential, and this is certainly the reason it is so strong".

TRANSLATING OUR CONNECTION

Marie Sand is a fine art painter who translates what we feel for horses in painting and drawing based on our relationship with them. This unusual approach comes from her own experience.

"At age 25, after a life-threatening disease, I started to paint and draw again. I realized that horse and nature mirror our emotions. I became aware that horses speak directly to our emotional and sensorial body. Images were coming to me as soon as I was reconnecting to those sensations".

Marie Sand collects horse lovers and riders' stories and create art pieces from those memories.

"Depending on what patrons evoke, the style and composition of the art piece dramatically differ, explains the artist. We don't talk about jumping memories in the same way than winter walks in nature. These perceptions and sensations are the raw materials that inspire each original art piece".