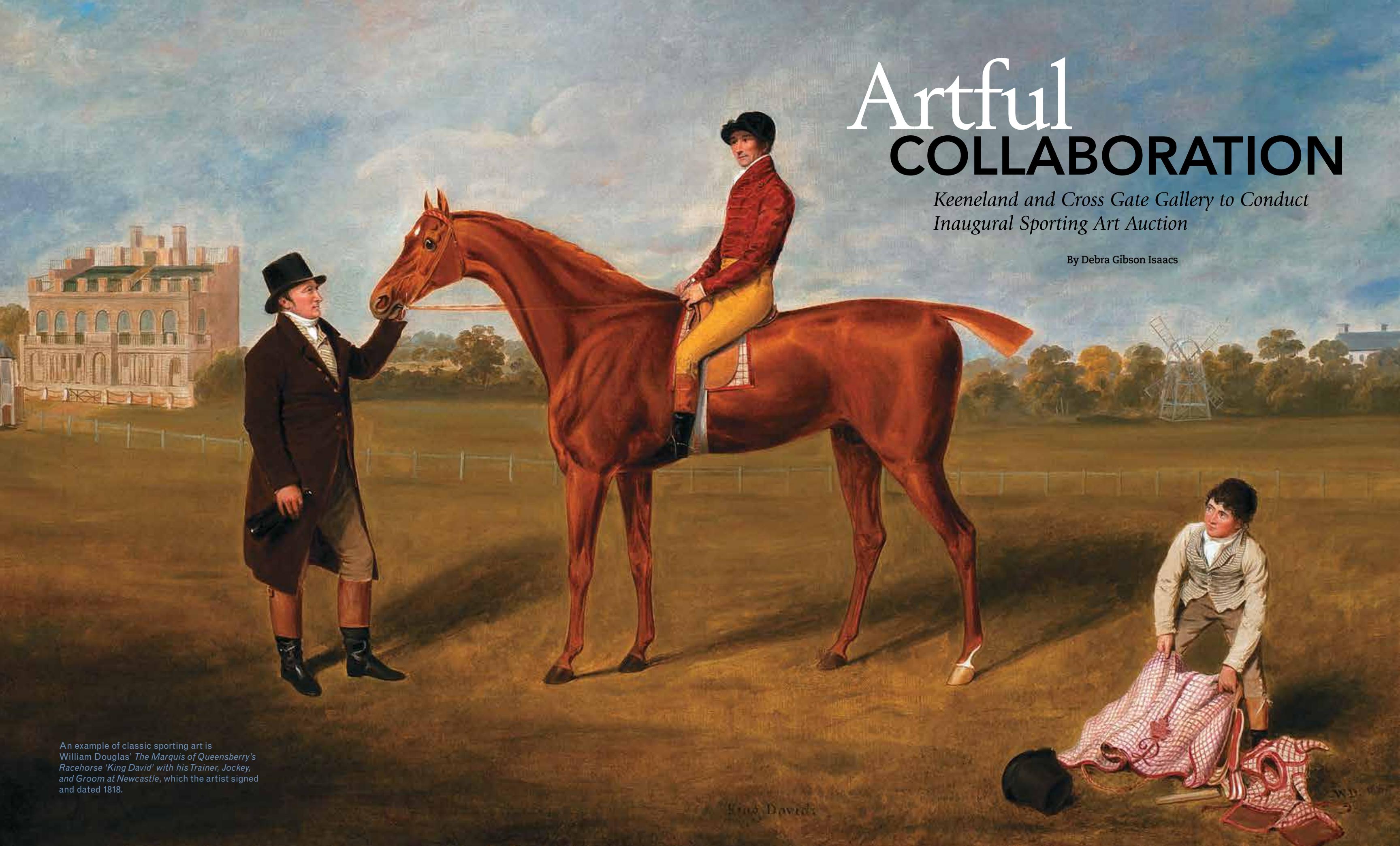


Artful COLLABORATION

*Keeneland and Cross Gate Gallery to Conduct
Inaugural Sporting Art Auction*

By Debra Gibson Isaacs



An example of classic sporting art is William Douglas' *The Marquis of Queensberry's Racehorse 'King David' with his Trainer, Jockey, and Groom at Newcastle*, which the artist signed and dated 1818.



Popular contemporary sporting artist André Pater is represented by *The Gift of Scent*.

Blue Prince II with Harry Carr Up on Newmarket Heath, an oil on unlined canvas signed by Sir Alfred J. Munnings, regarded as perhaps the world's finest equine painter, and *The Grand Jockey*, an important piece by French animalier sculptor Isidore Bonheur, are among 174 works of art that are part of the first-ever fine sporting art auction to be held at Keeneland this fall. The auction also will feature a broad range of other artists, including some of America's top realists such as three generations of Wyeths: N.C., son Andrew, and grandson Jamie.

The Sporting Art Auction — a new company formed by Keeneland Association and Cross Gate Gallery — will host the auction, which will be held in the Keeneland Sales Pavilion on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Greg Ladd, owner of Cross Gate Gallery, will curate the collection and viewing. Ladd's Lexington-based gallery

is widely regarded for its sporting art expertise.

"I think the quality of our sale is as good as any sporting sale ever held," said Walt Robertson, Keeneland's vice president of sales. "To our knowledge there has not been an auction of this caliber in several years. It has been more than 10 years since Christie's or Sotheby's conducted a sporting art auction in the states. The timing just couldn't be better."

Fine sporting art is the focus of this inaugural event, according to Ladd.

Nineteenth-century British sporting works include:

- Bee's-wing (Mr. Wme. Orde's bay filly Bee's-wing by Dr. Suntax out of a mare by Ardossan) by Sir John Frederick Herring Sr. (1795-1865). This oil on canvas is signed and dated 1842.

- Florence by Emil Adam (1843-1924), an oil on board signed and dated 1888, and

What: The Sporting Art Auction, a new company formed by Keeneland Association and Cross Gate Gallery

When: Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m.

Where: Keeneland Sales Pavilion

Who: Curated by Greg Ladd

Works may be viewed from Sept. 9 through the day of sale. For details visit www.thesportingartauction.com



Richard Stone Reeves' *Aristides: Winner of the First Kentucky Derby 1875* is among several works by the artist.

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- Julius Caesar by John Ferneley Sr. (1782-1860), an oil on canvas, signed and dated 1816.

American sporting art includes works by the historically important American racehorse portrait artists Edward Troye (1808-1874), Henry Stull (1851-1913), Franklin Voss (1880-1953), Milton Menasco (1890-1974), and Richard Stone Reeves (1919-2005). There is also a 7' x 17' mural commissioned by Charles W. Bidwill Jr. for Sportsman's Park in 1976 done by the late LeRoy Neiman, an American artist known for his brightly colored paintings depicting athletes and sporting events.

In addition, the category includes *Inspecting Yearlings, Saratoga, Fasig-Tipton Sales Barn* by Vaughn Flannery

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(American, 1898-1955), an oil on board depicting Flannery and his wife seated on a bench with "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons in the background.

Contemporary sporting works include:

- *The Gift of Scent*, a large canvas depicting hounds running through an open field by André Pater (Polish/American, born 1953)
- *Work Morning* by Peter Curling (Irish, born 1955)
- *Goldikova* by Charles Church (British, born 1970), and
- *Walking Leopard III*, Maquette by sculptor Dylan Lewis (South African, born 1964).

Shooting and fishing pictures include such artists as Ogden Pleissner (American, 1905-1983), A. Lassell Ripley (American, 1896-1969), and Frank W. Benson (American, 1862-1951).



Andrew Wyeth's *Marsh Hawk* at one time sold for the highest price ever given for a work by a living artist.

"We knew we wanted a quality group of sporting pictures," Ladd said, "but we also knew that our clientele has a broad range of interests. We decided to go after some of the top American realists that are working today. American master



Mary Cassatt's *Children Playing with a Cat* is considered a fine example of the artist's focus on mothers and children.

Jamie Wyeth and his wife, Phyllis, are in the racing business, racing among others Union Rags, and we were able to persuade Jamie to give us a piece, *That Dog's House*, a mixed media on toned paper board. By moving a bit in this direction, we were

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led to some amazing pictures that we would never have imagined we would get when we started this project."

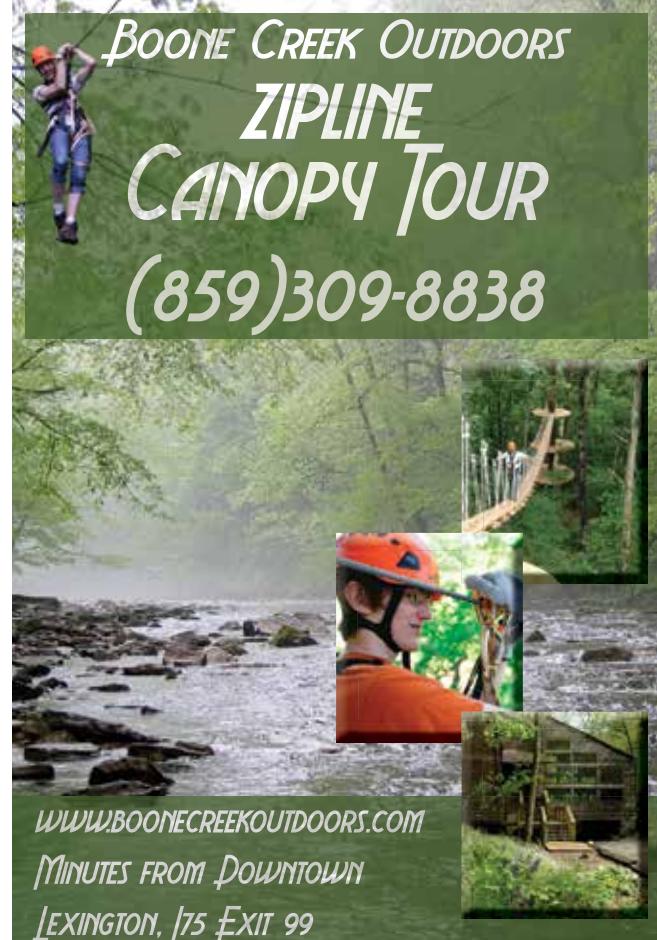
Ladd said he and Keeneland were elated to secure two works by iconic American non-sporting painters. One is *Marsh Hawk*, a signed tempera on masonite that Andrew Wyeth (American, 1917-2009) created in 1964 and subsequently sold at Sotheby Parke-Bernet in 1981 for \$420,000, at that time the highest price ever given for a work by a living artist. The other is an important painting by Mary Cassatt (American, 1845-1926), *Children Playing with a Cat*, an oil on canvas signed and dated 1908.

Collectors will have an opportunity to view the works for an extended period of time. The works will be displayed in the Keeneland Sales Pavilion from the September Yearling Sale (Sept. 9-21) until the auction on Nov. 20. This time frame includes the October races (Oct. 4-26) and the November Breeding Stock Sale (Nov. 6-15).

All forms of bidding will be accepted during the auction, including phone and Internet bids, live bids, and left bids. Bidders need only to have a history with Keeneland or establish credit.

Keeneland's proceeds from this auction will benefit its non-profit initiatives, including the Keeneland Library Foundation. For more about the auction, go to www.thesportingartauction.com or send an email to info@thesportingartauction.com. 

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