

## Erica Nordean: Biography

Native to the Pacific North West, Erica Nordean is an internationally known painter recognized for her stunning depictions of horses and horse racing, as well as haunting landscapes and vibrant still life.

At the age of 18 she began exercising racehorses at Long Acres, in Renton, Washington, while attending school. Working with horses throughout Washington, Erica was a fixture at such lauded locales as Long Acres, Yakima Meadows, and Emerald Downs, where she was an exercise rider for various stables. Throughout her college years, Erica says, “I was taking all the classes, but art was all I liked. I finally decided in my late twenties that I really wanted to be an artist.”



Primarily self-taught, Erica has taken many courses at the prestigious Pratt Fine Arts Center in Seattle, studying a variety of artistic styles. She says, “I found out that drawing came so naturally.” In her mid thirties, and confident that she was on the right path, Erica embarked on her career as a professional artist and never looked back.

Erica Nordean’s art career took off in 1998 when she began showing at Kirkland’s Gambados Gallery, where her paintings were enthusiastically received. Since then, Erica says that as a painter, “It has been like a tunnel where all the doors fly open.” Through her pure determination, and love of shape and image that began early in life, she has adapted her love of horse racing into a spectacular profession.

With a powerful national presence in the national horse racing world, Erica’s paintings have shown most recently at the prestigious Del Mar Thoroughbred Club where she was the 2010 featured program artist. Erica’s art hangs in galleries from Seattle, Washington to Saratoga Springs, New York. In California, her work has been shown at Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, Del Mar, and Bay Meadows racetracks.

*“In a world of literal-minded racing painters and patrons, Nordean is one who dares to flirt with the abstract, said Daily Racing Form columnist Jay Hovedy. “Her horses are unmistakably horses, but they have a vibrant, native feel...”*

Erica has been collaborating with South Hill Gallery, Ltd. in Lexington, KY for many years, her only gallery in the East.