



# GREYHOUNDEN

Tidsskrift for Norsk Greyhoundklubb



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## In search of the eye and an expression...

Every breeder of importance and true talent has an Eye, a rare ability to read between the lines and understand what is most important – to find the essence of his breed.



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When you enter the world of Martial Robin's art, it is an encounter with the presence of his subjects, a feeling of elegance, power and movement – an expression caught in a moment.

Martial Robin's paintings of dogs and horses have one thing in common, regardless of technique and format – the expression, the snapshot of a moment in time. By removing all of the unnecessary, adding what is found between the lines, he is able to capture something awe-inspiring; the sense of independence, the inner strength and essence of each subject. This is what makes the works of Mar-



tial Robin so unique. The value is found in the eyes of his subjects as well as in their expressions – caught in a moment.

The fact that Martial Robin is also a renowned breeder of dogs surely plays a significant part in his oeuvre. His sensitive eye captures and portrays the essence of his models, in layers and with a rare depth. A depth that makes every painting unique, regardless of motif, and always – caught in a moment of truth.

Text: Magnus Hagstedt



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Tekst: Lise Olesen

## INTERVJU WITH MARTIAL ROBIN

Where do you live?

I live in the French countryside, 3 hours west from Paris and 1 hour East from the Atlantic Ocean. My property is surrounded by 11 hectares... and plenty of animals: dogs, cat and horses, but also a park occupied with miniature ships, swans, ducks, chickens, mini pig, etc...

When did you get your first dog, and which one? My parents had a farm. Therefore, we have al-

ways had dogs around us. All have been mix breeds from various shepherds and terriers. I always had a special connection with dogs. I fell in love with the Afghan hounds when I was 13 or 14 yo. and promised myself to own one of them one day... I bought my first Afghan with my first salary 30 years ago! I took the first one, without any quality selection. She turned out to be a pet. 3 years after, totally in love with the

breed, I decided to buy a second one, whom I took my time to select a good exemplary of the breed, that could allow me to show her and potentially breed her in the future. Chanel de la Chapelle Saint Blaise came into my life, became a big winner and the base of all the Manuel Galopin story!

No need to ask for your favorite breed(s)...or? Of course Afghans are omnipresent in my doggy

life, but I appreciate many other breeds both for their aesthetic sides or their interesting functions.

No need to say that I have a special and strong affection with all sighthounds.

When you paint dogs, what "catch your eyes", what's the important thing in your painting of an animal, the exterior or the expression...or maybe both?

Whenever you paint an animal or a human, the purpose is to search more from inside than outside your subject. The beauty itself is something that can be caught by any camera. The emotion of the painting that gives a personal interpretation of the subject is something unique. When you paint, you are not allowed to get back "only" the beauty... You have to give some emotional extras... otherwise, a good camera and Photoshop will do it better than you.

You're, as well, painting horses, do you keep horses yourself? I used to have very be-



autiful horses, bred and trained for jumping competitions. Being more attracted by the horses themselves than the competitions, I slowly came into the "rescue

things". Now I have only old horses that come to my home for retirement and spending their last years in a nice place. Because of their long-life (good or bad) experi-



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ences, these horses have almost these human expressions. Very attaching... I have been painting horses for almost 20 years. Actually before dogs!

Do you find any connection (likeness) between sighthounds/greyhounds and horses...?

All sighthound people will find the resemblance with their dogs and horses. Many horse people do own sighthounds. This connection between horses and sighthounds are already pictured in some antics representations !!!

Any art education?

Since I was a child I was drawing. I spent most of my school time decorating my school books with my drawings !!!

Later, I followed some graphic art lessons with an excellent artist (E. Massart) who pushed me into a personal artistic expression, made of personal experimentations and research. I had to find myself... and I came into my own style. After many years of experiences and my eye that has sharpened... here is where I am.



I feel I have still to learn more and improve. I like to think that I am only at 10% of my artistic progression.

Which material do you prefer?:

Being very curious, I have worked with all kind

of mediums and technics. I enjoy all of them as they offer me different possibilities. I get different results if I work on canvas or paper or wood... and if I use acrylics, inks, pastels, oils or other stuffs.

What size on canvas do



you enjoy the most for your art?

I love working on big sizes. There is a (almost) physical contact with your art piece that is so exciting!

Have you had any art exhibitions (galleries)? :

I have been exhibiting in many galleries, both in Europe and outside Europe (USA and Australia). I have the chance to be

represented in more than 60 countries all over the world. That's very rewarding.

Is it possible to order a painting from a picture of ones dog?

Yes, I work on commissioned pieces. I like to have several photos of my model and a little description of its temperament and character... the purpose being to paint the soul as much as possible... As I said previously, the model beauty is not enough for me!

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