



# ADRIAN MARCH

## ONE PAGE BIO

Digital photographer Adrian March was born in Los Angeles, California and she has lived most of her life in Portland, Oregon. She earned her degree in History with an emphasis on the Arts from Reed College in 1996, and she was awarded a RACC Professional Development Grant in 2014. Her work is exhibited online and it is in public and private collections in the United States and Canada.

March honors the horses affiliated with Portland's last mounted patrol by expressing their individuality in her artwork. She hopes her work will spark conversations about the benefits of horses in a city because mounted patrol officers say working with horses makes them kinder, and a Washington State University study in 2014 confirmed that just being around horses increases oxytocin while lowering stress hormones in humans.

<https://news.wsu.edu/2014/04/24/horsing-around-reduces-stress-hormones-in-youth/>

March's experiments with photography began in the late 1980s when she zoomed in on the curves and angles of outdoor sculptures to capture shadows and the flash of sunlight bouncing off a bulge. Later, a pivotal visit to the Middle East exposed her to the visual rhythm of Islam's intricate patterns.

In 2007, March began combining her digital photographs into impressionist images and patterns. At first, her favorite subjects were architecture, fish, flora, and water (clouds, ice, rain, river). Then, in 2012, she met her ten horse-friends and began photographing them regularly on their days off, transporting them metaphorically into fantasy landscapes.

For many years her friends Asher, Beau, Diesel, Major, Monty, Murphy, Olin, Red, Tonka, and Zeus were stabled near downtown at the site of Centennial Mills where they could be easily observed when turned loose in the arena. March was surprised to see the horses interact in ways that mimicked conversation. This prompted extensive research into humane horsemanship and equine therapy.

March learned that conventional wisdom about horses and horse care had been overturned in the last decade. She learned that horses are superior to humans in their ability to get along with each other, that they do communicate with those who pay attention, and that it is necessary for people to interact with animals for their brains to work right.

For the first time in recorded history, humans don't rely on horses to physically survive; but we still need horses if we are to survive happily because, as the new research shows, horses contribute to our emotional well-being. Horses enjoy interacting with humans, they don't like to be bored or lonely, and they take pleasure in a job well done.

March's work inspires viewers to reconsider horses in light of this new research because increased horse presence in urban environments can reduce crime over time. It's a fact: city horses improve city life.