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PHOTOGRAPHY



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Who, What, When, Where, Why, How....

April Visel is a world recognized equine photographer and horsewoman who specializes in the Arabian Horse. Her work is award winning and has graced the covers of all the Arabian magazines and can be seen on the covers of numerous Baroque publications as well. She is most often recommended for her use of light and capturing emotional, evocative moments with the horses she is so incredibly passionate about. Possibly equally as important is that she is easy to work with, both during and after.

April grew up in Northern California near Lake Tahoe in a quaint town called Mount Aukum raised by two nature loving hippies. At the age of 5 her mother acquired two ponies which was the start of her love of horses, cemented in her mind with the film *The Black Stallion* where she was introduced to the amazing Arabian. As she grew up and the ponies passed, her next horse became a Half-Arabian/Half Tennessee Walker, who stayed with her for a large portion of life.

In 2000 April married Brandon Visel, as a musician he was someone who shared her passions. One of Brandon's passions was photography and with the introduction of digital photography April was able to train herself, honing in her skills and artistic vision.

They ran a lucrative wedding photography business for 4 years.

However, one day on their property in Ojai, California, while practicing, her horses came into the view finder and it all came together for April.

Realizing that she could be a horse photographer, the memories of all those horse magazines came rushing back. Looking back now, she recognizes the influence of Sparagowski, Scott Trees, Van Lents, Stuart Vesty and of course the amazing fine art of Robert Vavra.

She started on the road to her first published fine art image with the help of Jenn Trickey and the stallion Enzo with his son Eden, who were standing with Greg Gallun. This was her chance to get that cover, and Greg was clear that there were no guarantees. With both horses acting perfectly, she got the image she needed.

After her first cover, a photo for Bob and Dixie North, and second, a fine art image of Eden, her business was off and running.

She is always shooting for the cover, no matter what's in front of her. Her humble way has benefited the way she shoots with the idea that the second you feel like you're something special, you lose your touch...since the horse doesn't know the difference and does not care if you are famous.

Her approach to a photo shoot is that you have to get into their heads, maintain a purity, or the horse won't engage. It doesn't help anyone to make the horse unhappy. So she tends to stay quiet and mellow, trying to be at the right place at the right time.

Before April can consider herself a horse photographer, it is important for her to know that she is a first, a good horsewoman. To her that means being focused and connected, to pay attention...and to spend as much time riding them as she does shooting them! As she says, *"nothing keeps you more true to yourself than a horse"*.

Along with the occasional wedding and photos with other breeds, like baroque horses, April organizes and teaches workshops in Santa Ynez, California. Opening a window for a limited number of photographers to come from all over the world to learn how to photograph horses with "fine art" and passion in mind.

April and Brandon's lives have changed only for the better as her demand remains strong and his musical contributions grow both in and out of the Arabian business. Determined to spend time together and stay close to their passions, they ride as much as possible and travel together whenever possible.

There is always a constant reminder of the quote,

"If you love what you do...you'll never work a day in your life."



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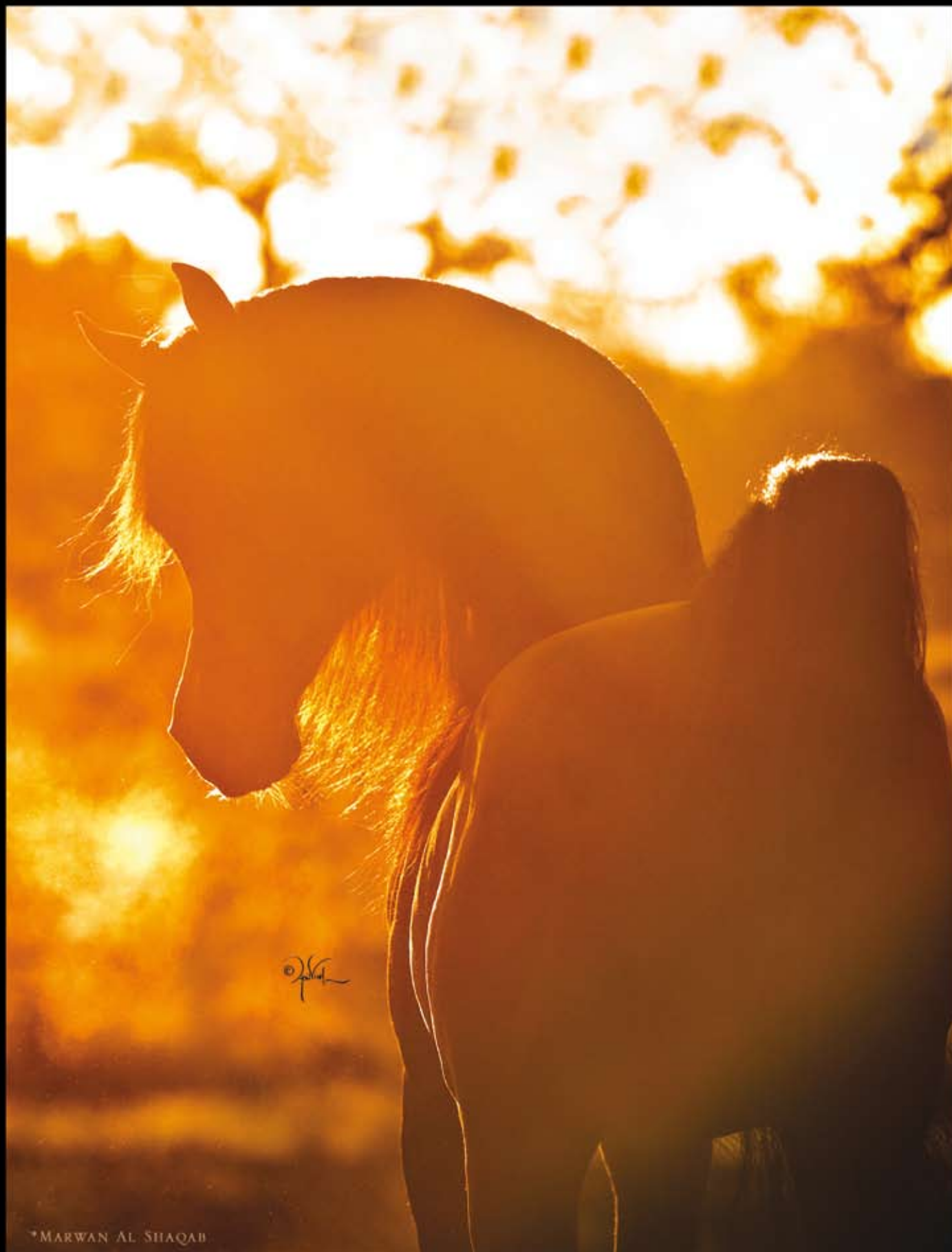
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*OM EL ARAB MARES



* MARWAN AL SHAQAB



(ABOVE) PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA, FLORENCE ITALY



(ABOVE)
KOH PI PI ISLAND, THAILAND

(BELOW) WILD MUSTANGS
SANTA FE NEW MEXICO





BAROQUE HORSES SHOT DURING THE SANTA YNEZ WORKSHOP
HOSTED BY APRIL VISEL



*GAZAL AL SHAQAB



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*MARWAN AL SHAQAB



*BEY AMBITION

