

Vhay's horse named best painting in magazine contest

'Dreamwalker's Dream' earns kudos from Art Horse.

By Richard Anderson

According to American Indian lore, when the medicine man Dreamwalker was on a journey across the plains, he was approached by a black stallion, a red stallion and a yellow stallion, each of which offered to give him a ride. But it was only when a white stallion appeared and made the same offer that Dreamwalker accepted. The white stallion embodies all the powers of the others — a balanced medicine shield of clarity, work, play, joy, humor and wisdom.

That, said Jackson artist September Vhay, is the idea behind her painting "Dreamwalker's Dream," which this month was named winner of Art Horse magazine's 2012 Ex Arte Equinus painting competition.

"I'm floored," she said of the honor. "I submit every year. I've had numerous awards from them, but never a first-place award."



Jackson artist September Vhay's "Dreamwalker's Dream" is the winner of Art Horse magazine's 2012 Ex Arte Equinus painting competition.

The 24-by-36-inch oil on Belgian linen is a loving, astutely observed portrait of a horse, C. Quinto, owned by a friend in Idaho, Vhay said. She depicts the stallion almost head-on with a

great sense of depth, gesture and personality. The steed's mane flies in the wind. Its knowing eyes penetrate.

As its name suggests, the semiannual Art Horse magazine is published

for equine artists, equine art collectors and lovers of all things equine. Articles include pieces on historical horses and art, breeds and artist interviews.

"It's all about the art and it's all about the horses," the magazine's website, ArtHorseMagazine.com, states. "What else is there?"

The sixth annual international Ex Arte Equinus competition attracted about 1,000 entries, Vhay said. Winners were chosen in painting, drawing, photography, digital art and sculpture categories.

In addition to her first place in painting, Vhay won honorable mention for "Blue Mustang." In years past, she has won the competition's editor's choice award, the fine art imaging award and third place in painting.

"It's so important that organizations like this are putting out awards," she said. "It's very validating. ... And it's a great way for collectors and artists to gather and be inspired."

Vhay's winning entries will be printed in a future edition of Art Horse and in the catalog of the 2012 Ex Arte Equinus competition. She shows her work in Jackson at Altamira Fine Art.