

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

One of my earliest memories, at age 2 years and 3 months, was a visit to my grandparents' farm in Forest Grove OR. As a father to 10, my grandfather knew how to delight a toddler. He carried me out to the barn soon after I arrived. There he lifted me, in a frothy dress and patent leather shoes, onto the back of one of his massive draft horses. My initial fear gave way to excitement and wonder on the back of that gentle giant...my fate as a horse-lover was sealed.

Horse ownership wasn't an option as a kid growing up in suburban Southern California, so my interest was redirected into reading hundreds of books about horses, becoming equally obsessed with drawing or painting horses, and taking the occasional riding lesson. Fifty years after visiting my grandparents farm, I became a horse owner. Seventy years after the visit, I became a horse photographer. It's been a long and wonderful journey.

The images in this portfolio are a selection from a 2022 personal project to explore equine photography in depth. Despite being a horse-owner for more than twenty years, I had taken very few artistic photos of horses or other equines. Over the course of a year, I photographed horses, donkeys, and mules at the farm where I board my horse, along quiet roads and trails in the Pacific Northwest, and on other farms from Bellingham to Chappaquiddick. Sometimes photography was casual, while at other times it occurred in organized photoshoots with some amazing and truly gifted artists.

The challenge of equine photography is to capture emotion and/or poetic motion in the click of the shutter. At times this requires photography very near large, exuberant individual animals or in the path of herds. Heat, dust, light, sweating horses, thundering hoofbeats. The experience brings back some of the same feelings that I had as a child: fear, amazement, and wonder. I hope that you, the viewer, can sense some of these same emotions in the images of this collection.

- *Lori Moilanen, January 2023*

