Results-
Equisarte Online Photography Horse Show
(Summer 2025)

Congratulations to all the Winners!!!

Thank you for participating in Equisarte's Online Photography Summer Show! There were so many great shots to consider making it more difficult to select the order of winners. That's a good thing because it means not only did you have fun doing the challenges, you are growing in your ability to visualize in your mind, create an image that tells a story, and is optically pleasing to the eye! Photography is art, technique, story telling, composure, and lighting.

Photography is all about slowing down to take a look- there is beauty in the simplest of things and we appreciated seeing the beauty you found. Cameras sure are an amazing artistic tool! They allow us to see things we don't normally see, study nature, and have an appreciation for all things great and small! It was really special to see all the different images from all over the country and the different ways you chose to present them in your artwork.

We congratulate you on having patience and putting thought into composure to capture a moment that tells a story. There's more parts of the composition (not just the subject) that help to complete the story. It was nice to see how the animals tell a story through facial expression or pose!

We also enjoyed seeing the lighting and colors captured in your Summer sunrises, sunsets, Summer moments, and adorable animals! To get a good shot a photographer may need to plan ahead and set it up, take multiple photos, or they may notice something beautiful and have their camera handy at the right time. We highly encourage each of you to print your photos and frame them! Canvas prints turn out lovely too!

With over 200 images submitted we chose to split many classes. When judging we chose the best or stronger of the two photos submitted per category- which was no easy task! We also added a *Best of Class* category for those classes with large amounts of entries! Best of Class winners will get a ribbon similar to 1st-6th place winners. Ribbons will begin to be mailed out ASAP. *Congratulations again!*

Junior Classes Ages 9-12

Best in Show 9-12

Holly Caldwell Jr. Class 1. age 10 "Did You Call Me?"

Holly did an excellent job keeping her dog and background in sharp focus and rule of thirds! What an adorable photo captured of her dog's smile! She did a nice job capturing some interesting light on the dog's fur too!

1st Place

Holly Caldwell Jr. Class 5. age 10 "Hello State Flower"

Junior Classes Ages 14 - 18

Best in Show

Theresa Johnson Jr. Class 3. age 17 "Florida Cur - Honey at Sunset"

Theresa did an amazing job using the rule of thirds and keeping her subject in focus! This photo has some really interesting moody dusk colors that are tricky to show! There is a lot of texture seen in the grasses, leaves, fur of the dog, and clouds.Even in this low light photo we can still see the dog’s gaze- which makes us wonder what has caught his attention?

1st Place

Theresa Johnson Jr. Class 1. age 17 "After the Summer Rain Shower"

2nd Place

Theresa Johnson Jr. Class 2. age 17 "Mrs. Honey - Braids"

3rd Place

Theresa Johnson Jr. Class 4. age 17 "Milley Rooster"

4th Place

Theresa Johnson Jr. Class 5. age 17 "Chatter Among the Flowers"

Open Class #1 In Summer (Split Class)

Best of Class

Trisha Spettel "Spring has Sprung for Copper!"

1st Place

Denise Machado "The Old Bay Mare"

2nd Place

Contessa Maltagliati "First Impressions"

3rd Place

Sharon Larmee "Going for a Last Walk"

4th Place

Mikayla George "An Unspoken Bond"

5th Place

Michelle Richard "Ricky and Freedom Rolling After a Hose Down"

6th Place

Kristin Taylor "Flowers & Tuxedo"

Open Class #2 Pretty Plaits

1st Place

Trisha Spettel "Show Ring Ready!"

2nd Place

Mikayla George "Rapunzel"

3rd Place

Gayle Strickland "New Look"

4th Place

Denise Machado "Show Day Cowgirls"

5th Place

Michelle Richard "Freedom’s first horse show"

Open Class #3 Summer Sunsets/Golden Hour (Split Class)

Best of Class

Karina Sellars "The Trio"

1st Place

Denise Machado "Shadows"

Contessa Maltagliati "Saturn's Rings"

2nd Place

Jessica Watts "Golden Summer Evening"

3rd Place

Trisha Spettel "Golden Hour with my baby 'Sky'"

4th Place

Kristin Taylor "Sunset Cruiser"

5th Place

Sharon Larmee "What's Out There?"

6th Place

Michelle Richard "Beautiful Sun Rise"

Open Class #4 Most Artistic (Split Class)

Best of Class

Jessica Watts "Team Work"

1st Place

Mikayla George "A Girl and her Horse"

2nd Place

Kristin Taylor "Sunset & Moonrise"

3rd Place

Karina Sellars "Darkness with Color<3"

4th Place

Denise Machado "Soul of a Mule"

5th Place

Sharon Larmee "Untitled I"

6th Place

Michelle Richard "Freedom Wearing a Pride Flag"

Open Class #5 Summer Blooms & Landscapes (Split Class)

Best of Class

Sharon Larmee "Burst of Color"

1st Place

Denise Machado "Just Peachy"

Contessa Maltagliati "Perfect Day for a Picnic"

2nd Place

Trisha St. Germain "Hibiscus"

3rd Place

Trisha Spettel "Purple Petal"

4th Place

Karina Sellars "Flower 🌼 Time"

5th Place

Gayle Strickland "Visitor"

6th Place

Mikayla George "Nature's Canopy"

Open Class #6 Painted Portraits

1st Place

Denise Machado "Can I Eat It?"

2nd Place

Mikayla George "Imprints of Love"

Open Class #7 Farm Friends (Split Class)

Best of Class

Denise Machado "Pignapping"

1st Place

Gayle Strickland "El Woods???"
Trisha Spettel "You Looking at Me!!"

2nd Place

Jessica Watts "Little Red Head"
Kristin Taylor "A Hard Day's Planting"

3rd Place

Mikayla George "A Final Farewell"

Michelle Richard "My sweet boy Rocky"

4th Place

Sharon Larmee "Tessa Enjoying the Flowers"

5th Place

Michelle Richard "My sweet boy Rocky"

6th Place

Karina Sellars "Treat Time"

#8 Summer Scavenger Hunt

~Congratulations!!!~

1st Place

Kristin Taylor

&

Karina Sellars

Best in Show

Trisha Spettel "Through the Smoke..."

What an amazing artistic portrait of this horse, with a kind eye and gaze, appearing out of the smoke! The photo seems dream-like, mystical, and calming. While smoke can seem alarming to animals in this scene the horse appears stoic- perhaps a nod to a horse's bravery, trust, and heart of a champion! Trisha did a wonderful job with the rule of thirds, lighting, colors, and focus!

Reserve Best in Show

Kristin Taylor "Racing Stripes"

This photo shows a beautiful example of white balance, contrast, and focus! We appreciate the photographer stopping to look close and discover a beautiful hidden world that this spider lives in. This photo is a zoomed in flower and might remind you of the abstract paintings by Georgia O'Keefe! The texture and detail in this shot are stunning!

Honorable Mention

Jessica Watts "New Life Thriving"

What a beautiful moment capturing fawns during the golden hour! It's so wonderful to witness wildlife enjoying Summer days and thriving! The image quality is lovely and subjects are in clear focus- which can be difficult when animals move unexpectedly and behind the tall grasses and plants. Photography teaches you to be still, enjoy nature, and wait sometimes for the right moment- and sometimes to take many shots to get the photo you want! The photographer did an amazing job using lighting, space, and color!

Honorable Mention

Gayle Strickland "Spring in Bloom"

What a lovely composition and portrait of this horse amongst the blooms! The horse is in sharp focus- we can see the gorgeous texture in the fur and smooth oiled leather of the bridle. The lighting and colors seen in this photo are gorgeous! The photographer used a shallow depth of field to show off the horse's portrait and the background is slightly blurred with beautiful complementary pinks and greens! The photographer did an amazing job using lighting, space, and color!

Honorable Mention

Mikayla George "Spirit at Sundown"

What a lovely silhouette of the horse and landscape during dusk and cotton candy sky! The photographer did an excellent job keeping the horse in focus as well as showcasing gorgeous colors from the sky and silhouette of the horse!

People's Choice Award

Karina Sellars "A Forever Handshake"