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Expert on evaluation of works of art

EXPERT'S  
REPORT

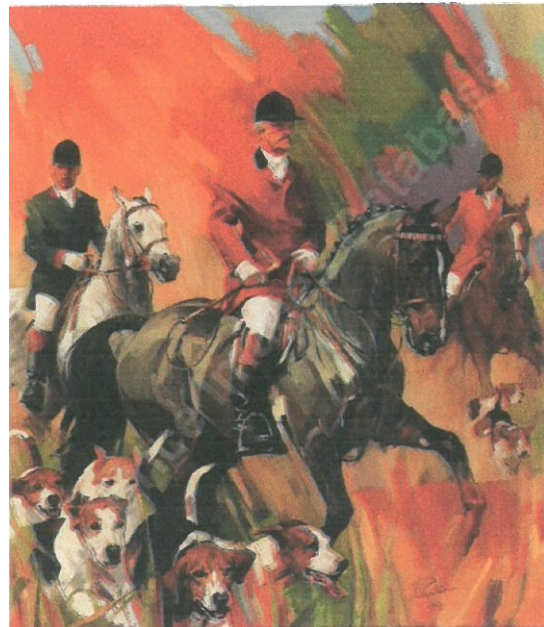
**Andrzej (Andre) Pater, Herd of horses at a meadow, an oil on canvas, dim. 65 x 100 cm, signed and dated in the bottom right corner: *Pater / 77***



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Andrzej Pater (born in 1953 in Wrocław) is a recognized painter worldwide; his works are inspired by horses. From the beginning, Pater was connected strongly with the traditional trend of Polish painting. From childhood, he showed artistic interest and, while growing up in Cracow, he attended the cultural down-town life. His visits at museums became a valuable lesson for Pater's forming creative personality. In 70's, he studied at Interior Design Faculty of Academy of Arts in Cracow and graduated in 1980. Within his education, he frequents also a studio of painting. Within the period of his studies, he started painting genre pieces that were bought willingly then. The artist was inspired invariably by horses and riders within a landscape.

Just after his graduation at Academy of Arts in Cracow, Andre Pater left for the United States in 1981 where he stayed in New York and then moved to Dallas to work at an architectural studio. At the same time, he tried to continue his great passion, i.e., painting. As before, he painted horses of noble breeds and started presenting his huge collection of works at exhibitions in art galleries in Dallas. In his early works from 80's, Pater harked back to characteristic themes of Polish genre-painting and painted dynamic scenes: wolves attacking a sledge in winter, riding to hounds, mounted Cracovians, horses at a meadow and portraits of horses at stables. These works won their spurs soon and the artist himself gained renown as a clever painter of horses. Since then, he cooperated with many galleries and magazines and his paintings reached higher and higher prices at auctions at renowned auction houses.



Andrzej (Andre) Pater's paintings showing hunting, from the period of 1984-1986, sold at the auction at Sotheby's Auction House in New York in November 2007 at the price above €22,000 each.

Within creativity of outstanding Polish painters of nineteenth century, historical and genre themes were present wherein a horse effigy was a dominant motive. Such painters as Piotr Michałowski and then Józef Brandt, Józef Chełmoński or Juliusz Kossak depicted different horses in their paintings many times while showing these splendid animals in scenes of battles, skirmishes, in equestrian portraits and, first of all, in numerous genre pictures. Within Polish painting history, you can find works of extremely good artistic class wherein horses are essential elements of the painting composition. All respected painters undertaking such a subject matter were also great horse experts and lovers; they based their pictorial experience on clear-sighted observations and studies of nature. For example, Juliusz Kossak worked in this manner: while staying at landed proprietors' estates, he performed watercolour sketches of horses from local stud farms and then painted equestrian portraits and genre pictures. The above-mentioned artists were educated at studios of respected painters of battle-scenes; the experiences of previous creators' generations influenced their creativity, too. However, in case of painters specializing in horse presentation, a direct observation of animals in their habitat, a cognition of characteristic features of an animal and an opportunity to make sketches of horses on the run were the most important. Creativity of contemporary artist keen on "equestrian" themes derives also from such a tradition of painting. Andre Pater belongs to the exact circle of such creators; the painter specializes in horse presentations for many years. Pater is also known from his numerous compositions of animalism thematic; he paints scenes of racing and portraits of jockeys at courses. However, a noble horse effigy remains a basic theme of his works invariably.

Andrzej Pater in his early oil work *Herd of horses at a meadow* shows an unusually dynamic scene extending along the diagonal line from bottom left corner far inside the composition on the right-hand side. An unleashed herd of horses of different colours gallops all over a meadow among high, already slightly yellowed grasses. Each of horses is caught in different phase of pace observed by the artist. Silhouettes of individual animals are painted with decided brushstrokes. The artist shows their shapes with synthetising dashes without studying details precisely. The scene takes place in a landscape, in sunny day when the sky is partially covered with bright clouds and light reflexes glance off glossy coat of unleashed horses.

The work *Herd of horses at a meadow* coming from Andrzej Pater's early creativity period already indicates clearly a direction where his painting will be going. Paintings showing horses, of dynamic colourful composition, will soon become a determinant of Pater's painting. Over time, the artist will begin focusing his attention on a light problem in a painting and on colour intensification. And just the way how Pater decides the issue of light in his compositions arouses criticism enthusiasm and makes a circle of his works collectors wider and wider.





Andrzej Pater, Herd of horses in the stud farm in Michałów, 1984; the painting reproduced in the album „A matter of light. Andre Pater creativity”, Fincastle Publishing 2019

From beginning of his stay in United States, Pater showed his paintings at numerous exhibitions. In 2019, at Headley-Whitney Museum of Art in Lexington, Kentucky, a big retrospective exhibition of the artist's works was arranged. In one of his interviews, Pater ascertained then that practically all in his art refers to horses, while horse presentations do not exist without landscape. The early Andrzej Pater's composition *Herd of horses at a meadow* under discussion, painted already in the period of his study at Academy of Arts in Cracow, confirms these artist's words.



The author's signature with the date of the painting origin: *Pater / 77* can be seen in the bottom right corner of the canvas. Only since eighties, already after his departure to the United States, the artist begins to sign his works: *A. Pater* or *Andre Pater*.

Conservation condition: the bound painting in good conservation condition.

**I ascertain that the painting showing a herd of horses at a meadow, painted in oil on canvas of dimensions 65 x 100 cm, signed and dated in the bottom right corner, is the original work of Andrzej Pater's authorship, originated in 1977.**

Kraków, on 14th Maya 2021

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