



Figures of Pottery musicians riding horses. Ming Dynasty AD 1368 AD - 1644, 14 1/2 inches tall.

Bringing the East to the West

-----by Nancy AnnThompson-----

An exciting art event at the Northern Westchester Center for the Arts in Mt. Kisco, New York will feature a collection of antique and contemporary sculptures and paintings by horse-loving dealers and artists. The Horses Around the World art show will run March 24 through April 18, 2000, with an opening reception and silent auction to be held Friday, March 24 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Featured exhibitor at the 2000 show will be Karen Schlansky, owner of Rose Court Asian Antiques, which specializes in Asian horses from the Han, Tang and Ming Dynasties. Schlansky has been in business for two years now sharing her lifelong love of all things Chinese and bringing the best of the East to the West. For generations, Schlansky's family has done business in China in the leather goods arena which allowed for the quality relationships to be formed in the art and antiques area. She owns the Rose Court business with her husband, Mitchell Schlansky, and her brother, Jeffrey Schwarz.



Horse standing foursquare modeled with a saddle and blanket
Tang Dynasty 618-907 AD, 14 inches tall.

The Schlansky home in Chappaqua, New York serves as a living showroom for the extensive collection of clay figurals excavated from ancient Chinese tombs. Karen says the buried artworks were placed among the dead to serve the Chinese in the afterlife. The more luxurious sculptures are excavated from the more prominent and affluent people, and include the popular, graceful prancing horses from the Tang Dynasty. The Ming Dynasty ushered in an evolution of technology as evidenced by the use of colored glazes called sancai on a set of musicians on horseback. Numerous horse pieces are available through Rose Court and Schlansky sees a rising popularity in this country as various Eastern religious and philosophical movements abound, not to mention fascination with the horse in ancient times.

Schlansky also notes the ability of these antiquities to transcend decorating styles.



Dark gray figure of a horse standing foursquare modeled with a saddle. Standing next to the horse is a figure of a maid servant wearing a long robe.
Yuan Dynasty AD 1279-1368

"Most people are struck by the peaceful quality of the art. I try to give clients an education behind each piece. You can then develop a love for their aesthetic beauty plus what they represent. For example, the ceramic horses have a very rustic, comforting look—they add warmth," Schlansky says. "I believe an eclectic house is so much more interesting. These pieces work into any home."

Because the Chinese are also masters of reproduction, each piece sold by Rose Court Asian Antiques is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. Age in question is resolved by sending the piece to an Oxford University laboratory so that a small hole may be drilled to excavate a sample for thermoluminescence testing. Schlansky sells her Asian equestrian pieces by appointment to her home, on the Internet and at antique showings.

One of Rose Court's most spectacular pieces - an elegant Terra Cotta clay horse from the Tang Dynasty- will be featured at the Northern Westchester Center for the Arts in March. The spirited, powerful horse, with its finely modeled head and arched neck, stands in a powerful mount waiting with restrained eagerness for its rider. The piece dates more than 1,000 years and stands 14 inches tall.

In addition to Rose Court Asian Antiques, another new exhibitor will be Wendy Everett of Southport, Connecticut with her polo paintings. Artists returning to the show are James Dykeman, Louise King, Katherine Landikusic, Taal Mayon, Willis Pule, and Sam Savitt. The opening reception will feature a talk by Dr. John Major, senior lecturer at the China Institute in America, on Asian horses and their role in ancient and contemporary Chinese culture.

For more information about the Horses Around the World show, contact Gayle Kenerson of the

Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, at 914-241-6922 or on-line at www.nwconline.org.

Schlansky may be reached at her web site www.rosecourtasianantiques.com or 914-244-1041.