

The article copied below was published in 2011 in the *Viata Transilvaniei*, a Romanian newspaper.

The love for the horses... a feeling without boundaries

I have discovered Bunny Hanley's artwork by chance; but her love for the horses, shared not only by me, but also by other readers and collaborators of this publication, led to my wish of getting in contact with the artist. The warmth I felt in Mrs Hanley's voice while talking to her on the phone and the special words she uses when she tells the stories behind her art pieces, urged me to take the decision of writing this article, with the approval and collaboration of the artist herself.



The American bronze sculptor Bunny Hanley comes from Montana, the fourth largest state of the fifty states that form the United States of America, located in the western north of the federation. She spent her childhood on a Montana cattle and sheep ranch and it was a „magical” one, as the artist herself points out. Inspiration constantly surrounded her, through the interaction of children (as a twin in a family of eight children), ranch animals and wildlife. Her work reflects a sense of movement and emotion inspired by these childhood memories and life experiences. Her love of horses and wildlife have moved her to the three dimensional medium of sculpture. There she can express her emotion by capturing the beauty and mystique of animals in motion and the very special connection between women and horses.

Thus, what better way to get to know an artist if not be means of his or her creations. The description of each sculpture belong to the artist herself.

„Against the Wind”
www.bunnyhanley.com

The exhilaration of feeling the wind push against her dress and hair, a woman and her horse are a reflection of beauty and grace.

Given the power of flight and rhythm of the ride, we fly through a sea of sunset leaves and dawning skies.

Life is

Running - "Against the Wind"



Escape”

www.bunnyhanley.com

"Escape" bolts forward into the wide spaciousness of the sky with a gallop and a race toward a new found freedom. Through the fields, she has the buoyancy of an eagle soaring through the drifting clouds. Long ago, from my glorious mountains of Montana, far from the streams of Big Sky, the trumpets' call, the endless sounds of silence at the last of the day, my memories carry me forward to a new day.

„Making Friends”

All the treasures of this earth lie between these eyes, which sparkle with a girl's touch and the offer of friendship. The miracle of a shared friendship, companionship, love and memories of experiences with animal playmates, will live on in the heart of a young girl. With the bond that grows between a girl and her horse, a sense of strength and adventure will become treasured memories.

“Offer an apple and a partnership will be born of compassion and love”



Presently, Bunny Hanley is working on a very emotional piece for her, entitled „Hello Mom”. The art piece, although presenting a girl and her horse, is directly connected with Bunny’s mother, „an amazing person, a WWII hero, who passed away at the young age of 61; she was such an artist and she works through my hands when I am sculpting” (Bunny Hanley). The artist remembers how she used to get on her horse bareback and ride across the river to the sheep barn and on the way back, her horse would always walk down to the river bank and drink. Bunny loved just sitting there in the silence of the day, listening to the trickle of the water and the breeze coming from the trees. One night, she was dreaming that she was sitting on her horse at the river bank and she heard her mother calling her name. It was so clear that she sat up in bed and said, "Hello Mom". Bunny went to her studio and sketched the horse and girl and wrote a little piece that came to her as she was writing. The piece is almost finished and Bunny is very proud of it...

Here is the piece she wrote, a short poem inspired by such a beautiful dream:

"Hello Mom"

If I could willingly go
beyond the reach of clouds...

If I could once again hear the
sure and constant trickle of the
Musselshell river flowing downstream toward home...

If only, for a moment, I could
feel the warmth of your smile.....

Oh, how I miss you mom

Bunny Hanley

Alina MARCU