



ANDREA MICHAEL

Pet & Equine Artist
Australia, Born 1980

“I grew up with a pencil seemingly permanently attached to my hand. I was completely horse obsessed.”

.....Andrea Michael

Andrea was a hyperlexic child and gifted at her studies but utterly adrift in the schoolyard, enduring years of social confusion and bullying from her peers. No one back then suspected that the shy girl, obsessed beyond reason with horses and encyclopedic in her knowledge of them, was on the autism spectrum.

Growing up, Andrea became a social chameleon. In her confusion over social rules and her inability to properly read people she resorted to copying the behaviors of those around her to try to get by. Andrea received a diagnosis of ASD in adulthood after enduring decades of severe anxiety and depression.

An artist from a very young age, her skills initially progressed along the normal trajectory of slowly improving with practice. This came to a sudden end when she began taking a medication for her worsening anxiety and it severed her ability to be creative. Andrea, with very few exceptions, stopped creating art for a period of 10 years. During this time, she attempted to work in various jobs and also attempted university but failed to manage either for very long as she succumbed to ongoing sensory overload issues and anxiety.

Early 2014 saw the return of Andrea's imaginative artworks. In the wake of being introduced to a new art program, she became intensely focused on digitally painted art. Despite having used other art programs, her enjoyment in using it seemed to trigger the return of her ability to visualize scenes in her mind... an ability that had largely gone missing 13 years earlier. Andrea now does a combination of fantasy and animal art in digital and traditional media.

