



Equilux, 2019

Maria Talasz

HORSES IN MOTION

By Shya Beth

Above photo:
Blue Horse stands 8 inches tall at the shoulder
and was carved from cherry wood by hand.

Maria Talasz creates horses in motion. Combining her knowledge of horses and background in architecture and 3D design, Maria is a creative force working from the vast landscapes of Eagle River, Alaska. What sets her sculptures apart from the thousands of other sculptures? Her sculptures can move.

Born in Oostzaan, a small community in the green countryside province of North Holland, Netherlands, Maria grew up on the family farm. Surrounded by nature and animals and immersed in her parents' professions of architecture and fashion, Maria was set up from a young age to have a career as a creative artist. Horses are her favorite animals and have been a thread throughout her life, later weaving

a colorful pattern together with wolves and mountains and coasts and beautiful skylines often seen in her work today. After graduating from high school, she pursued architecture and engineering, like her father. She then focused on graphic design, forming a basis of design and working with wooden structures.

MOVING INTO MOTION

In 2001, Maria joined her husband, Tom, and made a life-altering decision to move to a different continent to experience something new and different — the wild nature and wilderness of America's northernmost state, Alaska. "When I was growing up, I read books about vast wilderness and wild animals and mountains," Maria said. "Books about the Wild West and places where those types of animals lived and were part of everyday life for everyone. When I finally got the chance to travel to Alaska for a Summer Arts Festival in Fairbanks, it was a tremendous experience. I started to dare to paint much larger works, with northern landscapes and wolves in particular. It's a challenge sometimes but I do try to travel back home about every year. We also meet in the middle, with my daughter flying to Florida or California for instance, which is great. We both love horses and ride together when we can."

Maria and her husband have discovered mesmerizing natural beauty in their new home. Not one to stay in place for long, Maria has traveled the world, taking many trips with her daughter, Jane. "My parents took us to France and England, the beach of Normandy and the white cliffs of Dover, Paris and London," Jane said. "Later, I visited Brussels to hunt for antiques, as well as to ride Western in the Ardennes in Belgium. I've been to Bonn, Germany; Moscow, Russia; Scotland, visiting as many castles you can in a four-day trip!"

While Maria was still working on her growing graphic design business, equine art was never far behind. In 2010, she started to rebrand her business, and Equilux was born. This name connects her work with a brush of equine, luxury and a meaning of equal light and darkness. The main focus is her one-of-a-kind articulated equine sculptures — specially crafted so that they move. Each sculpture's legs, neck, ears and other parts of the body are positionable, bringing "Horses in Motion" to life.

Photos top to bottom:
Maxima stand 12 inches tall at the shoulder. Because of a unique construction, the head and neck have a wide range of motion.

Orion, 12 inches at the shoulder. Each horse's mouth can open and ears move to add expression.

A simple brass stand is used to change the sculptures to more dynamic positions.



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The horses can stand by themselves, even on three legs, with one suspended or in resting position.



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"I've always tried to give dimension to my visual expression," Maria said, "painting on wood, and then often cutting out parts to make an elegant and positional sculpture. I love to make the sculptures change; there's something of a personality about them."

Each sculpture is endless in customization possibilities, something that clients can appreciate. From making a sculpture of your favorite horse or a mythical creature, each is one of a kind. While also working on wall hangings of equines and other animals as well as an equine art style clothing line, Maria is constantly brought back to sculpting the horse in 3D. "I wanted to go beyond sculpting a static representation of a moment. In a fun way, it's cool to be able to change the sculpture when my own mood changes."

THRILL OF THE JOURNEY

Maria's inspiration comes from everywhere around her — the people she meets, life experiences and nature in all its forms. Although Maria doesn't ride often, she constantly keeps an



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equine theme around her and enjoys watching equine sports, particularly the thrill of show jumping. "I love show jumping. It's beautiful to watch and get to know the horses with their personalities and abilities — they are stars like their riders," Maria said. "I like that aspect. Being originally from the Netherlands, the Longines Global Champions Tour has a special place in my heart."

Having previously attended as an exhibitor with her art at both the Miami and New York LGCT events, Maria is planning on returning to the tour again. Until then, she won't be far from her studio, giving back to the community in Alaska and continuing to offer her audiences something new to discover and enjoy.

Visit Equilux.com for more information and follow Maria Talasz's Journey on [facebook.com/equilux](https://www.facebook.com/equilux). 

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