

HARRY SKEGGS award winning photographer



"Harry has built an impressive portfolio indeed" Sir David Attenborough

In all my work, I am always looking for images that speak to the true nature of my subjects. The almost ubiquitous photo of the Camargue horses is of them crashing through the waves - whilst this makes for beautiful imagery it is far from their reality. Instead the only way for this photo to be achieved is to repeatedly chase these beautiful horses through the surf.

The horses of the Camargue are in fact beautifully serene animals. The females are content, for the most part, to stand quietly in small herds in the shallows of the marshlands, whilst the stallions would occasionally break from their meditative lives to spar playfully. It was important for me to capture this essence, their gentle and peaceful nature, making use of the reflections and soft winter light to capture shots that feel calmer and more ethereal than the traditional photos.

Standing out like ghosts against the dark waters of the wind shaped marshes, the title for this new series wrote itself and Clarendon and I are thrilled to present these exclusively to Clarendon customers.

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Each photograph is large and is often in monochrome: this makes them both inescapable and timeless, "both of which" says Harry, "I hope are true for wildlife." The image is never altered and he describes his work as almost documentary fine art which aims to recreate the exact moment he found himself in, with all the accompanying sights, sounds and emotions. Landscape has an important part to play too, as he believes that wildlife photography is about creating a mood, and the light, sky and background are crucial to this. If each photograph tells the story of its subject, then in a world where habitat destruction is an alarming reality, you cannot truly tell their story without their habitat.

The key for him is spending a little time with the animal. Just like humans, their personalities are gradually revealed over time and the observer can begin to distinguish their unique quirks and habits. These traits provide clues both to the personality of the subject, and to its next move.

"It is absolutely vital in manoeuvring in the wild to get the angle and scene I am looking for."

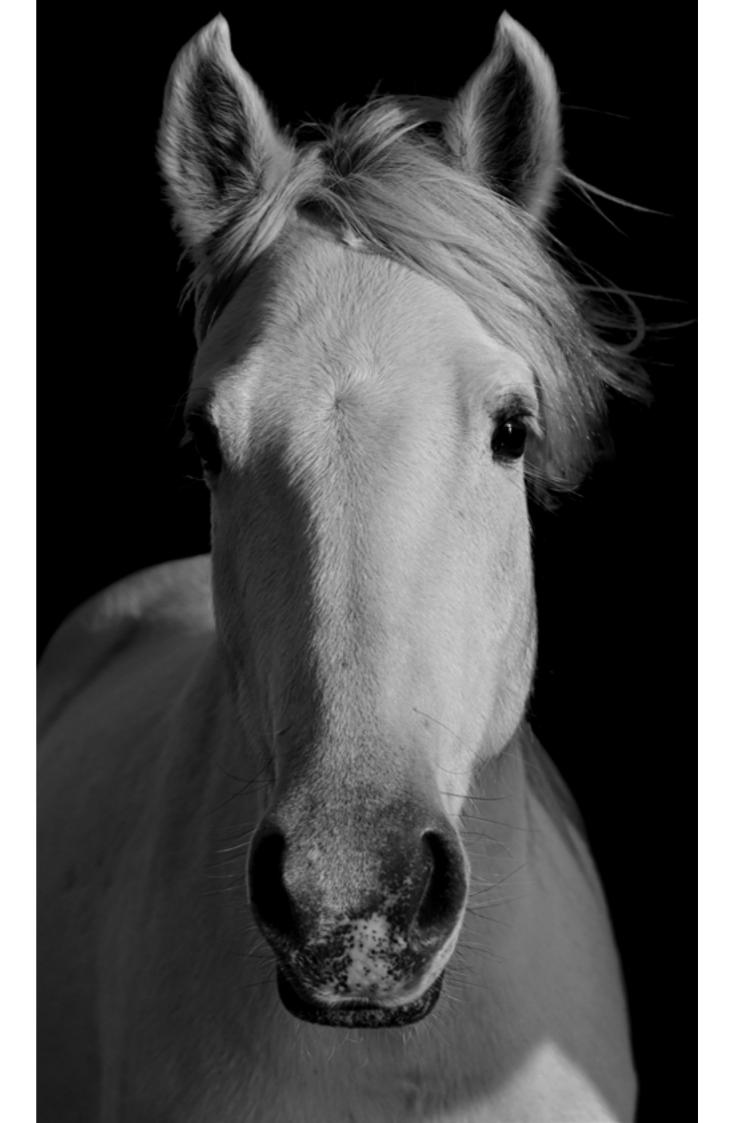
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