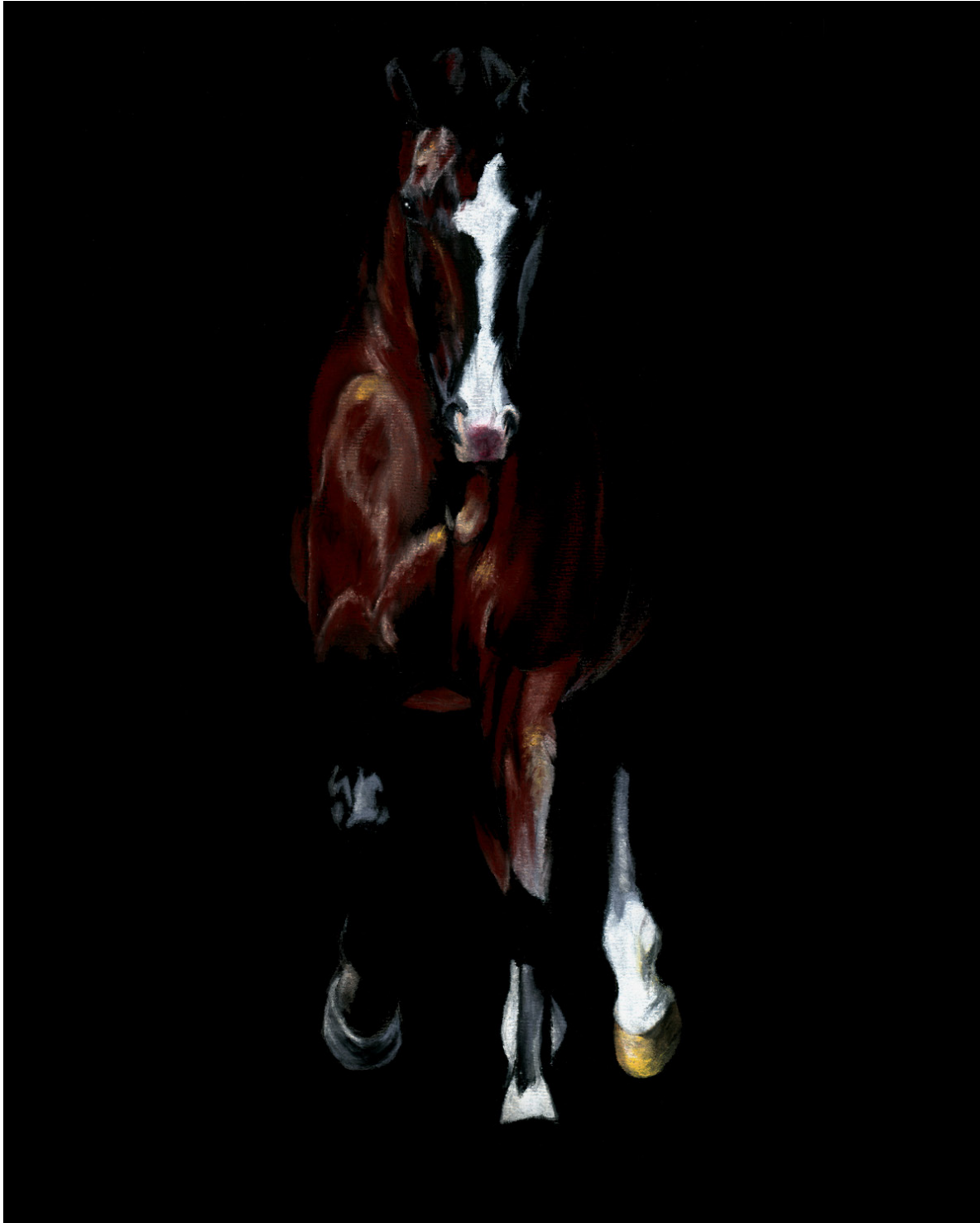


2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Elizabeth Robinson, White Blaze



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



ART DIVISION

15 & Under:

1st Place: Jessica Dees, Head Frame



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



ART DIVISION

15 & Under:

2nd Place: Sophie Nasrullah, Harmony



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



ART DIVISION

16-21:

1st Place: Jordan Schulz, Nalando



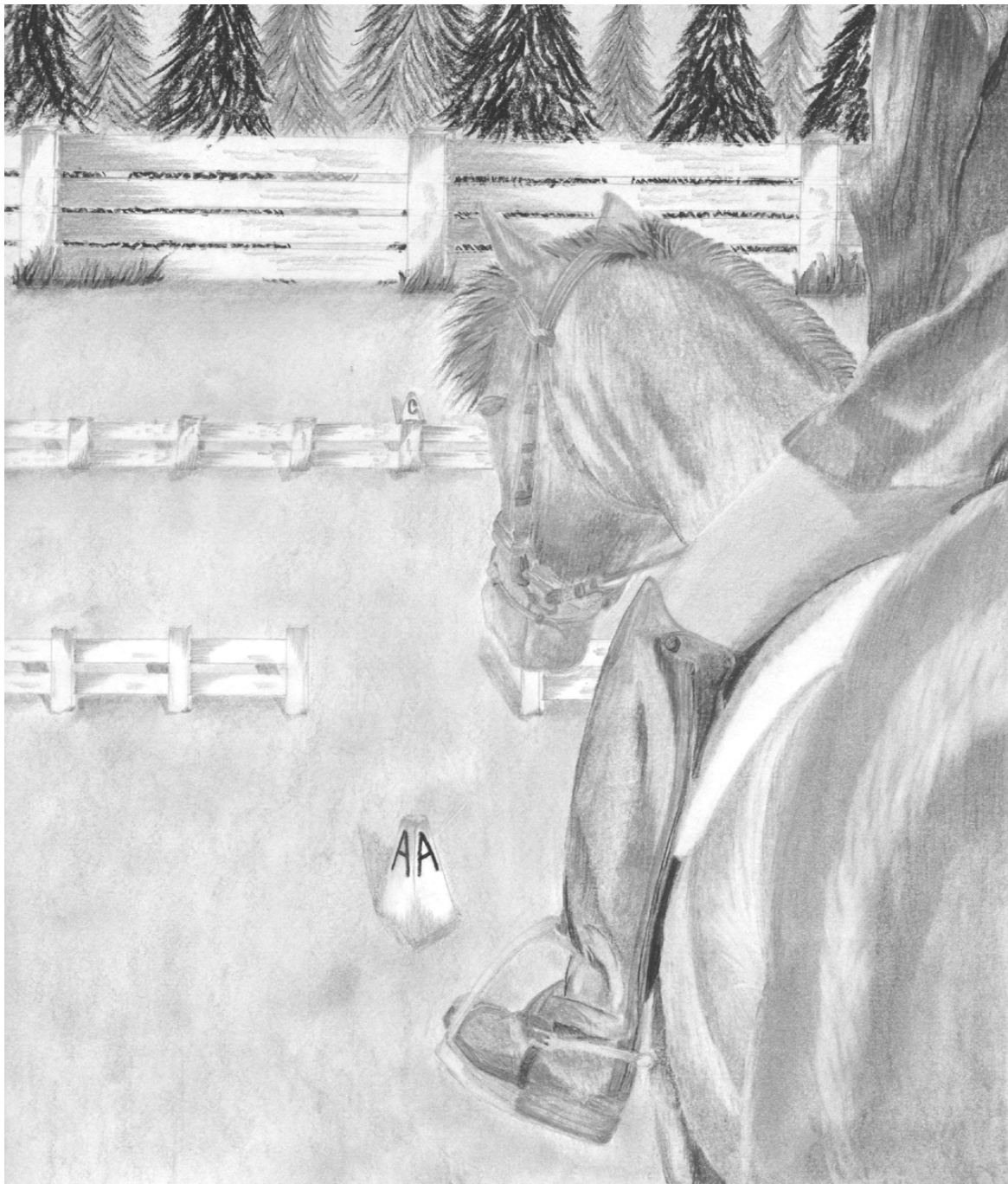
2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



ART DIVISION

16-21:

2nd Place: Nellie Stallsmith, Meditating



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



ART DIVISION

Adult:

1st Place: Melanie Eberhardt, Warm-up Arena



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



ART DIVISION

Adult:

2nd Place: Goldie Schnitzer, Half Pass



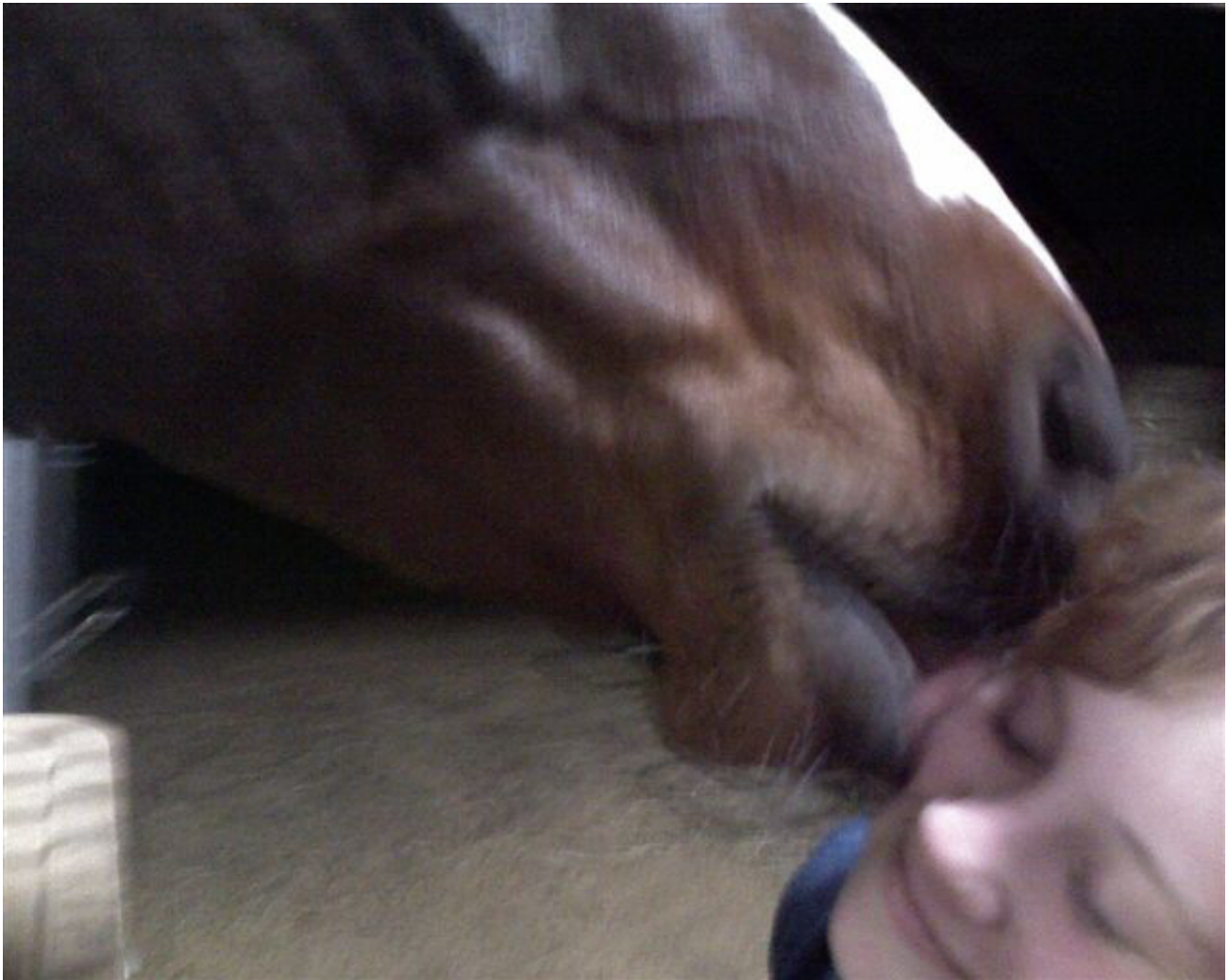
2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

15 & Under:

1st Place: Katie Lang, Peace



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

15 & Under:

2nd Place: Katie Lang, Camouflage



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

16-21:

1st Place: Emily Austin, New Awakening



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

16-21:

2nd Place: Victoria Holtsberg, Meadow Buttercups



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

Adult:

1st Place: Margaret Bjorkman, Eye on the Judge



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

Adult:

2nd Place: Bonnie Marentette Bendzans, Dee Cee



2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



WRITING DIVISION

15 & Under:

1st Place: Rachel Cohen, The Rider

The Rider

She rode everyday
The sun on her face, sweat dripping down her back, and the reins in her hands
Sore muscles and sunburns just a formality
Mouth set into a firm line, forehead crinkling with determination
Pushing, every muscle, every moment
Perfection is what she strives for, only settling for her best

Dressage-all demanding
Every hour she put in showed,
Pay off at it's best-those moments when horse and girl mesh completely
In her zone, exempt from the world around her
Worries pushed aside, just riding, just horses
In the moment all the time

Riding, a passion to be there the rest of her life

2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



WRITING DIVISION

Adult:

1st Place: Eileen Krause, Once More into the Arena

Once More into the Arena

Scents of leather, horse, and nerves
ride the rays
of the setting sun.

Tall boots hang
down the sides
of the huge, gray mare.

Tight hips nestle, at home
in the saddle.

Once-stronger abs lift
while slumped shoulders unfurl.
Arthritic fingers struggle to keep
double reins from slipping.

Stiff hocks loosen
with the long warmup.
The mare flows to the bit
and offers her back
like a forgotten medallion.

No thought for the Century Club.

A reassuring pat and a
whispered "We can do this."

From collected canter,
an immobile halt at X.
With bowed heads and hopes high,
a respectful salute to the judge.

Extended canters down the long side,
half pirouettes and half passes,
the softest velvet of flying changes.

The dance of their lifetime.
The long-chased dream.
The quest.

The Silver Medal.

2012 USDF Arts Contest Winners



WRITING DIVISION

Adult:

2nd Place: Nancy Lashua, Canvas

Canvas

I hear
That voice
I have to ride,
As I must breath,
Or live,
Or die.

I see Van Gogh
A canvas, a brush.
My horse and I,
His garret high.
Our empty arena
At twilight,
Don't we all have our
Starry nights?

I feel our tempis
His swirls of stars.
Streaks of life in
Dark and bright.
Passage,
Pirouettes that never end,
Journey to our dreams.
Together we bend.

I pray
Vincent,
Your paint, your tears.
Dressage
To us,
Is heart and fears.
A portrait
That sings to that voice inside-
Vincent to paint,
You and I,
To ride.