

NASHVILLE GALLERY DOUBLE-TAKES AMERICAN HORSES

An art gallery in the heart of the SoBro area of Nashville has rustled up a slew of sponsorships for an upcoming March 1 photo exhibit that pays homage to the American Horse.

Take 121 Arts is hosting a three-hour extravaganza featuring the works of Maggie Moore, one of America's premier horse photographers and Kris Kristofferson, a nationally renowned fine art auteur. The opening night reception takes place Saturday, March 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Take 121 Art Gallery, 121 3rd Ave. S. The reception and book signing kicks off the exhibit that runs through April 25.

"There is a huge interest in this showcase for obvious reasons - American icons," said Chad Hollingsworth, owner of Take 121 Arts. "The American Horse has roots in Middle Tennessee, so we are celebrating with a lot of folks in this area. We have a number of sponsors who are excited to participate in a photographic exhibit where you get the sense of dirt and grass under your feet while enjoying this display of the American horse."

Country Music Television (CMT) is the promotional sponsor of the event; the first hour of the show is sponsored by Hatcreek Carriage, providing free horse and buggy strolls around historic downtown Nashville; the gallery will serve frozen Mint Julep's provided by Rent-a-Rita, made with small batch bourbon courtesy of Buffalo Trace; choice wines have been provided by The Wine Shoppe in Green Hills; and appetizers will be provided by Past Perfect Restaurant, 122 Third Ave. S.

Nashville's own Jim Allen will add to the ambience by performing his 1940s to 1960s style Texas swing and classic country music during the reception. All framing is finished by the artistic craftsmanship of Chris Gowen, Take 121 Arts frame manager.

Moore and Kristofferson are making photographic donations to a silent auction benefiting Take 121's chosen non-profit, Saddle Up, a therapeutic riding program in Middle Tennessee for physically challenged children.

Moore is known throughout the US for her sensitive and stirring portraits of the horse. Thirty years as a professional photographer and four decades of horse ownership give Moore a unique perspective into the equine world. The Murfreesboro resident owns five Tennessee Walking Horses, which are featured in her 200-page hardcover book, *Walking With Friends*.

Kristofferson's work includes haunting images of wild horses, equines in Civil War reenactments and Steeple Chase races. His artful, atmospheric and often inspirational images has been exhibited in galleries around the world and published in a beautiful hardback book, *Nor Shall Your Glory Be Forgot*, which will be available for purchase at the show.

Take 121 is open Tuesday - Friday 10-6 and Saturday 11-3 or by appointment. For more information on the March 1 reception, call Take 121 Gallery at (615) 244-4642 or visit www.take121.com.

(Maggie Moore is a member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association, and shows in horse shows all across the country.)