



For More Than Roses (above)

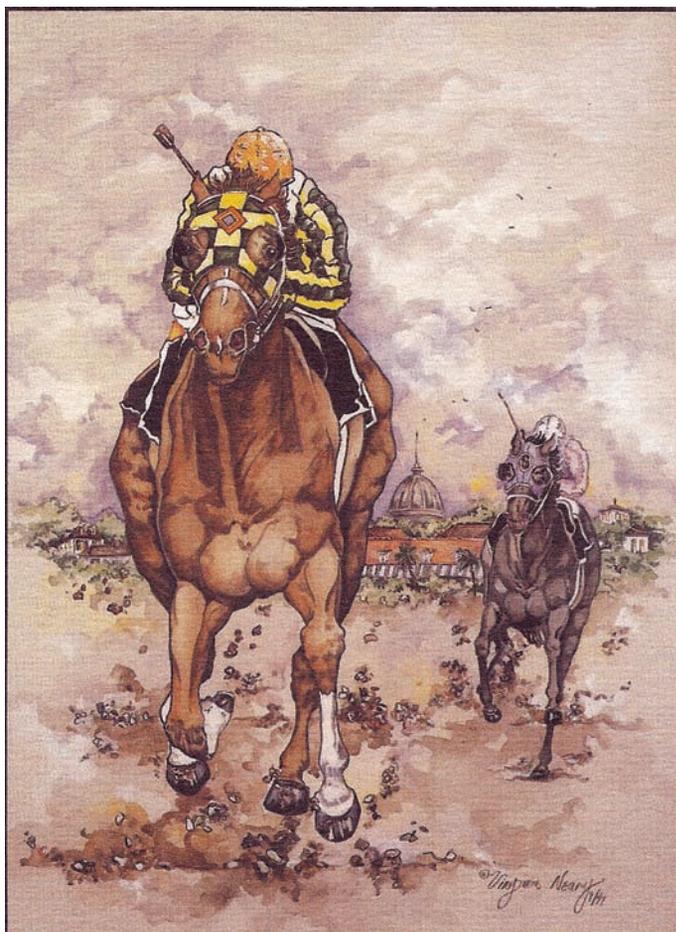
The title refers to the filly, Genuine Risk - the first filly in 65 years to win the Kentucky Derby in 1980. She ran not for the money or glory, but because she was born to run. Yet what sets this filly apart is that she reached beyond her normal capability and she came through. To me, whether human or horse that reaching beyond is what makes life worth living.

19 x 24 Pencil, transparent and opaque watercolor.

Stretch Drive (left)

Known as the "heartbreak lane," the long stretch at the Fair Grounds separates the faint hearted from the strong.

30 x 40 Pencil, transparent and opaque watercolor.



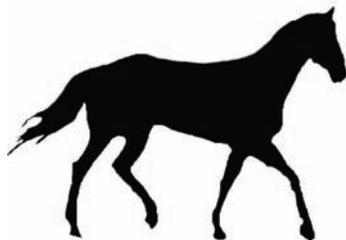
VIRGINIA NEARY CARRITHERS

equine artist

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At age 27, when I was first paralyzed and diagnosed with MS (Multiple Sclerosis) I was on the road to a promising career in art and was the first female thoroughbred racehorse trainer in Louisiana. Faced suddenly with paralysis and a life-altering “dis-ease,” I was determined, with support from loved ones, to continue a full life, to continue my artwork, and to find new ways to embrace my situation.

In response, to help and inspire others with Multiple Sclerosis, I changed my role at thoroughbred race courses and co-created “The Race Against MS,” which has earned multi-millions of dollars in the fight against MS. Earning the money was never as important to me as my message – get involved, have hope, do what you can, don’t quit... love and be loved. None of us can make it alone, as my poster of the famous race horse John Henry and my fellow spokesperson and famed jockey Bill Shoemaker exemplify. It was also in 1986 that I met the father of my child. I also lost and found my true self in the wilderness of Patagonia. Living on and with the great Mother Earth, I learned she really does love us.



It is a great delight to see the horses of Patagonia honored at this exposition at La Rural in Junin de los Andes. I have been coming to La Rural since 1986, when I first came to Patagonia. Horses have always been great healers for me. I began riding at age 4, I feel at one with them. We have always taken care of each other. Patagonia with its mutual and great love for the horse is a natural place for me to express and share my understandings using the horse in art as a focus.

It’s great to be back at La Rural and it’s my hope that I can inspire and give a little in return from the many blessings I have received. At this time I want to thank La Sociedad Rural and the people involved in equine therapy and to serve as an example of someone who has used the horse as a healer through my many episodes of paralysis and emotional ups and downs.

Virginia Neary Carrithers



Please see my personal webpage for my foundation Creativity Heals www.creativityheals.org. See also www.puentesdeluz.org, an organization that is very active in helping those who are disabled in our community.