



WHEN PASSIONS MEET

YOUNG AMISH ARTIST DRAWS IN ON HIS FUTURE

Few children know what they want to do for the rest of their life, and Andy Mast may not have known either. At an early age Mast took a liking to paper and pencil, often borrowing his mother's tablet to fill it with simple drawings. When his three brothers and sister went to play Andy would often search out a pencil and paper and begin drawing.

A fondness for drawing didn't keep Andy from helping around the Southern Illinois farm, where he became familiar with chores and horses. Little did young Andy know his artist passion and love of horses would someday become intertwined. This combination came together later in Mast's life, where today he specializes in pencil drawings with a focus on the horse.



As Mast grew older he would work till dark and then pick up his paper and pencil and take up his passion late into the night. Over time he continued to hone his skills, always striving to improve on his talents, which brought him to enter a regional art event, when he was 17. He felt the best way to get better is for constructive feedback. Mast said, "I wanted to know what I was doing right and how to improve on my shortcomings." His first entry was awarded an Honorable Mention by a college art professor, who served as the Judge at The Cedar Hurst Center for the Arts, in Mt Vernon, Illinois. Mast participated in the same show for another two years improving his skills, which built the young artist's confidence. Mast was humbled by all the awards, but appreciated the guidance judges would provide.

A magazine article helped propel Mast reputation, making him better known with museums and art shows. One show that expressed an interest in Mast's work was The Western Spirit Art Show & Sale, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The western flavor of the show was ideal. Mast said, "my drawings fit very well into the western theme show." Mast traveled alone to the show on an Amtrak train. One day after his 23rd birthday his knees buckled, when his name was announced and he was awarded first place amongst 300 artists. The demand for his art increased after the show, which has enabled Mast to

become a fulltime artist in the fall of 2015. His father helps out too, making frames for the drawings.

A Mast drawing titled "Dream Team" shown on this page sold at the 2016 Airworks Show, was pur-



chased by an anonymous Ohio bidder for \$10,000. A replica of another, "A Long Day" sold for \$2,300 in the Memorial Trotter Sale Benefit Auction.

Mast boarded a train and headed to Colorado in June, where he'll spend the summer in Westcliff. He will work from an in-home studio and a high end furniture store that carries his work. Colorado inspires his work, which is improving daily. ❁