



## NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

**Date:** 1/9/2015

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Claudia Pfeiffer

**Tel:** 540-687-6542 x15

**Email:** cpfeiffer@nsl.org

**Web:** www.nsl.org

**Mail:** P. O. Box 1335 Middleburg, VA 20118

### **Sporting Accoutrements: The Still Lives of Henry Koehler At National Sporting Library & Museum**

MIDDLEBURG - The exhibition, *Sporting Accoutrements: The Still Lives of Henry Koehler*, will be on view at the National Sporting Library & Museum in Middleburg, Virginia, through May 31, 2015. Twenty-four intimate and contemplative paintings of fox and stag hunting, racing, polo, fishing, and shooting paraphernalia by the recognized sporting painter Henry Koehler have been brought together to highlight the artist's deep knowledge and almost hallowed respect for the objects he paints, evoking the very nature of their use. These often quiet, introspective works convey Koehler's artistic sense of observation, color, and composition and echo the sentiments of sporting and art enthusiasts, both past and present.

Koehler has had over seventy solo museum and gallery exhibitions since his first in 1961. An elegant, articulate, and sophisticated man, he has easily moved through international sporting circles sketching and painting many of the major race courses and tracks, polo events, and hunts in the U.S., England, France, and Italy throughout his career. He has touched on, not just equestrian pursuits, but most all of the traditional turf and field sports in his work, including fishing and shooting. NSLM Chairman of the Board Manuel H. Johnson noted

- more -



*Sporting Gear Hanging*, 2002  
oil on canvas, 26 ¾ x 19 ½ inches  
Private Collection © Henry Koehler

of Koehler, “His unassuming nature belies the magnitude his career. Koehler will turn eighty-eight years old this year and may still be found at his easel.”



*Fox Hunter's Accoutrements*, 2001  
oil on canvas on panel, 10 x 13 inches  
Private Collection © Henry Koehler

Although he has worked on commission, Koehler is not known for formal portraiture. He prefers to capture the atmosphere of a given scene, looking for intimate and often informal moments, from every perspective. With this diverse approach to compositions, the artist includes still lifes of sporting accoutrements as an extension of the scene, sometimes arranged and at other times *in situ*.

For centuries, still life painting has been influenced by a tradition of formally arranged, highly-detailed compositions, often created as a measure of an artist's technical skill. Henry Koehler's contemporary versions, however, are far removed from the academic genre's often static roots. His atmospheric

interpretations of turf and field sport accoutrements are not just renderings of the equipment. They are vibrant tableaus which not only evoke personal experiences; they stimulate the senses.

Lorian Peralta-Ramos, a sporting art authority, equestrienne, and National Sporting Library & Museum Board Member, was an advisor for the exhibition. She noted the personal nature of Koehler's compositions, “Still lifes of saddles arouse the delicious smell of a tack room, while a line of hunting boots reminds us of a sweet scent of well-oiled leather, scents savored and appreciated by true horse people... Even jockeys' boots or racing saddles, unceremoniously dropped in a pile, are transformed into inventive still life compositions.” Peralta-Ramos is in the final stages of compiling a catalogue raisonné of the works of famed twentieth-century British sporting artist Alfred Munnings. She has known Koehler since she was four years old and acknowledges him as an early mentor in her discovery of sporting art.

A thirty-two page, fully illustrated [catalogue](#) written by the NSLM's George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator Claudia Pfeiffer accompanies the exhibition.



*Colours Hanging Newmarket*, 1999  
oil on canvas, 24 x 30 inches  
Private Collection © Henry Koehler

Visit the Museum on Saturday, April 11, 2015 for a Free Admission Day and to

-more-

chat with Henry Koehler at Meet the Artist from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, please visit [www.nsl.org](http://www.nsl.org) or contact NSLM at 540-687-6542.

*The National Sporting Library & Museum is dedicated to preserving, promoting and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian, angling, and field sports. Founded in 1954, NSLM holds thousands of books on sporting topics including hunting, angling, equestrianism and horseracing, among others. The Library collection dates from the 16th-21st centuries. The Museum houses exhibits of American and European animal and sporting fine art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public.*

**Admission:** Adults \$10, Seniors (65 and older) \$8, Youth (13–18) \$8, Youth (12 & under) Free. Library admission is always free to the public. Museum admission is free on Wednesdays. Museum admission is always free to NSLM Members.

**Hours:** Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

#####