



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A WINNING MIX:

NSLM Combines Art Exhibition with Release of Greg Montgomery Polo Poster and the 6th Annual Polo Classic

MIDDLEBURG, Virginia – The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is curating *To the Finish: The Art and Process of Greg Montgomery*, an exhibition on view from July 29 through November 27, 2016. The exhibition, sponsored by Greenhill Winery & Vineyards and NSLM Vice Chairman of the Board Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars, will be presented in conjunction with a poster, *6th Annual Polo Classic*.

The poster was designed for the NSLM's 6th Annual Polo Classic benefit to be held on September 11, 2016 at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia. Polo Event Chair Juliana E. May notes, "Greg has captured the essence of the event with a sweeping view from pavilion-side over the field of play to the tailgaters beyond."

The exhibition of approximately 35 fine art prints and preparatory materials delves into the artist's creative process. The show will feature his early serigraphs (silkscreen prints), drawings, and cut-paper studies as well as giclées printed with the innovative ink-jet printing technology which was embraced by fine art print makers by the mid-1990s for the resulting realistic colors, detail, and faithfulness to the original medium.

Montgomery states of his process, "When beginning a drawing or illustration, it is the composition of a scene that catches my eye. I see the shapes, the darks and lights, the colors and balance or tensions within the scene. I seek to simplify what I see into flat solid shapes of color with hard edges and high contrast, creating strong focal points and aligning elements within the artwork to focus your view."

Montgomery applies his bold and colorful graphic style to the wide range of scenery one might encounter at an equestrian event, whether a polo match or a horse race. A native of Washington, DC, he studied painting and lithography at the University of New Mexico and serigraphy at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY. Forty-two of his works have appeared on the front covers of Dick Francis crime novel series set in English horse racing circles which were re-published by Berkley Press, a subsidiary of Penguin Publishing, beginning in 2004. Montgomery is also known for the long-running annual poster series he began creating for the Travers Stakes in Saratoga beginning in 1986.

There have been drastic changes in print making processes over the years, but Montgomery's countless drawings and sketches remain the most important aspect of his body of work. Here, the kernel of the artist's intent is a constant. "Drawing is a language that I speak; graphic design is what I do with it," he says.

Exhibition sponsor Greenhill Winery & Vineyards owner David Greenhill notes, “We are passionate about supporting the arts. This is also a wonderful opportunity to partner with an organization that champions equestrian life.” Mrs. Mars concludes, “The combination of the polo fundraiser, the poster to commemorate it, and an exhibition by a graphic artist who is recognized in the equestrian world for his sporting art, is an assured, winning mix.”

Related Events:

An **NSLM Members’ Preview**, presentation by the artist, and a print signing of the *NSLM 2016 Polo Classic* poster will be held on Thursday July 28th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. To become a member and take part, please call 540.687.6542 ext. 26. Posters are \$50 plus tax and will be available for purchase at the Museum and online at NationalSporting.org beginning June 15, 2016.

Montgomery will also be joining NSLM the next evening, Friday, July 29th, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m, for a **6th Annual Polo Classic Poster Signing** when the exhibition opens to the public. That evening, the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra will be the featured Open Late Concert series performers. For more information visit NationalSporting.org.

The NSLM’s **6th Annual Polo Classic** being held on September 11th is the non-profit organization’s only annual benefit to fund the extensive schedule of educational programming, events, and exhibitions. To take part in the Polo Classic or make a donation, please visit NationalSporting.org. To see a preview video about this signature event, visit http://www.nationalsporting.org/nslm/event_details/422.

The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is located in Middleburg, Virginia, the heart of beautiful hunt country. Founded in 1954, the renowned research Library and art Museum highlight the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits. Angling, horsemanship, shooting, steeplechasing, foxhunting, flat racing, polo, coaching, and wildlife are among the subjects one can explore in the organization’s general stacks, rare book holdings, archives, and art collection. The NSLM offers a wide variety of educational programs, exhibitions, and family activities throughout the year, and is open to researchers and the general public. The NSLM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. While there is no admission fee to the Library, the Museum charges \$10 for adults, \$8 for youths (age 13-18), and \$8 for seniors. NSLM members and children age 12 and under are free. Library & Museum hours are Wednesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Descriptions below must accompany the provided images):



Driving Home, giclée on Stonehenge paper, 30 x 22 inches, © Greg Montgomery, 2001.



Marker study and ink color matching swatches for *The Silks*, 1986, © Greg Montgomery



A detail of the Color-aid paper study for *Rain or Shine*, 1988, reveals the level of detail required to cut and fit varying sizes of different color papers seamlessly together. On the margin, the artist mixed silkscreening inks to match the paper colors. © Greg Montgomery.



Wine & Roses, original giclée on Stonehenge paper, 30 x 22 inches, © Greg Montgomery
NOTE: This image was created for a poster to commemorate the NSLM's 6th Annual Polo Classic