



HORSE WARRIORS™

SCRATCHBOARD

Taylor-Ann Smith, owner of The ShadowBox Creative (createwithshadowbox.com), inspired our Horse Warriors™ students with a brand new art retreat medium this month: **SCRATCHBOARD.**



While we are usually focused on creating shadows, Taylor showed us how to switch our brains to drawing the light instead. It was hard! But the results were amazing and the students loved playing with new tools and surfaces.

They were also intrigued by Taylor's graphic design business and her vector illustration, so this fall we will have her back to do a whole day of design and illustration with computers - we can't wait!



Check us out on Instagram! Meet our horses and see daily program updates!

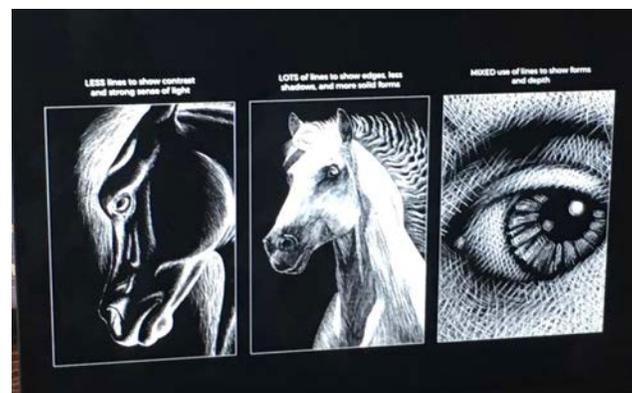
LEARNING TO SEE IN BLACK AND WHITE



With Taylor's slides to help instruct them in different techniques, students began experimenting with their sets of scratchboard tools. The paper - a clay coated paper with a surface of black India ink - took a little practice to work with, but soon everyone was able to create different line weights by scraping away the black.



SLIDE #1



SLIDE #2



Taylor gave everyone a grid assignment (LEFT) to help learn how to create different textures and shading. Students had a lot of fun practicing the techniques so they could replicate the effects shown on the teaching sides.

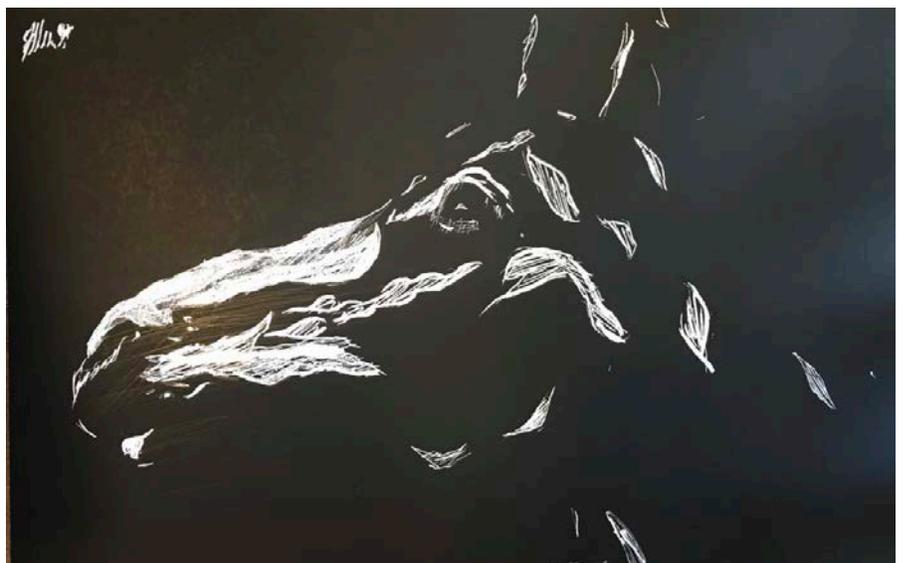


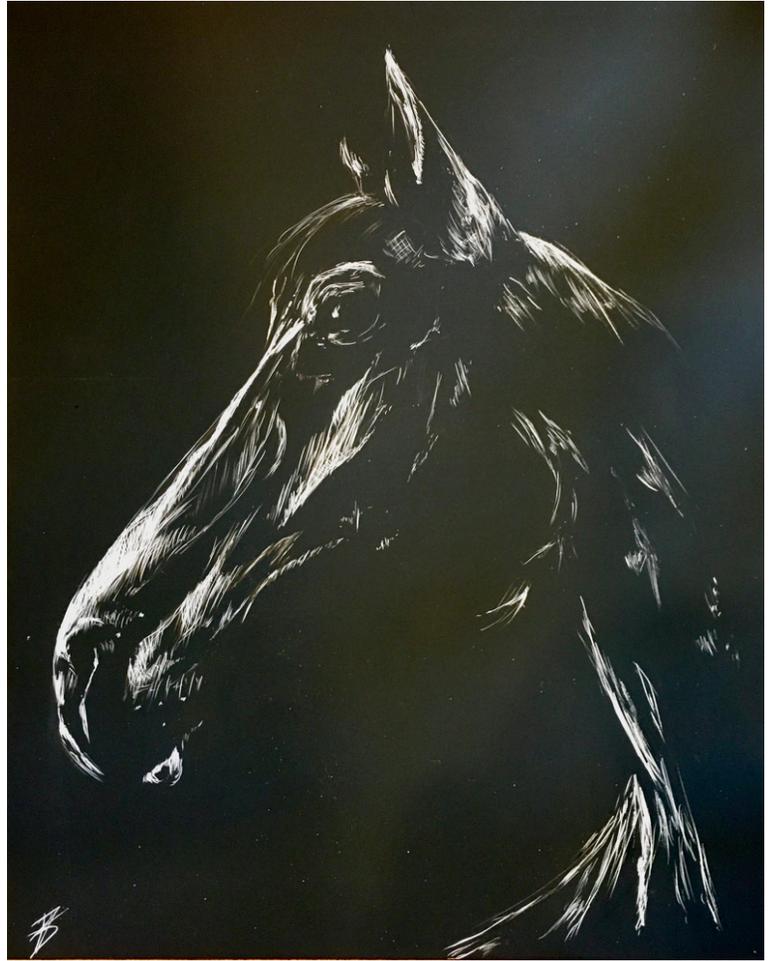
SLIDE #3

FINISHED PIECES



The final step in creating their larger, finished pieces was tracing and transferring just the light portions of their horses to the final sheet scratchboard. Though the transfers looked really strange at first, the end results were stunning, and everyone went home feeling really proud of their work!



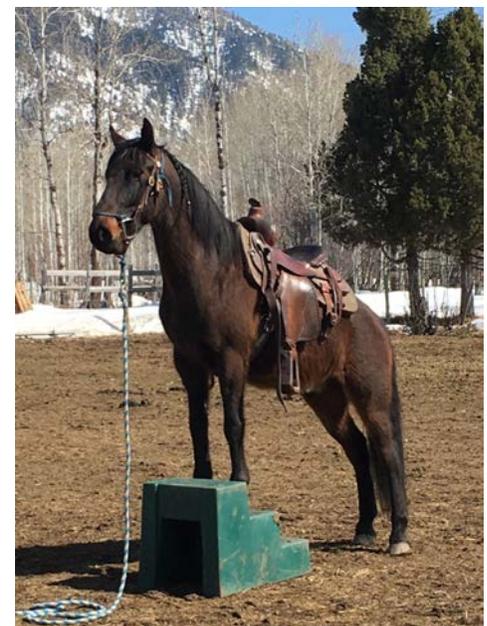
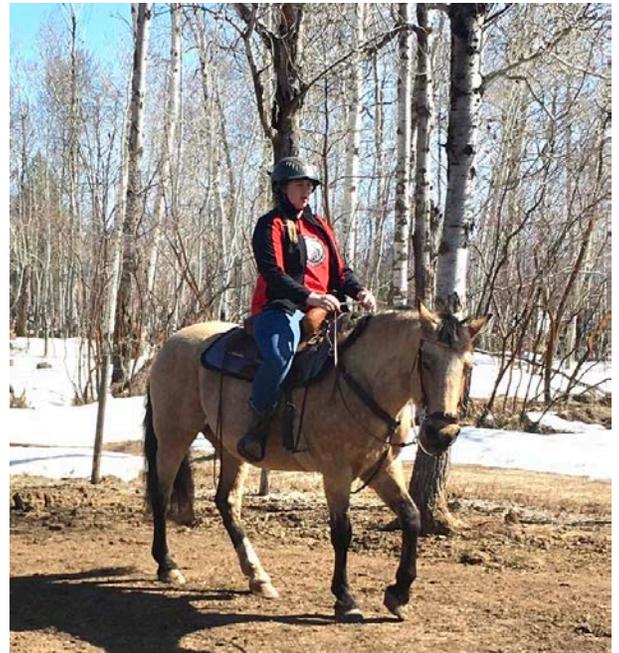


Aren't these **amazing**???

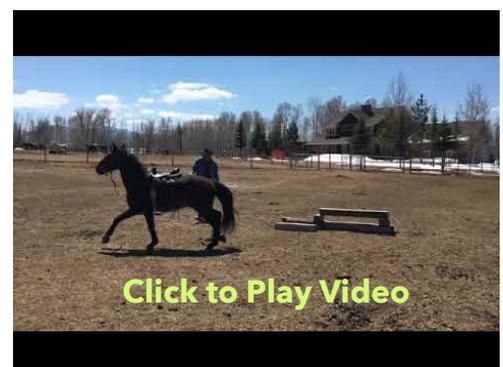


TOPAZ: Topaz's feet have really improved! She will be ready for a real set of shoes in May, and her feet will look normal again. She has been sound in the pastures, cavorting with the herd (um, maybe that should really say "bossing everyone else around"). One of the big highlights of the Scratchboard day was Topaz getting her first Horse Warriors™ ride! She and Grace have come a LONG way together, and they were able to do a bit of pairs formation riding, and even some loping out in the big pasture. Grace says she is like riding a cloud, her gaits are so smooth. We are happy to see this progress because when we got her, all 4 feet were a disaster. Thanks to the skill of our wonderful farrier, and the patience of staff and students, she is now headed to a great new career!

TOPAZ & DREAMER UPDATES



DREAMER: Dreamer has done many of our usual foundational groundwork exercises, and has been ridden by Sara a number of times out in the snowy pastures. He is now graduating to some more advanced training so he will be ready to be a regular part of the upper level mounted programs. He is particularly fond of **GOING FAST**, so he's learning to regulate his excitement. One of his favorite "winding down" exercises is jumping, and we see that he has some potential there for later in his life (he is still pretty young to pound those knees and pasterns). He loves standing on the mounting block and being taller than everyone else, and he also likes to play with the hitch rail feed sacks!



WE LOVE •• VOLUNTEERS •• WE LOVE

THE Tack CLEANING Party WAS Fabulous

And a little fattening, with the **Tomato Bisque**, **Rosemary Focaccia Bread**, **Homemade Mac & Cheese**, and **Cherry Chip Birthday Cake!** But no one complained!!!

We weren't kidding when we said we needed help!

Our volunteers made our tack look absolutely spotless at our Saddle "Soap and Soup" party. Some of them had never cleaned saddles and bridles before, but they took the "TOOTHBRUSH" suggestions to heart and removed every speck of dirt and grime. All the tooling got cleaned out, the synthetic cinches were scrubbed (the mohair ones will get power washed later in May when it's warmer!), bits were scrubbed and polished, and everything got put back in the right places.

We also had a barn cleaning day a few days before, where the mice were **soundly reprimanded**, equipment was washed and dusted, tools were cleaned and stored, and cobwebs were all vacuumed away. It's more fun to play with the horses, but the basics have to be done as well. We are thankful for all the hours of wiping, dusting and organizing!



Be a Volunteer! Come to our
Arena/Horse Handler
VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Saturday, May 15th from 9-4
Call for Directions: 307-690-6124



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SHOUT-OUT TO OUR FAMILIES for their MODEL COOPERATION!

Our Tack Cleaning party is a perfect example of how time spent in Horse Warriors™ also **contributes to healthy relationships in families.** Getting through the daunting - and in many cases, first-time ever - task of quickly and efficiently cleaning 33 saddles and 35 bridles takes teamwork.

This year we were lucky to have a number of our HW families involved. There were conversations about cooperating all through the cleaning/oiling, and it was heartwarming to see how quickly and easily the groups worked together. Whether it was siblings pairing up, or Mother/Daughter teams, the **FLOW** was there and it made all the difference in the world!



SUMMER COURSES UPDATE



307-690-6124



WOMEN & HORSES is our only course with remaining openings. We are happy that we have filled everything else, but we don't want you to miss out on this class! PLEASE get in touch with us SOON so we can guarantee you a place.

horsewarriors@wyoming.com



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