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Classic Beauty Blooms on Canvas in *Elements of Nature: Equines and Still Lifes by Clarice Smith*



October 9, 2009 – January 10, 2010

WASHINGTON—This fall at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Clarice Smith's 30 years of creating a significant body of accomplished, admired work go on display as *Elements of Nature: Equines and Still Lifes by Clarice Smith*, from October 9, 2009, through January 10, 2010.

"*Elements of Nature* highlights the artist's talent for harmonizing the polarities of the natural world. Imbued with an intimate sense of 'having been there,' Smith's work invites the viewer to share her private moment of inspiration. We are pleased to host her work her work here at NMWA," says Museum Director Susan Fisher Sterling.

Inspired by the world around her—opulent flowers in her garden, horses at her farm in Virginia—she creates brilliant scenes infused with delightful mood and ambience. Her equestrian paintings showcase the grace of the equine form, capturing the animal's potential for explosive action and quiet repose. Exhilarating scenes of galloping horses complement more contemplative, portrait-like images, testifying to Smith's warm affection for the animals.

Smith aspires to the tradition of floral still-life painting epitomized by the 17th-century Flemish and Dutch masters, and often quotes Renaissance and Baroque traditions by framing works in connected panels to create diptychs or triptychs. Foregoing the use of preparatory drawings, she prefers to arrange shapes and colors directly on canvas, evoking uncultivated nature.

A DC native, Smith attended the Corcoran College of Art and Design and the University of Maryland. She received an MFA from George Washington University where she later served on the faculty. She has had numerous exhibitions and her paintings are in international private and public collections.

Elements of Nature: Equines and Still Lifes by Clarice Smith is organized by the National Museum of Women in the Arts and is generously supported by the members of NMWA.

Image Credit: Clarice Smith, *China, Blue and White*, 1994. Oil on canvas, 26 1/8 x 76 1/8. On loan from Sharon and John D. Rockefeller IV.

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About National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA)

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA), founded in 1981 and opened in 1987, is the only museum solely dedicated to celebrating the achievements of women in the visual, performing and literary arts. The museum's permanent collection features 3,000 works from the 16th century to the present created by more than 800 artists; including Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, Alma Thomas, Lee Krasner, Louise Bourgeois, Chakaia Booker along with special collections of 18th-century silver tableware and botanical prints. The museum also conducts multidisciplinary programs for diverse audiences and maintains a Library and Research Center which is accessible to the public. NMWA is located at 1250 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., in a landmark building near the White House. It is open Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday, noon–5 p.m. For information, call 202-783-5000 or visit the museum's Web site at www.nmwa.org.