



Collaborative Guide to

POWER

This guide was create with the help
of five young adults:

Ethan
Evalyn
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Who is Joseph Piccillo?

Joe Piccillo is an artist who creates artworks that are extraordinarily powerful. As a skilled draftsman, he uses charcoal and graphite to draw anything he chooses, but what he prefers, as one of his famous subjects are horses in motion. His technique of applying drawing materials is in stark contrast with the black and white style he uses. It is captivating and feels powerful like the horse is going to leap out toward you as it looks so real. When you look at a drawing of a horse you know it is Joe's because the artwork has a distinct character, the horse commands the canvas and bursts off the page.

Joe Piccillo was born in 1937 in Buffalo, New York. He went to college at State University and graduated with an Art Education degree. He taught many years at SUNY Buffalo State. Joe's artwork is extremely collectible. His work is in museum collections all over the world including Buffalo at the Burchfield Penney Art Center and at the AKG Art Museum and in NYC at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art. Corporations collect his artwork too including Coca Cola, Guess? Jeans, General Mills, and American Express.



What are several words that come to mind while looking at a Joe Piccillo's artwork?

When I look at Joe Piccillo's art I am inspired. His artwork reminds me of when I walk into the stable the older girls are jumping. His drawings of horses look like the horse is jumping, just without the rider.

One-word that comes to mind is to keep trying. I say that because the artwork looks like he really tried and never gave up on making his art. It looks like the horses in his paintings are trying to jump really high and that shows me that the horse will never give up.

Another word is creativity. I say that because he uses charcoal and not paint. The horses are in different postures and it makes me want to try charcoal in my artwork.

What would you like to ask the artist?

My last word is wonder, I wonder if he owns a horse.

Zöe, age 11

The Family Guide is a collaborative effort by several young people who have a passion for horses and the Education Department at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. We want to thank our contributors; they brought their own point of view and their enthusiasm for horses to the Family Guide. Because of their personal insight, the guide has a deeper understanding of what is it like to be around horses and to ride them. We thank you for sharing your observations with us.



I have been taking horse riding lessons for a little over a year. What I think about while I'm riding is music. Music helps me think of a steady beat which helps with coordination between me and the horse. When I look at Joe Piccolo's artwork of horses I think of power, speed and beauty, the true definition of a horse. Joe's artwork captures the speed and power of a horse because the horses are drawn in a running movement. He represents the muscles and power of a horse while trotting. The strength of a horse can be easily seen when you are riding them. Horses are symbols of strength and beauty. Joe depicts many beautiful aspects of a horse throughout his artwork from their physical strengths to their inner determination and will. You can feel a deep connection with his artwork just like I feel with the horses when riding them. I feel I can connect with the horses emotionally because they can feel your emotions. They know when you are nervous or calm. When looking at Joe piccolo's artwork you can also feel a connection with the horses emotions through the expressions on their faces and in their eyes.

When I ride a horse I think of the song " Rossini " by William Tell in Overture , and use that beat to coordinate posting with the horse. What song do you think Joe Picillio might listen to when creating his famous horse artwork? My guess would be something classical or perhaps some good old classic rock!! What song or type of music would come to mind for yourself if you like ride or draw.

Ethan, age 12



artwork by Evalyn



I love everything about horses. Riding a horse is the most exciting thing. When I look at Joe Piccillo's artwork it reminds me of when I canter on Hawk. Hawk is a pony that I ride every week. Hawk is smaller than the horses in the artwork, but he is like the horses because he is just as exciting as they are. Joe Piccillo's artwork makes me want to go to the horse barn and see Hawk because he's

a really good pony and sometimes naughty. Even though Hawk can be naughty, he always takes good care of me when I am riding him. I trust Hawk to keep me safe when I am flying around the sand arena, sometimes I even get close to galloping on Hawk, just like the horses in the artwork. Joe Piccillo's artwork is exciting because it looks like a real horse, like a picture was taken by a camera. I hope someday I will be able to draw as well as Joe Piccillo does. I like to practice drawing and painting horses from books I get at the library that show me how to do it.

When I am with horses, I think about how they have their own personalities. Sometimes they are absolutely sweet and adorable and other times they can be brats! They are beautiful and strong and powerful. Even though we have tamed and domesticated horses over time to let us ride on their backs, they can still be wild. We cannot always expect them to be calm and tamed. They will act up sometimes. We can't control that. Yes, we can grab the reins or the lead rope and teach them a lesson but sometimes they cannot control their strength. I think it really is not fair to punish them for something they can't always control. I always respect the amazing strong animals' horses are.

Faith, age 11



Activity



Look at the pictures of the horses.

Choose one horse piece.

Write down or think about what makes the horse look powerful and why.



I chose this artwork because to me it looks like the horse will run right through me, that is how powerful it looks. It also has the energy of the horse I ride, Rainbow. Rainbow always wants to go to the races and the horse in the picture seems that way too. The picture reminds me of a horse from Heartland named Phoenix. It is like Joe Piccillo copied and pasted Phoenix, that is how real it looks.

When I am riding, I make up a course with jumps and obstacles in my imagination. Then I do my course like I would do it in a show, and I feel so free when I do it. I would also say my relationship with horses is probably stronger than my relationship with most people.

Sicilya, 4th grader



Word Search

S R Q D Q J M O R S
T T B G R E I N S O
W C A H A L T E R Y
H J R L H A Y U C G
E L N K L W R T A I
Q H O R S E G R N R
P G A L L O P O T T
G S A D D L E T E H
T B R I D L E O R V
J L S P B C Y F Z M

canter

saddle

hay

gallop

stall

girth

halter

horse

trot

bridle

reins

barn

My connection with Joe Piccillo's artwork is that I ride horses. When I am riding, I communicate by my movement. When I look at Piccillo's artwork, the positions of the horse's say's to me how they are communicating their feelings. I have been buked off before. This position is called rearing and the horse is saying that he does not want to do something. One communication between me and the horse is when I turn my head the horse knows to turn. When I squeeze my legs, the horse knows to go and start trotting. When I pet their shoulder, the horse knows he did a good job.

The artist captures the power of the horse by making the horse look like it is going to jump out of the drawing and come to life. He makes it look so realistic it is almost like he stuck a real horse to it and called it a sketch. The size of the horse is amazing. The muscles that he shows in the horse make it so powerful.



Zoe, age 11



Activity

Remember how I mentioned that a horse expresses their feelings by their movements. Well you can draw any animal and express their feelings and emotions. Sad, angry, happy, worried, and any others you can think of.

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