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COLORADOCREATIONS
“Figuratively abstract”
artist shares inspiration

Who: Michael Gadlin

Medium: Wood panels using mixed media, which involves acrylic and latex house paints, ink, charcoal and cut paper.

His story: Growing up without much money and even fewer role models who reflected his multiracial background was daunting for a high school student aspiring to be an artist.

But Gadlin didn't allow that to stop him. He found support from teachers at Denver's East High School and representatives from the University of Denver who, upon reviewing his portfolio, pointed him in the direction of art school.

And after spending two years at one of the nation's leading art institutions, the Pratt Institute in New York, the artist “with a desire for classical romanticism, an urge to combine the old and the new and make it fresh,” and a love for layers, developed his own style that he calls figuratively abstract.

“You can philosophize all day that painting is dead and that nothing is new, but my approach is to create a style that hasn't been seen,” he said.

Now an established artist on the Colorado level, who feels “so close to art philosophy and lifestyle through Europeans,” Gadlin aspires to touch people so much that his work is shown in museums around the world. But it is knowing that in high school he didn't have the foggiest idea of what he wanted to do —

and was so intimidated he even feared branching out into the artistic arena — that motivates Gadlin to serve as a teacher and mentor to at-risk children in the Denver area.

In fact, he spent two weeks sketching and painting a piece for the Denver Polo Classic to be auctioned off at the Capital Grille Black Tie Ball on Friday to benefit the Children's Foundation, a nonprofit that raises money for at-risk and disadvantaged Colorado children.

“It keeps you humble, it keeps you fresh, it keeps you real,” Gadlin said. “You'd be surprised at the talent and need for this outlet.”

Philosophy: “It's really cliché: Be true to yourself,” he said. “It's being honest and through my work being honest. It translates into my spiritual walk with my wife and kids.”

“At times we get tastes of happiness and being complete. The desire is so great you're cursed with it, in a good way. I never want any regrets. I don't want to wonder what would it be like if I'd try this,” he said.

Price range: His work starts at \$1,500 and can reach upward of \$25,000. The average price falls between \$7,000 and \$12,000.

Where to find his work: Visit Gadlin's website at gadlinscanvas.com. His work is also shown at Spark Gallery in Denver and will be at the Blink Gallery in Boulder in August. — *Desiree Belmarez, Denver Post staff writer*





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"My approach is to create a style that hasn't been seen," says painter Michael Gadlin. His "Elements of Polo Abstracted for Effect" (mixed media, 32 by 64 inches) will be auctioned Friday at the Capital Grille Classic's Black Tie Ball, with proceeds benefiting Denver Active 20-30 Children's Foundation. For details, visit denverpolo.org.

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IMMIGRANT FLOOD

Sunday marked the 20th annual Denver Polo Classic.

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Polo ponies bred in the United States are usually thoroughbreds or quarter horses, or a cross between the two. Polo ponies are imported every year from other countries, too, including:

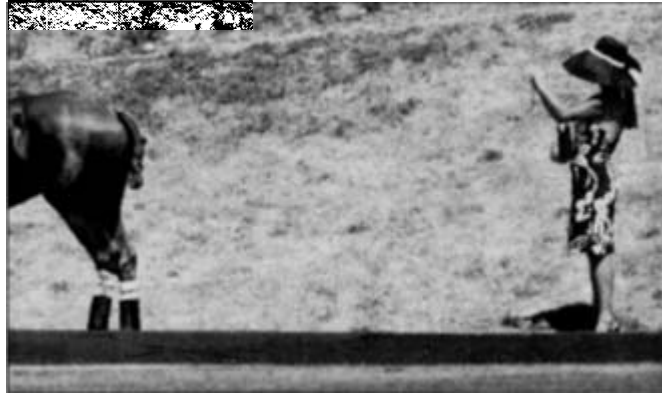
- Argentina
- Mexico
- Canada
- New Zealand
- England
- Spain

Source: americanpolohorse.com



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CHRIS SCHNEIDER/ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Polo fans pony up Shawndell Oliver, of Denver, takes a photo of a horse at the Denver Polo Classic on Sunday in Littleton. The event raised \$300,000 for charity ..**NEWS 8**



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Polo basics

- **The field:** 300 yards by 160 yards, with goals at either end that are 8 yards wide
- **The team:** Four players and horses on each side. No substitutions unless a player or horse needs to be replaced. Each of the four players is given a zone of responsibility, from the player on offense in front to the player on defense in the back. The numbers worn on the jerseys, the "Polo Shirts," indicate the zone — number 1 is the most forward, and number 4 the most defensive. By custom, number 3 is the on-field captain, and usually the highest-rated player on the team.
- **The object:** The winner is the team that scores the most goals in a six-period game. Each period, also known as a chukker, is seven minutes long.

Source: fippolo.com

Weekend fundraiser helps kids

\$300,000 is the amount organizers of the Denver Polo Classic expect to raise over the three days of the event this year.

\$2 million has been raised over the 20 years this event has been held.

65 nonprofit organizations applied for grants from the Denver Active 20-30 Children's Foundation, which puts on the event. Of those, 45 were approved.

- **What are the grants for?** The money is available to nonprofits that provide services to Denver children or their families in sports, health, arts or financial aid. Past grant recipients include an organization that provides free dental services to poor children, an organization that teaches youth music in a multicultural environment and one that helps local children born without sight get the skills they need to live independently.
- **How to get a grant:** The foundation is accepting applications for 2008. The deadline is Aug. 15. Nonprofit groups must have been in business for at least three years to apply. Go to denverpolo.org for more information.

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Patricia Domenico, left, talks with neighbor Earle Perry at the 20th Annual Denver Polo Classic in Littleton on Sunday.

Fine horses, summer finery

Fans dress up for annual 3-day charity polo event

By Rosa Ramirez
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

It's no chips-and-salsa event. It's more like a flet mignon and fine wine gathering at the park. Servers offered samples of shrimp salad and grilled and broiled prime meats on silver platters.

The Denver Polo Classic, a three-day fundraiser, was expected to raise more than \$300,000 for nonprofits that assist poor and underserved Denver youth.

Sunday's social gathering, which included a championship polo match, offered ample opportunity for showing off one's summer finery.

Half the fun of attending the event is dressing up for it, said Fatima Dias, 33, who was born in Lisbon but grew up in London.

"Women wear their best hats. And because the women dress up, the men have to step it up," she said.

Attendees paid \$200 to enjoy the food, the polo and the mingling.

The teams competed for the

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No hat? No worries

■ Rocky photographer Chris Schneider swatted the flies and stomped the divots for you. Check out more of his photos from the weekend polo event online.

Denver Polo Cup. The competition was held at the Polo Reserve Development in Littleton.

Players use mallets whose heads are made of tipa, an Argentinian wood, and can hit balls at speeds up to 120 mph.

Larry Fanning, a 65-year-old painter from Evergreen, said he enjoys polo because "horses have a special place in my heart."

Fanning has been attending the polo championships with his wife, Wanda, for five years.

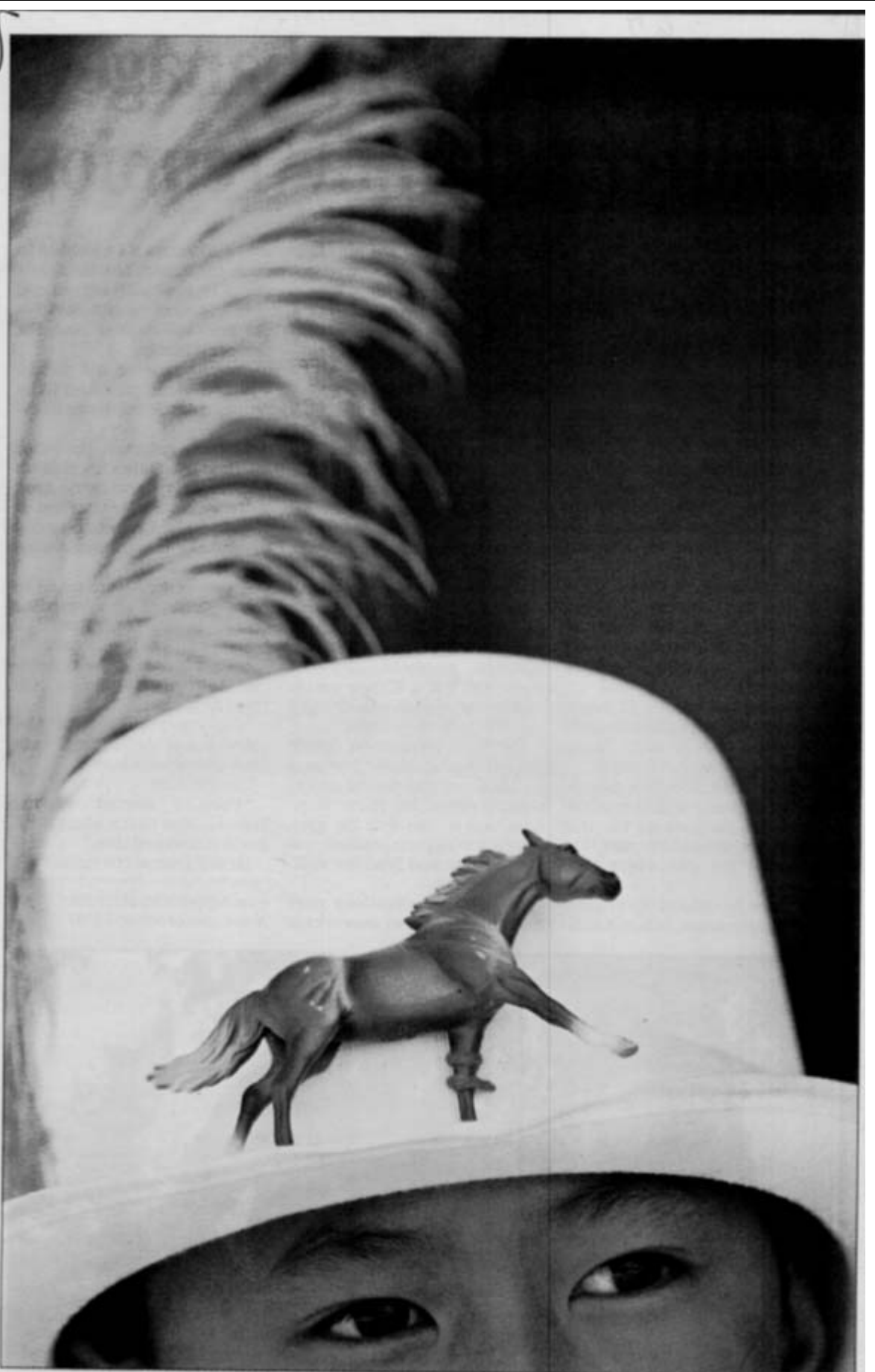
"We come both for the sport and the energy from knowing we're supporting a good cause. And it's a great place to meet people," he said.

Barbara Ritchie heads an organization, Griffith Centers for Children, that helps abused and neglected children and has received money from the event.

"It's nice to watch the game and see that a lot of young people are giving back to the community in huge ways," Ritchie said.

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PHOTOS BY CHRIS SCHNEIDER/ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Li Ball, 10, of Coal Creek Canyon, wears a distinctive hat at the Polo Classic. "Women wear their best hats. And because the women dress up, the men have to step it up," said Fatima Dias, who also attended. The three-day event featured a black-tie ball and a family day on Saturday.

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