

# Farm Animals Pose For Dallastown Artist

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Maryland Correspondent

DALLASTOWN—Lorann Garrety is up to her elbows in the farming way of life. She's not afraid to get her hands dirty. She routinely rolls up her sleeves and digs in.

The Dallastown, Pa. native works with farm animals apart from the barnyard setting. She is a sculptor, an accomplished artist who creates fine bronzes fashioned after live models. Her most recent work which gained national recognition was the 55-pound bronze bull awarded to the grand champion bull at the Atlantic National Angus Show in May.

Lorann was on hand at the show to explain how the bronze bull was created. The artist studied live Angus models and also used photographs to first form a wax model. A rubber mold was then made to capture every detail of the original wax sculpture.

Lorann said she uses the lost wax process when creating bronzes. The next step in the process is wax casting. She poured molten

wax into the rubber mold to produce a faithful casting of the original sculpture. After this wax casting was removed from the rubber mold, Lorann hand finished the casting with touch-ups to perfectly match the detail of her original sculpture.

The wax casting was then coated with several layers of ceramic and fired in a kiln. The ceramic mold was baked and the wax was lost during this step (thus the term "lost wax").

The ceramic mold was then filled with molten bronze at a temperature of 2100°F. After it cooled, the ceramic mold was carefully broken away, and the bronze bull within appeared. The raw casting was sandblasted to remove any traces of ceramic, and then the seams from the mold were blended into the figure.

Finally, the bronze was treated with chemicals and heat in a process called patination to give it the color Lorann specified.

"I enjoyed the show," added Lorann. "That was more fun than I've had at any art show." While

the bronze bull was being awarded to the owners of Dameron Line-drive, Lorann was soliciting advice for completing the as yet unfinished bronze cow to be awarded to the grand champion cow at the show.

Lorann explained that the cow would be slightly smaller than the bronze bull, with the same proportion as the live models. While the bull was fashioned from studying many live models and photographs, the bronze cow is a true replica of TC Peggy Sophia, grand champion female at the Atlantic National Angus Show. "I had a chance to work with her at the show, and I also used her photograph on the poster from the show," explained Lorann.

While Lorann creates bronzes of many subjects, she said she has come to appreciate cows. "My favorite subject used to be horses, but now I think it's cows," she said. Lorann has since been commissioned by the Angus Association to make a copy of the bronze bull for the Junior Angus Club to auction off in July.

While Lorann spends much of her time at the foundry at Art Research and Technology in Lancaster, she said "I do all the messy work and make all the molds in the basement at home." There she has a private studio in the bedroom and a gallery that is open by appointment.

But it's not all work for Lorann. She spends time with her daughters, Stacey, 19, and Valery, 16. And probably not so coincidentally, Stacey works with stained glass, and Valery has expressed an interest in pursuing a career in commercial art.

At their home in Dallastown, Lorann and her daughters enjoy horseback riding. Two years ago, Lorann rescued two thoroughbred horses from "a mismanaged herd that was left to fend for itself." With vitamins and lots of caring, Lorann nursed them back to health with as much attention to their structural and muscular detail that she gives to her bronze creations. "They look great now," she said.

Lorann's love of horses dates back to her own first horse that her parents gave her when she was twelve. The daughter of a freelance commercial artist, she began



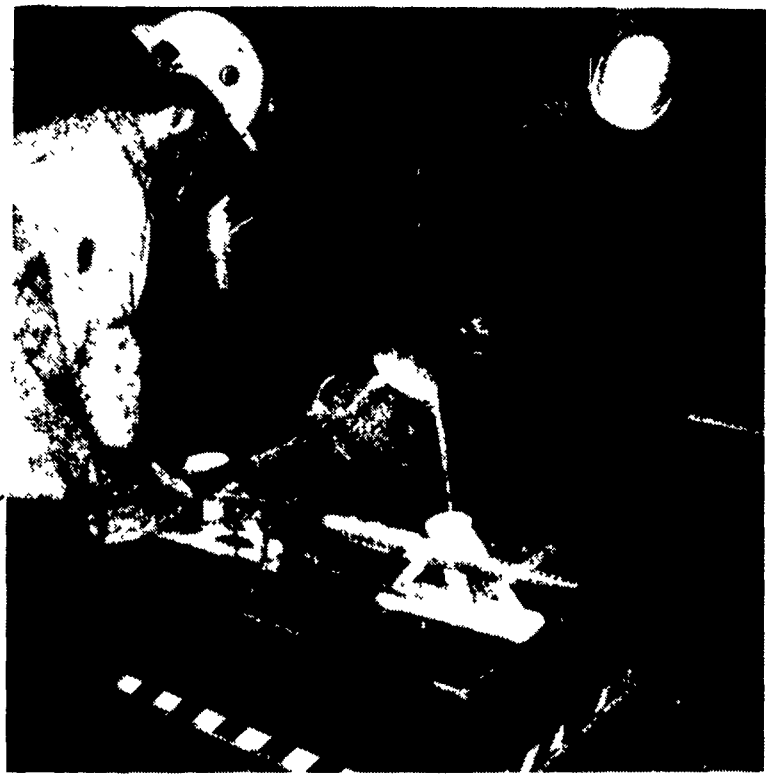
These horses in bronze won first place at the Hanover Arts Guild Show. The piece measures 24-by-24 inches and weighs 126 pounds. This creation by Lorann is priced at \$10,000.



Lorann, left, works on a pair of dolphins that will make an elegant dining table. Lorann creates pieces as small as 3 inches and as large as life size. "We are equipped to make a life-sized sculpture of a cow," says Lorann.



Kevin Patton, a welder, puts the pieces of the sculpture back together.



Molten bronze is poured into the ceramic molds. The bed of sand secures the mold.

sketching from her live model. She developed an interest in fox hunting and became the first lady huntsman in the local club's history. She came to know the ways of horses and hounds and studied them for detail which now shows in her exquisite pieces bought by collectors from around the nation.

Lorann's works have been exhibited at the Maryland Gallery of Fine Arts, Newberry Farms Art Gallery, York Hospital, The Annual River Walk Art Show, the Annual Gathering of Artists in Lancaster, The Lancaster Wood Carvers Show, and the Cross Roads of Sport in New York. Her training includes study at The Maryland Institute, School of Art

and Design, York College, York Vo Tech and a sculpture class in Philadelphia. "That was it," said Lorann. After that class "I couldn't wait to get started. That's when I decided to do bronzes."

Lorann's determination to pursue a career creating bronzes spills over into all her pursuits in life. "Anything you like to do," she advised, "if you work hard enough, you can make it."

Sculptures by Lorann Garrety may be viewed by appointment at her Dallastown gallery (717-246-1253). The artist also encourages visits to the foundry where works are in progress. (717-299-9333).

## Homestead Notes