



ottoman arabians

Snapshots from Horse Heaven

Article and all photos* by Mustafa and Chera Sabankaya

*All horse conformations not digitally altered





Members within the herd of Ottoman Arabians develop strong attachments spanning across several generations. Here is Daalda Cama (Celebes x Camorra by Aquinor), the very first horse ever purchased by Mustafa Sabankaya back in the 1970's. She enjoyed three decades of wonderful life raising her foals and then watching them go on to raise their own foals, grand foals, and great grand foals.

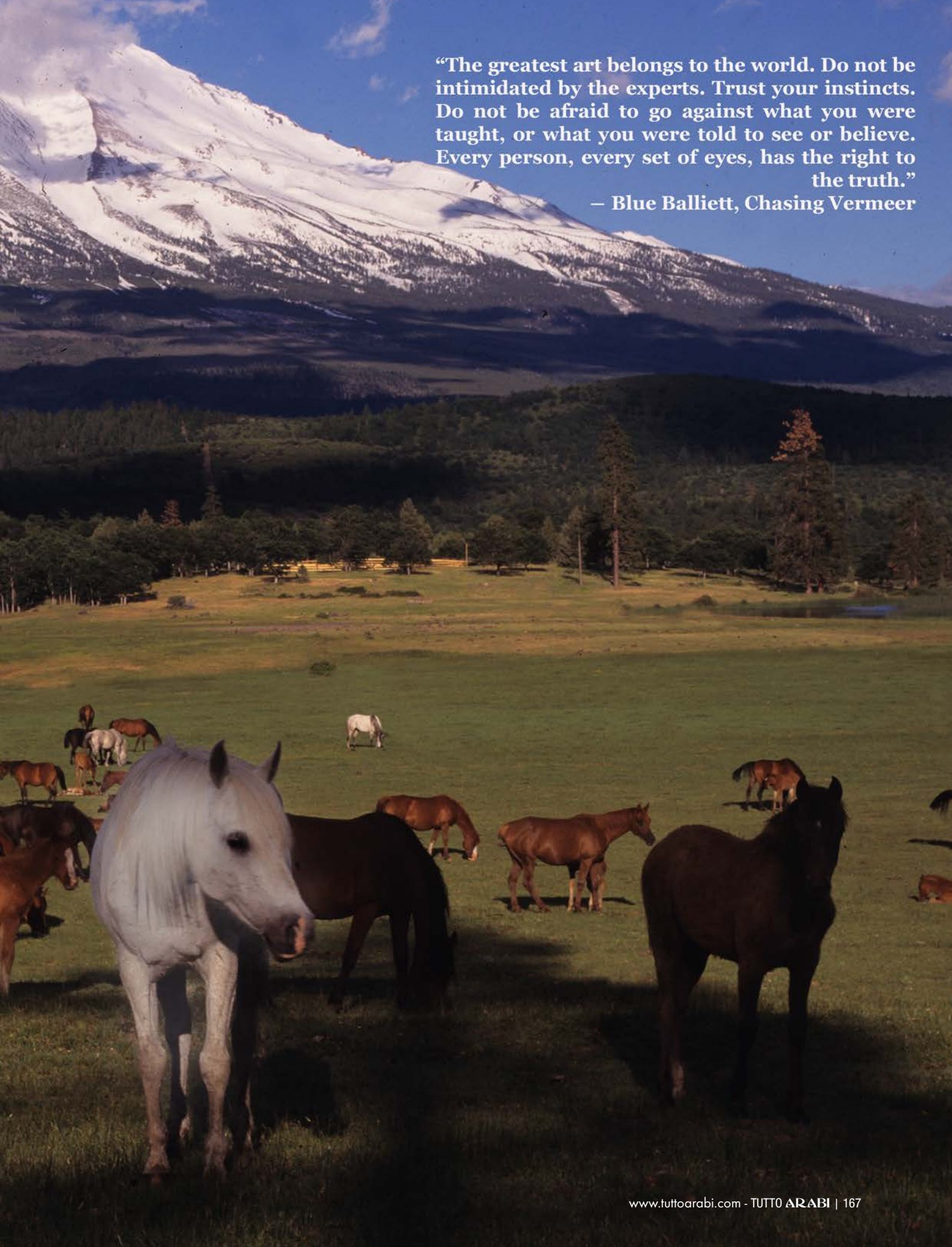
“You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.”

— Ansel Adams





Born back in 1982, the beautiful Pure Polish grey mare, Celebaska (by Gdansk), was the first foal ever bred by Ottoman Arabians. Her dam, Daalda Cama by Celebes, was the first horse purchased by Mustafa Sabankaya after 2 years of intensive historical analysis in the areas of pedigrees, conformation, and the global Arabian horse market. Celebaska was a true queen of the entire herd and went on to live and reproduce well into her twenties.

A full-page photograph of a herd of horses grazing in a lush green field. In the foreground, a white horse stands prominently on the left, facing slightly right. To its right, a dark brown horse stands facing left. Further back, several other horses of various colors (brown, white, and dark) are scattered across the field. The background consists of a dense forest of evergreen trees, and beyond that, a large, rugged mountain with significant snow cover rises against a clear blue sky. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with long shadows cast across the grass.

“The greatest art belongs to the world. Do not be intimidated by the experts. Trust your instincts. Do not be afraid to go against what you were taught, or what you were told to see or believe. Every person, every set of eyes, has the right to the truth.”

– Blue Balliett, Chasing Vermeer



The herd of Ottoman Arabians is attuned with nature as it grazes along the foothills of the Eddy Mountains on the west and the world renowned Mount Shasta on the east in Northern California.

“A great photograph is one that fully expresses what one feels, in the deepest sense, about what is being photographed.”

— Ansel Adams





“What we seek, at the deepest level, is inwardly to resemble, rather than physically to possess, the objects and places that touch us through their beauty.”

— Alain de Botton, *The Architecture of Happiness*





“The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.”

– Aristotle

Ottoman Arabians' herd of purebred Arabian horses play like angels floating among the clouds of the ethereal Santa Cruz, California sun as it sets down into the Pacific Ocean. This photograph was taken by Mustafa Sabankaya with a Hasselblad film camera using no filters or digital editing.



The grandmothers, aunts, cousins, and sisters all come to welcome their new herd mate.

“A great photograph is a full expression of what one feels about what is being photographed in the deepest sense and is thereby a true expression of what one feels about life in its entirety.”

— Ansel Adams



“Hope and Memory have one daughter and her name is Art, and she has built her dwelling far from the desperate field where men hang out their garments upon forked boughs to be banners of battle. O beloved daughter of Hope and Memory, be with me for a while.”

— W.B. Yeats

Just days old, little SS A Lot of Bask (Calypso OS x SS A Lot of Spark by SS Velocity) rests gently on a soft bed of fresh hay as he takes in all of the new sights, sounds, smells, and sensations his new world has to offer.



**“Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful,
we must carry it with us or we find it not.”**

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



As a way of more deeply experiencing his life with his horses and as an outlet of passionate expression, Mustafa Sabankaya has been photographing his purebred Arabian horses for over 30 years. He began using an old fashioned Hasselblad film camera to capture the moody sunset pictures of the herd against the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean before moving the herd up to Mount Shasta, California in 1994. It is important to note, and some may find it hard to believe, that even in photographs as richly textured and colored as the one above, he did not use any form of lens filters, nor did he airbrush or digitally edit the images. Today, as an intrinsically dedicated breeder, he remains especially steadfast against the practice of altering the conformation of his horses in any way through the use of computer applications.

All photos contained in this article and thousands of others taken by Sabankaya of the Ottoman Arabian herd are available for sale as prints for high quality wall hangings. Please visit the FaceBook address below or contact the Sabankaya's at info@sabankayaselect.com for more information.



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