

# P R I N C I P L E G A L L E R Y

## *About the Artist: Michele Kortbawi Wilk*

Michele Kortbawi Wilk is a self-taught artist, apart from art classes during her early school years, who began drawing and painting when she was very young. Her love for art is equally shared with a love for all animals. In her young adulthood, Michele's passion for animals landed her a job in Southern California working with animals for the motion picture industry.

Her practice in painting was informed first and foremost whilst working alongside exotic, native, and domestic animals in the film industry. Wilk continued to paint for pleasure while at the same time attracting the attention of famed Hollywood animal trainers such as Frank Inn (owner and trainer of "Benji") and Cindy Cullen (daughter of Edgar Rice Burroughs). She found herself with regular commissions and began painting fulltime.

Wilk's utmost importance to capture expression, personality and character, ultimately conveying the essence of the spirit in all her works. She is influenced by many animalier sculptors as well as painters of modern day and the Old Masters.

For over 25 years, Wilk's work has been showcased in juried shows throughout the United States and abroad with many awards to attest to her success. Her paintings can be found in private and corporate collections. Her commercial works include Otagiri, Enesco, as well as several environmental groups. Wilk currently lives and works in Naples, Florida.