

With rifle and sketchbook

Hunting and painting - the artist couple, Sascha and Ingo Maas, feel at home in both worlds. And in exceptional pictures, both of these worlds come together in a virtuoso manner.

Ingo Maas knows and loves this moment: The hunter stands next to the bagged game, the tension of a hunt that has gone on for hours through thick undergrowth gives way to exhausted fulfillment. And while looking at the kudu or the buck there is nothing but joy and respect for the animal and earth's creation.

However, Ingo Maas also knows and loves this moment: The painter stands in front of the finished painting, the tension of days and weeks of work gives way to exhausted fulfillment. And while looking at the image of the portrayed gnu or waterbuck there is nothing but joy and respect for the animal and earth's creation.

Maas is a nature-lover and hunter with a special passion for hunting in Africa. At the same time, he is a painter of animals and hunting themes with some distinctive features. First, there are the large formats that are as much true-to-life as they are expressive pictures. They are created in close collaboration with his wife, Sascha. This concept of the painter's studio practicing a division of labor, which was quite common in earlier times, might seem strange to many artists of the individualistic modern era. However, the Maas' achieve this in a convinced and convincing manner - and the results of this collaborative creative effort are unique and unmistakable in their precision and expressiveness.

And yet, they both contribute their very own viewpoints and work methods. Ingo Maas, as the owner of a successful advertising agency, and familiar with making fine sketches of image concepts in his professional life, is responsible for the outlines and the drawing in the paintings. Sascha Maas, professionally a textile designer with an affinity for exquisite textures and surfaces provides the works with depth and a peculiar sense of three-dimensionality. However, what grows and develops this way on French handcrafted paper and canvas, needs time: Every picture the artist couple makes, travels back and forth several times between the two separated studios; is refined here with the drawing pencil, and is given a unique color texture there with the painter's spatula.

The artists bring their inspirations home with them from extensive study and hunting trips. Traveling in the USA, in Zimbabwe, South Africa or Namibia, in Latvia, Scotland or Austria, not only rifle and shot-gun, but also sketch-book and camera are put into action. And whoever looks at the magnificent trophy gallery in the couple's residence in Bad Honnef on the Rhine, realizes immediately: painting hunting themes is not just an end in itself for these artists, but rather the love of hunting and nature is a fundamental part of their lives. That incidentally goes beyond the local and mainly African game. Bizarre forms of wood and tropical fruit also wake the artistic interest of Sascha and Ingo Maas and have found their way into their current work series "Into the Wild". Starting this spring, it has been possible to view these works in their own gallery in Bad Honnef, presented in handcrafted, dark-stained wooden frames.

At the recent "Jagd & Hund" fair in Dortmund, where the couple exhibited their pictures, the unusual works enjoyed great popularity. And have led to numerous requests among hunters and nature-lovers.

To preserve one's own hunting adventure in this fashion, your loyal quadruped or your riding horse, or maybe the inherited Holland & Holland with its fantastic engraving - that would be something! These are wishes that the artist couple Maas can understand only too well and that they try to meet, if possible. For in their work, their main concern is not to fulfill themselves, but rather to celebrate and conserve the beauty of nature in very unique pictures. For themselves, but also for others.

This closeness to nature, combined with a creative vein was laid out for them already in their early years. The very first picture that Ingo Maas remembers making at all as a child and still hangs on the wall in his parent's house, is that of a falcon. In fact, birds of prey have a special appeal for him and his wife. They are wonderful motifs, the eyes and feathers being the biggest challenge for painters. The artist couple Maas masters these to perfection in its pictures of eagle owl, golden eagle and peregrine falcon. But also falconry, which Ingo Maas has often experienced in his circle of hunting friends, has intrigued him so strongly that he himself soon wants to pass the exam for his falconry license

Future plans

What plans are there artistically speaking?

Spurred on by their success, the couple will increasingly present their art at hunting events, fairs and exhibitions. And during extensive hunting trips, they will continue to make sure that new adventures always bring new inspirations. Wild animals, primeval landscapes and the archaic experience of hunting - their enthusiasm for this will never dwindle. And with their art, they would like to let as many nature and hunting enthusiasts share in this.

Dr. Martin Dopychai

Sascha Maas

Born in Munich in 1958, worked as a textile designer for international interior designing labels. Her artistic working method is characterized by a diverse range of hatching and spatula techniques that give the pictures a special texture and patina.

Ingo Maas

Born in Bonn in 1961. Owner of an advertising company and publishing house in Bad Honnef. Works in drawing with fine outlines and precise pencil strokes which are responsible for the realistic appearance of the pictures.

Contact

Aside from their freely chosen motifs, the artists also take on work upon request: portraits of dogs, horses, birds of prey; paintings of valuable hunting weapons; images adapted from photos of hunting memories ... and much more. The couple exhibits its work at the hunting fairs in Ellingen and Dortmund, among other places.

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