



Judy Larson



If one paints a picture of a beautiful animal, one might pull at the heartstrings of a person who loves wildlife art. If one uses a more unusual medium like scratchboard, one also attracts those who love detail, the realism of it. Camouflage can appeal to yet another group—people who love the visual challenge, who like to see more.

—JL

Judy Larson always knew she was going to be an artist. She was surrounded by them as a child, and was particularly inspired by her father, a professional illustrator. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Commercial Art from Pacific Union College in Northern California, Judy Larson then spent the next 17 years as a commercial artist, illustrator and art director. In 1988, influenced by her love of nature and animals, Judy devoted her time to wildlife art. Her primary focus in each of her paintings is the animal, with the horse and wolf as a recurring subject.

Larson uses a clay-coated, Masonite backed art board called Claybord®. To produce an original drawing, she paints the subject solidly with black India ink to create a silhouette. Larson then scratches away the dried ink using hundreds of X-Acto® blades and the result is a magnificent, lifelike image. Once the subject has been totally scratched, it is a finished black and white illustration, ready for Larson to add color. Larson prefers a combination of airbrush, gouache or acrylic for adding rich layers of color, with frequent rescratching for detail.

For Judy Larson, whose underlying message is always passionately ecological, her medium of scratchboard, as well as her Art of Concealment™, allows her “to take the viewer with me.” Explains Larson, “My desire is to engage viewers on three levels: first, by revealing the beauty of animals through intricate detail; second, by concealing a hidden image that draws the viewer to examine the painting more closely and through which I can tell a story; and third, by promoting a deeper awareness of the environment on a level that will hopefully have an impact.”

Larson is extremely passionate about her love of wildlife and supports a number of environmental endeavors. Two books have been published featuring her work: *Hidden Spirits*, *Search-And-Find Scenes from the American West*, a Random House children’s book, and *The Spirit Within*, a coffee table book. Larson is a member of the Society of Animal Artists. She lives and works in California.

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