

Jagdzeit

Hunter's Path



With Rifle and Sketchbook

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

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


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

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 characteristics. First, they are large formats that are as much true-to-life as they are expressive portraits.









Difficult task masterfully solved:
valuable adorned guns are a challenge
for painters of hunting themes.

They are created in close collaboration with his wife, Sascha. This division of labor concept in the painter's studio, 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 convincing manner - and the results of this collaborative and creative effort are unique and unmistakable in their precision and expressiveness.

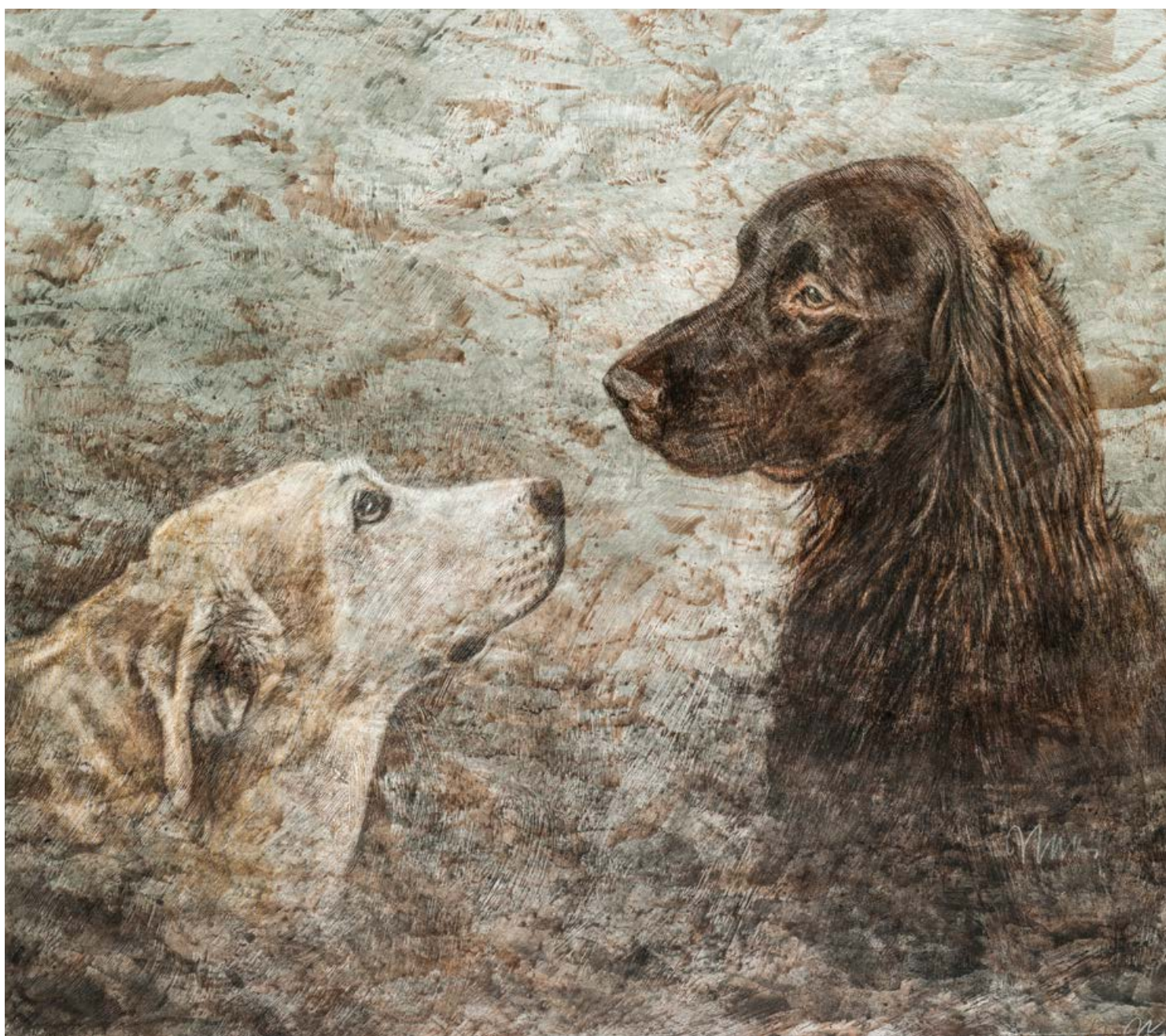
And yet, they both contribute their very own viewpoints and work methods. Ingo Maas, as the owner of a successful advertising agency, and familiar with making fine sketches of image concepts in his professional life, is responsible for the outlines and the drawing in the paintings. Sascha Maas, professionally a textile designer with an affinity for exquisite textures and surfaces, provides the works with depth and a special sense of three-dimensionality. However, what grows and develops in this manner on French handcrafted paper and canvas, requires time. Every painting the artist couple makes, travels back and forth several times between their two individual studios; is refined here with a 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 shotgun, but also sketchbook and camera, are put into action. Anyone who visits their 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 that the love of hunting and nature is a fundamental part of their lives, that incidentally goes beyond 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* hunting exposition in Dortmund, Germany where the couple exhibited their paintings, the unique works enjoyed great popularity, and led to numerous requests from hunters and nature-lovers.

To preserve one's own hunting adventure in this fashion, your loyal hunting dog or your





Left: Game and background seem to merge – in the bush as on the canvas.

Above: With acclaim, the number of requests has risen: Sascha and Ingo Maas have also made a name for themselves with dog and horse portraits.

horse, or maybe the inherited Holland & Holland with its fantastic engraving - that would be something! These are requests 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 preserve the beauty of nature in unique paintings.

This closeness to nature, combined with a creative vein, was already evident in their early years. The very first artwork that Ingo Maas remembers making as a child, and that 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 their pictures of eagle owls, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons.

Falconry, which Ingo Maas has often experienced in his circle of hunting friends, has also intrigued him so strongly that he himself soon wants to pass the exam for his falconry license.

Future plans

What are their future plans, artistically speaking? Spurred on by their success, the couple will be increasing their presence at hunting events, fairs, and exhibitions. During extensive hunting trips, they will continue to make sure that new adventures always bring new inspiration. Wild animals, primeval landscapes, and the archaic experience of hunting - their enthusiasm for these will never dwindle. With their art, they hope to share their inspiration with as many nature and hunting enthusiasts as possible. ■





Above: For hunters, an unforgettable moment. Many would prefer a more lasting memory than a snapshot on a mobile phone.

Left: Falcon motifs are not only in great demand in Europe: the artists have already made initial contacts with Arabian clients.

Right: In addition to wildlife portraits, another large group of subjects for them are wild fruits and exotic wood.



SASCHA & INGO



MAAS

Sascha Maas

Born in Munich in 1958, she 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 paintings a special texture and patina.

Ingo Maas

Born in Bonn in 1961. He is the owner of an advertising agency and publishing house. His work in drawing with fine outlines and precise pencil strokes is responsible for the realistic appearance of the paintings.

Contact

Aside from their usual motifs, the artists also take on work on request: portraits of dogs, horses, birds of prey; paintings of valuable hunting guns; images adapted from photos of hunting memories ... and much more.

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