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Toby Old - *Diving Horse, Orange County Fair, 1990*

The Picture | The Story

Diving Horse, Orange County Fair, 1990

In 1990, when I was working on my *American Moments* series, I drove to the Orange County Fair in Middleton, New York, hoping to find some events to shoot. Off in the distance, I saw a group of spectators staring up at what looked like a horse, standing on a high platform. Moments later, the horse suddenly just leapt into a pool of water.

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I hurried over and watched as a parade of animals, a few dogs, but mostly horses, ascended the ramp, climbed up the tower, and rather gracelessly plunged into the water below. As I was about to leave, a group of spectators squeezed in front of me. Initially, I was annoyed, but continued shooting for a short time longer.

As soon as I got home, I processed the film, and almost couldn't believe it. In that split second, I had captured the horse in a beautiful graceful dive, with the clouds in the background silhouetting the diving horse. And those pushy spectators -- they actually turned out to perfectly frame my picture!

The diving horse image has become my *Signature* image. It's been widely exhibited, including at the Lisbon Expo '98 featuring *Water* themes; in a Financial CEO's Conference room; at the Victoria & Albert's Private Member Lounge, and it's even hung in a dental office!

- Toby Old, 2018

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