





# Super Model Summit

Featuring horses living and plastic, Breyerfest 2001 brings model-horse collectors together. **By Cathy Laws**



Thousands of horse lovers will converge on Kentucky Horse Park July 27-29 for Breyerfest 2001, the largest annual celebration of the model-horse hobby. Enthusiasts come to buy, sell and trade new and vintage models, participate in model-horse shows, join hands-on workshops, and meet some of the real horses honored as Breyer models.

Breyer Animal Creations, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, has created more than 2,200 uniquely deco-

rated models over the years, featuring all manner of equine breeds and many famous horses, such as Secretariat, Hollywood Dun It, Rugged Lark, Zippo Pine Bar, Scamper, and Kentucky Horse Park resident Cigar (*see related story on page 24*).

Collecting model horses is a passion shared by people of all ages. "I started collecting when I was six," says Sheryl Leisure, who went out and bought her first two model horses with her birthday money. More than 30 years later, she proudly displays her collection of more than 3,500 horses in her Yucaipa,

## Photos Courtesy Breyer Animal Creations

California, home.

Leisure has turned her model-horse passion into a business: She sculpts and paints horses for Breyer and produces her own model-horse “Jamboree” each summer in California a few weeks before BreyerFest.

“BreyerFest is great because it brings us all together,” says Leisure. “It’s all for the love of horses. When we get together, we find we all did the same thing: As children, we made rubber-band bridles and potholder saddles, had the grass mowed in the backyard really short, and played model-horses all day.”

This year, BreyerFest attendees are in for a real treat—visits from some spectacular live horseflesh to complement the rounds of model-horse showing and hobbyist workshops. The BreyerFest 2001 Celebration Horse, star of the show, is Atlantis Bey V, a stunning Arabian stallion and son of the famed Huckleberry Bey, subject of one of Breyer’s most popular models.

A special guest with a very different look is The Gypsy King, a rare Gypsy Vanner stallion. Bred over centuries in Europe for disposition and endurance, Gypsy Vanners are a light draft-type breed combining Friesian, Shire, Clydesdale and Dales pony bloodlines. A black and white stunner with a flowing mane and tail, The Gypsy King makes a perfect subject for a Breyer creation, many copies of which will be sold at BreyerFest, of course.

Silky Keno, a striking, blue-eyed splash overo champion Paint Horse, is another attendee at this year’s show. Foaled in 1991, she was discovered in Texas by owner Sherry

Tuvell-Carr, who was recovering from the first round of a tough battle against ovarian cancer. The little filly became Sherry’s inspiration to keep going, even when she couldn’t ride.

Silky Keno went on to earn an American Paint Horse Association Certificate of Recognition in Halter and Western Pleasure, became a Hall of Fame American Indian Horse and won numerous high-point awards from competing in barrel racing, polebending, reining, trail, hunter under saddle and English Pleasure. Silky Keno’s winning ways have been a source of inspiration to her owner, who has been cancer-free for five years.

Now a broodmare, Silky Keno will be joined at BreyerFest by her latest foal, Shadow of Blue, who was born in March.

Rounding out the BreyerFest 2001 special guest list is Montana Harvest, a buckskin Morgan stallion who shines as a reining horse, and Stormy, the Zorse. Zorse, you say? Half horse, half zebra, Stormy is trained by longtime horseman Andrew Booth. Using Pat Parelli’s method of natural horsemanship, Booth has employed great patience and persistence—and it has taken plenty of each, he admits—to get Stormy started under saddle and progress to the point that she has become his favorite demonstration partner at major events.

Although appearances by these equine stars and a full schedule of model-horse shows and workshops are an important feature of BreyerFest, perhaps the strongest draw is simply the opportunity for model-horse aficionados to spend time with each other over the course of a jam-packed weekend at the Kentucky Horse Park. And what do they talk about all that time? Why, horses, of course. 🌐



Opposite top: Atlantis Bey V, a stunning Arabian stallion, is the BreyerFest 2001 Celebration Horse.

Opposite bottom: Top reining horse Montana Harvest makes a fine model.

Left: Striking Gypsy Vanner stallion The Gypsy King will be at the show in the flesh and in model form.

Above: Stormy the Zorse and Andrew Booth will perform at Breyerfest 2001.



## For More Information

Visit [www.breyerhorses.com](http://www.breyerhorses.com) for details on BreyerFest 2001. For information on the creation of Breyer models, visit the company’s online Factory Tour. To learn more about the Gypsy Vanner breed, go to [www.gypsyvannerhorses.com](http://www.gypsyvannerhorses.com).