

Springtime in New York with Elite Equestrian

By LA Sokolowski



Nayel Nasser and Lucifer V
By Jessica Rodrigues



LA with Charles

It took less than a New York minute

for Elite Equestrian's original equinista, L.A. Sokolowski, and fashion stylist Charles Joseph Berry to say yes to invitations for two exceptional events in Manhattan in April: An exclusive West 36th Street opening reception on Earth Day for Ejaz Khan Earth's Freedom exhibit of equine fine photography in partnership with World Animal Protection, and the second annual Longines Masters of New York CSI5* at the NYCB Nassau Coliseum.

Khan, a professional fashion photographer, told Elite Equestrian how he was accustomed to paying (human) models, so working with World Animal Protection helped him "pay back" to the animals inspiring him. Freedom portrays the raw energy of the wild herds of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, France.



WAP Directors
By Ejaz Khan

"In light of Earth Day, the focus of the evening was to bring attention to the effects of climate change upon animals around the world, including the beautiful horses in Ejaz's work," said Heather Hunter, marketing and communications director for World Animal Protection US (worldanimalprotection.us), the only animal welfare organization with a full-time staff dedicated to disaster response and over the past 55 years has saved seven million animals from disasters worldwide.

On Sunday, April 28, the Longines Masters New York put the 'elite' in equestrian with an international CSI5* and lavish feast for the senses that included ostrich feather-festooned stilt-walkers, Lamborghini models swathed in roses, a live jazz band, AKC Agility Dogs, phone charging stations (a modern must!) and plenty of bubbly conviviality.

"Establishing in America one of the world's great indoor events has been my all-time ambition. I chose the newly renovated NYCB Nassau Coliseum, home of the NY Islanders, Long Island Nets, and New York Open tennis tournament, because it carries the ambition and vision I have for the Masters to reach a new audience," said Christophe Ameeuw, founder and CEO of EEM, presenters of the Longines Masters, adding that sports and entertainment often intertwine as "the ultimate show."

Such intertwining proved historic in New York, where Ameeuw said, "A star is born," after Egyptian rider Nayel



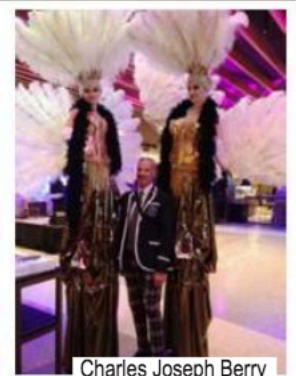
Lamborghini models



Ejaz Khan with Friendship

Nassar and Evergate Stable LLC's 13 year-old Westfalen (Lord Dezi/ Grandeur) gelding became the first horse and rider in history to win both its Longines Speed Challenge and \$400,000 Longines Grand Prix of New York.

Harrie Smolders, Nayel Nasser and Oliver Philippaerts
By Jessica Rodrigues



Charles Joseph Berry

"I'm at a loss to describe the incredible animal that is Lucifer V. I owe it all to him and the magnificent squad that is Evergate Stables," said Nassar, whose final time in the jump-off was a clean 38.39 seconds. Reserve, in 39.46, went to Harrie Smolders on Evergate's Selle Francais mare, Une de l'Othain. "This was my first FEI 5* Grand Prix victory and couldn't have been more special. I was last to go in the second round and my nerves could feel it! And I got to share the podium with Harrie, one of my idols and teammates. This one is going to take awhile to sink in. Thank you Longines New York, and to my person, Jennifer Gates, who inspires me to be great!"

Next on the Longines Masters tour is its inaugural leg in Lausanne, France, June 20-23. Results and replays at longinesmasters.com.

