

The experts

THE ULTIMATE SHOOTING QUIZ TEAM



➔ BILL HARRIMAN

BASC's head of firearms and global authority on guns



➔ MAT MANNING

Airgunner and journalist from the West Country



➔ DIGGORRY HADOKE

Vintage gun expert, firearms dealer, author and journalist



➔ BRUCE POTTS

Shooting Times rifle reviewer and stalker



➔ MIKE SWAN

Conservation expert and head of education for the GWCT



➔ DAVID TOMLINSON

Highly regarded writer and ornithologist



➔ LIAM BELL

Shropshire gamekeeper, keen wildfowler and amateur naturalist



➔ GRAHAM DOWNING

Shooting consultant and sporting author



➔ TONY BUCKWELL

Veterinary surgeon with a special interest in Gundogs



➔ TOM PAYNE

Professional shooting instructor and avid pigeon shooter



➔ ELLENA SWIFT

Award-winning gundog trainer and canine behaviour specialist



➔ TIM MADDAMS

Former head chef at River Cottage and runs a shoot in Devon



➔ SIMON WHITEHEAD

Author, professional ferreter and rabbit controller



➔ IAIN WATSON

Keen stalker and senior CIC international trophy judge



➔ CHRIS DALTON

Professional stalker and regular presenter on *The Shooting Show*



➔ MARK RIPLEY

Well-known fox controller and long-range shooting expert

Contact the team

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DAVID TOMLINSON: MAT MANNING; ALAMY; ISTOCK; JAKE POTTS; JOHN MACAVISH

ART AND THE ARTIST

Michelle Pearson Cooper



GIVEN THE FINE DETAIL

and brushwork, you might think Michelle Pearson Cooper had spent her entire career painting nothing but her beloved dogs. But although she now lives in Oxfordshire with her husband and their lurcher and labrador, it's cats that provide most of her inspiration. Very big cats...



Michelle painted compulsively as a child. She was later awarded a rare art scholarship to Millfield School and continued her artistic studies in Florence with 'La Signorina' Nerina Simi. After her studies, she took a job "to pay the rent" but continued to paint, with animals her main subjects.

"I love animals; I try to capture their character, not rob them of dignity nor turn them into humans," she says. Depicted in charcoal, watercolour and oil, her animal portraits proved popular and, with their exquisite craftsmanship

but refreshing lack of sentiment, she was soon receiving international recognition.

Then she went on a walking tour in Jordan and was astounded by the "scale and silence of the place". She explains, "I had time to think and reflect, and inspiration was everywhere. From the white camel we saw at

Little Petra to the dried riverbeds of the Wadi Rum desert, it all had a profound effect on me."

She later trekked through Namibia, Jordan and Oman, the Sahara and Rajasthan, and in these wild landscapes her passion for big cats began.

Michelle has held 17 solo exhibitions and now divides her time between her home and her studios in London and South Africa. She spends a lot of time at Tenika on the Eastern Cape, a wildlife rehabilitation centre, which allows her to spend hours sketching the big cats.

"I have had the privilege to walk with several of the cheetahs and they, in turn, have been painted for posterity," says Michelle, whose ultra-skilled hand brings these glorious creatures to life. **NJS**

➔ To see more of Michelle's work, visit michellepearsoncooper.co.uk



GUN LABEL OF THE WEEK

CHARLES BOSWELL

Charles Boswell makes a strong mention of the fact he is a 'Practical Gun & Rifle Manufacturer' on this paper and ink label. This is in contrast to those 'makers' who were often mere retailers of guns made elsewhere, in the trade. Boswell is no longer well known but he was once a well-regarded and long established London gunmaker, who specialised in pigeon guns.

This label spans the years 1931 to 1941, when London was bombed-out by the Germans, marking the beginning of the end of family involvement in Boswell's firm (Charles died in 1924). Labels from this period are relatively



uncommon and this one is in very good condition, despite the inevitable discolouration to the pale paper. It is a modest, inexpensive label compared with the lavish leather and gold embossed labels of many gunmakers. An indication of the encroaching modern era is the inclusion of 'Tel. No. Gerrard 2365'. **DH**