

Rajasthan's Dancing Marwari Horses

A Six-Image Suite by Holger Hoffmann





The Marwari is a rare breed of horse from the Marwar region of Rajasthan in India. Today, in rural Rajasthan, Marwari horses are trained to “dance” at the many festivals and weddings that take place throughout the year. This dance is an Indian form of “haute école” and is comparable to the dressage performances of the Lipizzaners at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. At the Nagaur Cattle Fair, where the most beautiful Marwari horses from all over Rajasthan are presented for sale, we can attend a performance right next to the horse — gives barely perceptible signals with the bridle. The horse does not seem to obey, but to respond. The five-minute performance ends with an abrupt stop, followed by a stamp of the feet. The audience responds with enthusiastic applause.







