



Series 29 ▪ Session N° 1

Fall 2023 ▪ 5784

Wednesday ▪ October 18

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10:00 am EST (Montreal) 8:00 am MT 3:00 pm GMT (UK)

British Royal Photographer **Henry Dallal**

Nature, Horses & Royalty




Program Weekly ♦ Fall & Spring
Designed by Rabbi
Schachar Orenstein
Coordinated by Gladys Mooallem
Everyone is Welcome!

Spanish Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal

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Wednesday ▪ October 18

10:00 am EST (Montreal) * 8:00 am MT * 3:00 pm GMT (UK)

British Royal Photographer Henry Dallal

Nature, Horses & Royalty



Henry will present photos & stories from his collection to include behind the scenes of equine pageantry, including the Coronation of King Charles III.



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Meeting ID: 849 4697 5701
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To Reserve or Donate:
Office 514-737-3695, 101
gladys@mooallem.ca
Watch previous presentations here:
www.thespanish.org/wlg-youtube.html

The notable photographer, London-based Henry Dallal, launched the twenty-ninth session of the WLG on October 18, 2023, with another array of masterful photographs. True to the title of the presentation, *Nature, Horses & Royalty*, Dallal concentrated on the last few years of Queen Elizabeth II's life, her stately funeral, and the coronation of the late Queen's successor, King Charles III, but also included a number of scenes from around the world that embody the quality of royalty, be it a majestic wintry landscape, the loving acceptance of a wild horse by tamed ones, a purple floral mantling the dark forest floor, a school of gray fish in blue waters, or the mist-enveloped West Sussex valley where Dallal makes his home.

Royal, too, is the nameless, barefoot Ethiopian woman burdened with a back-breaking load of wood; royal is the ritual of a congregation of finely-dressed English huntsmen and women with their hounds, eager to execute a social tradition; and royal is the mere black dot of a man on horseback daring his lonely way on a narrow path along the steep side of an imposing cream-hued rock mountain, a solitary human life

in the vastness of the ephemeral blue sky and the hardened cream mountain walls. These scenes capture the gloriousness of life. The eye of an artist's receptive soul has espied the regal and eternalized the transient.

Dallal's art speaks of movement and stillness, of light and shadow, of vivid colour and shades of limited colours. His art speaks of fashioned pomp and natural pomp, of realistic discernment and impressionistic discernment, of the prominent and the nameless, and of the meaningful whole and the meaningful particular. Through this art, Dallal presents the British late monarch as a person in her own right - as in the last time with her beloved horse Emma - and presents the solemnness of the prodigious state funeral of Great Britain's longest-reigning monarch. Captured and to be preserved for all time are the sombre parade of intricately adorned white horses; of sizable British flags, stalwart breakers of a monumental procession that included members of the RCMP; and of behind-the-scenes preparatory work by varied artisans for this historic farewell.

Following this historical event, Dallal was engaged to photograph Prince Charles's coronation. The photograph shown to us of the ceremony captured an emotive face with apprehensive eyes, suggesting an awareness of the responsibility a king must assume.

To Henry Dallal's surprise, his name and work were advertised on the immense billboard in New York's Times Square. In his twelve or more precious books illustrating his work there are many of great historical relevance such as photos of the late Queen's 90th birthday, photos of the Indian cavalry regiment that contributed to the recapturing of Haifa, photos of the RCMP - who had asked for a book of photographs made of them, and photos of a seminal international meeting on the subject of climate change attended by representatives of 193 heads of state.

However, Dallal also celebrates the panorama of creation - desert and forest, meadows and mountains, tropical and frigid landscapes, each often devoid of human or animal life. But with the same artistically insightful eye, Everyman is also celebrated, wherever on this earth he may live.

By request, the subject of Dallal's next book is the Royal Mews which promises to be as enchanting as all of his other books. In fact, faced daily with photographs of devastation and destruction because of horrendous current events, it is with joy that the public will respond to a body of photographs that celebrates life. Dallal perceives the world as a playground. Perhaps his approach to life as conveyed through his art will influence people to appreciate the magnificence of this playground.

With WLG member Sandra Koukou introducing and, later, thanking her cousin Henry Dallal, the session came to a close. The many Zoom attendees included a gentleman from Zimbabwe and a member of Britain's parliament. With words of gratitude to Rabbi Orenstein for initiating the WLG, Coordinator, Gladys Mooallem, welcomed everyone to this new fall session and asked Spanish & Portuguese Rabbi Ellis to give his blessings. Preceding the blessing, Rabbi Ellis spoke briefly about recognizing the universal tragedy now unfolding. The new spiritual leader of the Sp. & Port. then acknowledged Gladys's role in bringing people together, an accomplishment made all the more consequential given the unexpected war in Israel with its worldwide repercussions. So, heartfelt thanks are extended to Rabbi Orenstein, Gladys Mooallem, Rabbi Ellis, Sandra Koukou, and of course, WLG guest, photographer par excellence, Henry Dallal.

Gigi Bitton

for the WLG

19 October 2023