



Like Pegasus but with a magical twist, the colourful paintings of award-winning artist **Birim** represent a lifetime's fascination with horses

# TURKISH *Delight*



← **Running Wild**  
Boxed canvas edition of 95  
Image 36" x 36"  
£550

**THERE CAN BE** few career changes more unusual than veterinary surgeon to watercolour artist, but such a dynamic switch of professions has been the key to Birim's artistic success in his home country of Turkey and abroad. "My veterinary training has had a hugely positive effect on my paintings, as I have been able to use my scientific knowledge as an instrument to paint pictures," explains Birim who trained and worked as a vet for most of his life until he retired six years ago.

As a child he was surrounded by horses and learnt to observe them both in a physical and emotionally sympathetic way. "I grew up looking at and living with horses," he says, and this innate sense of how the body of the horse moves, as well as the fiery and sometimes unpredictable equine temperament is apparent in his colourful and energetic paintings.

Like many naturally gifted artists Birim paints freely and without any intensive preparation. "The plan of the painting when I start is all in my brain!" he laughs. Working at breakneck speed and often well into the night he says he often does not sleep and prefers to work when it is dark because as he explains "I can concentrate better in silence."

Working at a frenetic pace he can complete a painting in less than a day when really absorbed, and in what he refers to as 'psychologically the right place'. Painting and wetting one area of the canvas and then returning to build up and visually





↑ **Running Free**

Boxed canvas edition of 95  
Image 26½" x 40"  
£499

blur the lines and colours around the horse's profile is his signature technique. These two paintings are quintessential examples of Birim's style with horses running and galloping like free spirits. Both have an ethereal quality that is both magical and enchanting.

and understanding. "In my imagination I imagine galloping with the horses, rearing up with them and catching their emotions and dreams - their flying manes in the wind remind me of how life and time flies by quickly" he says.

"I IMAGINE GALLOPING WITH THE HORSES, REARING UP WITH THEM AND CATCHING THEIR EMOTIONS AND DREAMS - THEIR FLYING MANES IN THE WIND REMIND ME OF HOW LIFE AND TIME FLIES BY QUICKLY"

"It's about catching emotions and dreams as well as getting the physical side just right too" he says. **'Running Wild'** is an energetic and vibrant mix of sunset colours while **'Running Free'** displays a mellower palette with dark horses on a yellow and russet background.

Although Birim likes to experiment and test in oils and acrylics he always does his final canvas in watercolours, as the way the colours blend and 'trigger' another colour hue is ideal for the type of blurred paint effect he has become well known for. His approach is confident and assured and there is a sense that his relationship with horses is one of complete empathy

As one of Turkey's most accomplished and well known watercolour artists Birim paints prolifically and regularly exhibits internationally, but still returns to the roots of his artistic knowledge as often as he can. "I still like to spend time at the jockey clubs and race courses - it's inspirational and you never know when another sketch may become a new painting."

**GALLERY**

Find out more about Birim online by visiting  
[www.washingtongreen.co.uk](http://www.washingtongreen.co.uk)

