



Photo 1: (From left to right) Tom Papadopoulos, gallery owner, and assistants Tom McClairen and Steve Kelly stand in front of the three large paintings that were framed for The Turf Club in Philadelphia, PA.

An Equestrian Endeavor

by Anne Vazquez

Tap Gallery, Inc. in Williamstown, N.J. recently completed a sizable project at the Turf Club in nearby Philadelphia, PA. The job involved framing three large paintings, reproducing 17 jockey silks and displaying them, and designing a frame installation for a number of photographs and other items. Each aspect of the project at the equestrian club presented its own challenge and owners Tom and Lisa Papadopoulos and their staff rose to the occasion.

Once they knew what type of look the client wanted for the paintings, the first obstacle was to find moulding that was available in the needed lengths. Luckily, one of the moulding styles that the clients chose was available in 12 foot lengths and they were ordered. They used two profiles, a liner, and a fillet. All the items were ordered as chop due to the size of the paintings.

To build the frames, the profiles, liner, and fillet were stacked. Each moulding was joined with an underpinner and all of the components were nailed together to make one frame.

But before the actual framing could be done, they discovered another obstacle—the paintings were too large to fit through the doors at Tap Gallery. Luckily, the moulding sales rep arranged for Papadopoulos and his staff to assemble the frame at the company's nearby facility. Once framed, each painting measured 123"x99".

Papadopoulos recalls, “Our final obstacle was transportation. We rented a vehicle large enough to pick up the artwork at the artist’s home and bring it to the facility to be framed. Then we had to consider the entrance to the Turf Club. We had to make sure it too was large enough to receive the framed artwork. We made it by about a quarter inch.”

Although Papadopoulos and his staff did not do the actual installation of the paintings, they were responsible for providing the hanging hardware and were present for the installation. The hanging system they designed was made from metal moulding (see Figure 1). “We used a nine foot length of Clark Metal Moulding 1500 series attached to the top of the back of each frame,” explains Papadopoulos.

“We also used Clark Metal Moulding 1700 series, cut into four-inch sections installed upside-down on the studs on the walls,” he continues. The 1700 series (rather than the 1500) was used on the wall because its longer length made it easier to secure it there.

“This created a J-channel which allowed the artwork to slide back and forth horizontally in order to center it on the wall. Once it was slid into center, we used a security locking T-screw at the bottom to secure it,” he adds.

The hanging system took about a half hour to set up for each frame.

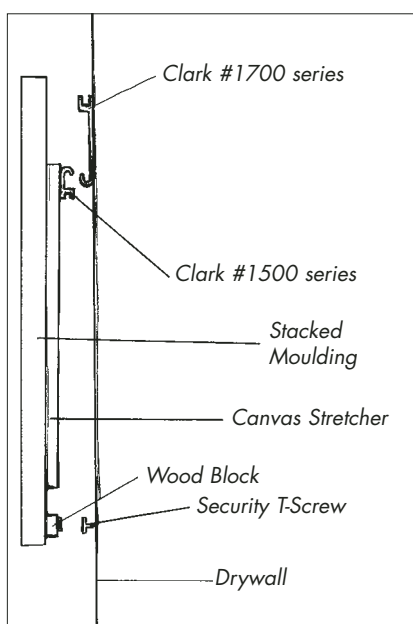


Figure 1: A hanging hardware system was designed to secure the large paintings in place once positioned on the wall.

Creative Cutting

The Turf Club project involved another creative endeavor for the gallery staff. They needed to design 17 jockey silks for display where visitors view simulcast horse racing. First, they reviewed literature from the club for the designs of the jockey silks worn for racing there. Once they knew the patterns to emulate, they used the shop’s computerized mat cutter and accompanying CAD



Photo 2: Images and items related to area sports teams were displayed in the windows. There were two items in each frame so they could be viewed from inside and outside the club.



Photo 3: Sports memorabilia was also installed onto the walls in the room with hinged iron gates.



Photo 4: The gallery created reproductions of jockey silks from matboard with a computerized mat cutter and a CAD (computer aided drawing) program.

(computer aided drawing) program to produce them.

“We set up the designs and then cut them from an array of colored mat boards,” says Papadopoulos. The result was a colorful lineup of these jockey silks which each measured three feet square. The color of the matting used in each piece matches the metal moulding used to frame it.

Wall of Pride

The third project at the Turf Club called for the display of artwork in 16 large storefront windows in the strip mall where the club is located. The goal was to display images that represented the four teams located in Philadelphia—the Eagles, Phillies, Flyers, and Sixers. The gallery was given the task of gathering the items which eventually consisted of photographs, posters, limited edition images, banners, and team jerseys.

“We came up with the idea of using iron gates that had smaller iron frames welded within the larger frame to display artwork that could be viewed from both sides of the club,” explains Papadopoulos. “We designed the gates which

were then hinged to the storefront windows. The hinging made it possible for the whole unit to be opened so that the windows, as well as both faces of the frames could be cleaned. B&B Welding in nearby Hammonton manufactured the gates.”

Each frame within the iron gates was built with slots at the top and bottom into which the art was inserted. Since the gates are viewed from both sides, each frame holds two pieces of artwork. Each piece is matted and faced with acrylic glazing.

While this job was three-fold with many challenges, the owners and staff eventually created framed designs that club visitors notice and admire. The Papadopouloses also plan to feature photos of this project on the gallery’s website (www.tap-gallery.com.) ■



Photo 5: The variety of items that were framed for this installation added to the visual appeal of the finished job. The gallery were also given the job of gathering these items from local sources, catalogs, and even the teams themselves.