

WELDING WOMEN SERIES FOCUS:

Emily Waterman, Somerset

A married mother of one, Emily moved to Somerset, UK in 2019 and set up an engineering business with her welder husband. Having previously owned a pet shop, Emily had knowledge of running a business but no welding or engineering experience at all. As the business grew and with a shortage of available skilled welders, it wasn't long before Emily found herself donning a boiler suit, welding gloves & helmet to help out in the workshop and soon realised that, not only was this something that she enjoyed doing, it was also something that she was naturally, very good at.

At the beginning of 2021, Emily came across a local training school that offered an introductory welding course taking place one evening a week and she enrolled, along with 5 other women. She quickly found herself excelling at MIG welding and gained her codings at the end of the 6 weeks.



"I truly felt that this was where I belonged, I have never been worried or scared of welding and have always really just wanted to get in and have a go."

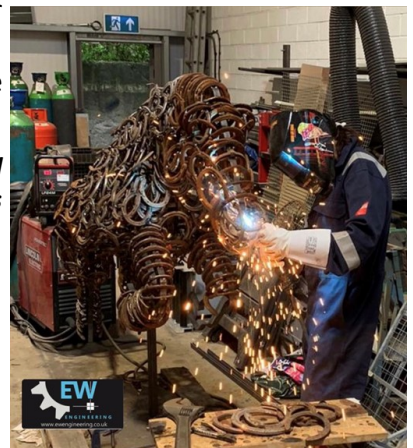
Finding confidence in her new abilities and a passion for her true vocation, Emily embarked on a project to create a life size sculpture of a horse, jumping over a fence, that would take her over 6 weeks to complete. This astounding, original, sculpture was designed and undertaken alone by Emily.

The sculpture itself is truly amazing to see but the story behind it is even more fascinating. Being a horsewoman for over 20 years, Emily knew exactly how she wanted to capture the movement of the animal however, her challenges were in the design and construction of a life-sized animal of this stature, having a very limited knowledge of welding.

She embarked on the project with gusto, creating the inside shell using 2D paper plans to form the interior framework and bend the steel into shape, in sections. From there it was surely 'just' a case of welding the horse shoes onto with the structure to create the final vision.

"my husband said 'are you being serious? You've done nothing like this before', I replied 'No, I'm just going to do it for my mum, for her birthday and it will turn out how it turns out.'"

This proved to be the ultimate challenge and one that had Emily repeating complicated welds in order to get the angles right. At one point Emily found herself removing and replacing one complete side of the horse in order to match it to the opposite side.



"I wanted to create something that was honest, natural and raw and showed the movement of the horse. If I'm honest, I'm absolutely ecstatic with how it turned out in the end!"

Challenges aside, this sculpture is most definitely something that Emily should be extremely proud of. Her hard work, dedication to the project and passion for welding combine in this piece of artistry that is on show for all to see in her parents garden.

What does the future look like for Emily as a welder?

Emily says of her future as a welder, "I really would like to go down the creative route with welding. I'd like to hone my skills to specialise in welding artistry, creating sculptures for people to enjoy. Eventually, I would like to go on to teach as this truly is an area of industry where anything is possible and the potential is limitless"

To find out more about Emily and her business go to: www.ewengineering.co.uk or Instagram @ewengineeringltd or Emily (Jay) waterman on LinkedIn

