Since the turn of the last century James’ family has had horses in its blood. He lives in Debenham, Suffolk, with his wife Jean, having previously worked in the heart of the horse racing community in and around Newmarket and Henley-on-Thames. For the last twenty-seven years of his working life, he held the position of stud groom for a major stud farm, Juddmonte Farms, where one of his last feats was to foal and raise the mighty Frankel unbeaten in his fourteen-race career.

James retired in 2011 and today he gives his time and knowledge to the industry and charities to which he has become involved. As an accomplished painter, he works in oils, watercolours and pastels, with a passion for a wide range of subject matters particularly Suffolk rural life. James has been an active member of the executive of The Society of Equestrian Artists and became a full member in 2001. He has exhibited in major galleries in London and throughout the UK. He has paintings around the world including United States of America, Australia, Malaysia, and Ireland He was winner of the Best Racing Picture in 2000, sponsored by Horse & Hound Magazine.

He has portraits hanging in the Garrick Club, London. He was Artist in Residence to York Racecourse in 2016 and is currently tutoring equestrian art at the Munnings Museum, Essex. He is a Member if IBBAS ‘Harry Becker’ group, and was elected a provisional member of the Institute of East Anglian Artist in 2017.