



“What you do today is important, for you are exchanging a day of your life for it.” Roy H. Williams

2011
Was A Great Year!

Dear Friends,

As I began to prepare for this year’s newsletter, I went back through my files to the earliest letters. How far we have come in those 16 years! How many adventures we have shared! And most importantly, how many of you have walked into our booth and become our friends. You are the most significant part of this journey.

Thanks to you, the dawn of each day brings its own adventure. Whether it comes in the form of huge gulps of Africa, the tiny strokes of my pens bringing the creatures to life on my paper, or the smiles on your faces, there is an exhilaration filling every aspect of my life. United with us in this quest is Chuck, my greatest champion and heart’s companion, adding his enthusiasm and ideas to every venture.

Step by step, you have given me the courage to pursue my way of capturing the creatures who have shared themselves with me. We see things differently from others, you and I. We don’t need a canvas covered with paint to see the essence of nature’s beauty. Even the great Masters Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo used this most unpretentious of mediums to create lasting, treasured works of art. You have embraced this ancient medium of Pen & Ink as I have brought it forward with a vibrant, fresh interpretation.

Can we change the perception of the art world, you and I together? Where the beauty of this humble medium revealing the textures of Nature can haunt the memory like the strains of a favorite melody? Where the elegant simplicity of my depiction of my subjects in Pen & Ink becomes the essence of sophistication? Because of you, I happen to think we can.... we have already begun!

Sherry Steele

It took a monumental effort to stay focused on the January 2011 shows with Tanzania looming on the horizon. Only the stellar Dallas Safari Club Convention could have kept my feet on the ground. From the expanded booth size to showcase my art, to the record attendance and the delightful meeting of TV host Jim Shockey in my booth, we were off to a grand start. With light hearts we re-loaded and headed for Reno, NV and the Safari Club International Convention. Greeting friends, old and new, from all over the world made this show a family reunion for attendees and exhibitors alike. Moving to Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, NV for the 2012 convention, the drive will be shorter for us, but the relaxed hospitality of Reno will now give way to the glitz of Vegas in this new venue.



Safari 2011! And grand it was. Leading our largest group ever, Tanzania not only surpassed their expectations, but ours as well. Observing several thousand elephants while at Kikoti Camp in the Tarangire, two of our vehicles actually observed the birth of a baby elephant and the ‘nudging’ ceremony by its family. Surrounded by trumpeting elephants as we dined in the Bush, we mistakenly felt this would become known as the “Elephant Safari”. Wrong!

Not to be outdone, a resident pride of lions encircled our Bush Camp in the Serengeti and serenaded us from dusk until dawn with their roars. Dazzles of Zebra, massed in a panic of thirst from the unbroken drought, faced the gauntlet of predators awaiting them at the waterholes. Even the sighting of a leopard and a hyena, mortal enemies, sharing the shade of the same acacia tree for a mid-day nap was more proof of what was in store for this special group. An epic storm finally broke the drought and we emerged from our tents filled with laughter. Celebrating the beginning and end of each day with our friends, we made memories that will last a lifetime.

Returning home to reality, it was impossible to clear my head of those vivid images. The fire of Africa had once again blazed its way into my spirit and was ready to flare out through my fingertips. It was a bonanza to find my cheetahs in "Final Exam" on my drawing table awaiting me for their finishing touches. Completed in time for the Spring Cottonwood Art Festival (Richardson, TX), their unveiling added to the flurry in our booth.

Carrying over to the Texas State Arts and Crafts Show in Kerrville, TX, we had a wonderful turnout despite dreadful winds. Thanks to our faithful collectors, I was awarded the "Best In Show" ribbon. Riding on this 'high', we traversed the drought-stricken tracks of West Texas to the cool greens of New Mexico for the 30th anniversary of the renowned Ruidoso Art Festival. Bringing together 30 years of their finest exhibitors, it was quite an honor to earn a "Best in Category" ribbon among those distinguished artists.

Two new events refreshed the look of our usual list of shows. In August the first Land and Wildlife Expo put on by the Gaylord Corporation at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN, brought a new core group together. Then, in September we returned once again to Tennessee for the AZAD Convention at the Memphis Zoo. It was a delight to be among this diverse group of people dedicated to insuring a quality experience for zoo-goers nationwide.

*With Deep Humility
I Want to Thank You,
My Collectors,
For Making 2011
Another
Extraordinary Year!*

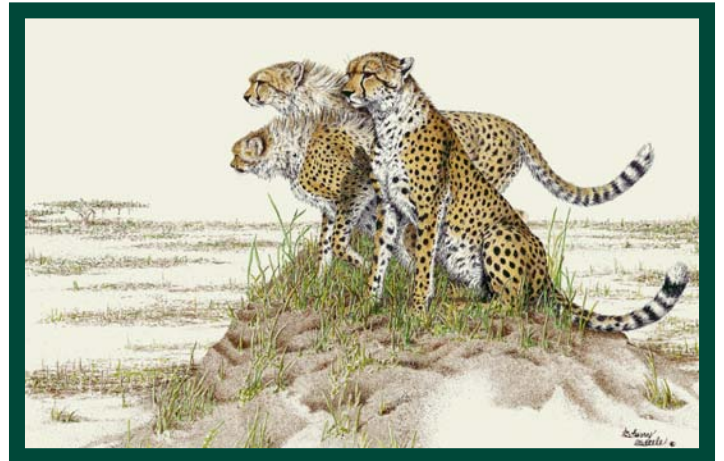
Interspersed among these events was our annual trip to Chimney Rock, Nebraska and a return for me to the Susan K. Black Workshop for professional wildlife artists in Dubois, Wyoming. A gathering of elite instructors and highly qualified students, it was a time of creative reinforcement for me.

Having eschewed the workshop for the past 6 years because no one else works in my medium, I felt it was time to seek their guidance again. Immersed in an environment of honest assessment, I was thoroughly critiqued and filled with encouragement. Not having seen my work as it has evolved since 2005, the praise from some of the finest wildlife artists in the world was music to my ears.

Wrapping up the show year with a Fall replication of the Spring Cottonwood, we unexpectedly found it necessary to cancel our appearance at the Shops at La Cantera in San Antonio. This year's frequent hints to slow down a bit finally prevailed as Chuck faced open-heart surgery. We are learning to take life at a slightly altered speed while he recovers and in the meantime, my drawing table beckons me with the promise of renewed inspiration.

New Works

"Final Exam"



This is a test. The Cheetah has taught them everything she knows about survival and time is running out. An outstanding mother, she has successfully raised them to adulthood. Still wearing a light cape of mantel hair, her yearling cubs don't know that in a few days she will walk away from them forever. Only instinct, a dose of luck, and the skills she has taught them will decide whether or not they have passed her Final Exam.

“Whispers In The Grass”



Not even the bark of a Vervet monkey marked her presence. Silently slipping out of the long grass in front of us, the leopard boldly approached on velvet paws. The lengthening shadows marked the approach of dark, when her senses and prowess were at their peak. Her eyes said it all...this was her time and her territory. Long after the grasses ceased moving, the ghost of her presence lingered, leaving an aura of intense beauty and danger in the air behind her.

“Moonlight Moment”



Exquisite in detail, powerful in impact. This scratchboard depiction of a leopard pausing on his midnight patrol encapsulates the natural beauty of the creature in his most

perfect element. The moon and the clouds are his friends. Soon to slip away into the shadows, his presence will be felt by others, but for some it will be too late.

“Ready To Rumble”



It has taken me eight safaris to collect the reference I needed for this pair of Black Rhinos. Far more rare and elusive than Whyte Rhinos, there are many reasons why this species is famous for its tendency to charge first and take names later. Seldom a social creature, these two are not pleased about the interruption. Quick to anger, it takes little to make them “Ready To Rumble”.

Scratchboard Jewels

Looking for a small original for your collection? Watch for these sparkling little gems at each show.



Sherry Steele, Wildlife Artist
5335 Magdalena Drive
Austin, TX 78735

(512) 892-3553
ssteele@texas.net
www.sherrysteele.net



“Heartstopper”

Sherry Steele 2012 COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

2012 PLANNED SHOWS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Jan 5-8 | Dallas Safari Club Show – Booth 1316-18
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX |
| Feb 1-4 | Safari Club International
Booth 4605-07
Mandalay Bay Hotel, Las Vegas, NV |
| May 5-6 | Cottonwood Spring Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| May 25-27 | Kerrville Art Festival –Tent 2, Booths 7-8
River Star Event Center, Kerrville, TX |
| July 27-29 | Ruidoso Art Festival
Convention Center, Ruidoso, NM |
| Aug 10-12 | Land & Wildlife Exposition
Opryland Conv. Center –Nashville, TN |
| Oct 6-7 | Cottonwood Fall Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |

OTHER SHOWS MAY BE SCHEDULED
Check website - www.sherrysteele.net



“Pixies Of The Night”