

"We have walked together in the shadow of a Rainbow."

Old Indian saying

Dear Friends,

Because of you, I greet each day with great anticipation. My step is light as I head to my studio each morning, anxious to see which path my pens will lead me down. The creatures who have shared their moments with me impatiently await their turn. The force of your validation has become the powerful beacon that buoys my steps and lights my way, freeing me, propelling me forward one dot at a time.

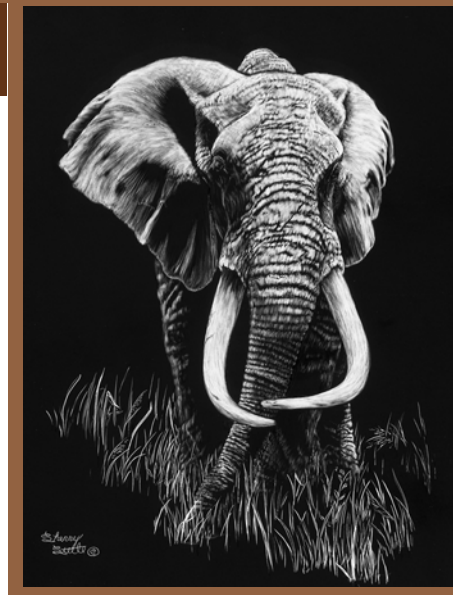
With your encouragement, I have been able to strike out against the restraints of my impaired vision. My work seems to have taken on a force of its own as I am driven to hurdle over the limitations of traditional Pen & Ink. After reviewing the major pieces finished since the start of 2010, that message is clear. Even though my Baby Zebra ("Wide Eyed Wonder") is the epitome of innocence, simplicity gives her the power to stand tall. In my first portrait of a person, the fierce glance of a young Maasai mother ("Heart of a Lioness") bridges the gap from innocence to the essence of Africa. She has the will to survive.

My charging bull elephant from the Ngorongoro Crater ("When There Were Giants Among Us") tests that will. He is a magnificent symbol of survival from a by-gone era. Building symbol upon symbol, my newly completed American Bald Eagle ("On Freedom's Wing") lifts us to the heights. Speaking louder than words, you can feel the surge of power in the stroke of his wings as he heads into the tempest. He, too, is a symbol and a survivor.



A Toast to YOU!

Annually I attempt to express my gratitude to you and annually I am defeated in my effort. The friendships from our chance meetings have enriched my life and my art from every perspective. Your loyalty and unexpected generosity humbles me.



I am blessed with the most genuinely bighearted Collectors of any artist in the world. The sunshine of your smiles is my pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Sherry Steele

The year behind us and the year ahead.

The year took off in a whirlwind at the new venue for the Dallas Safari Club Convention. With space for nearly 1,000 exhibitors from around the world, Dallas is now securely positioned for international prominence. With wheels humming, we next headed to Reno, NV, for the Safari Club International Convention. Not to be outdone, SCI opened its doors to an eager throng, where their accents from faraway countries piqued our imagination and made each new introduction an adventure.

For the first time in years the Spring Cottonwood show in Richardson, TX and the Texas Arts and Crafts Festival in Kerrville, TX favored us with good weather. Not letting beautiful weather go to waste, our collectors kept the booth buzzing. The sophisticated Ruidoso Art Festival (NM) added its chic presence to the list and a second "Best In Category" ribbon (Kerrville was the first) for the year.

Your spirit also came along with me during a summer of reminiscing. A reunion with my Venice (FL) High School classmates gathered us among the sand dunes that had been the heart of our young universe.

Leaving my footprints deep in the soft volcanic sand, I once again walked the beaches of my youth. Strands of beauty and friendship from this special region are tightly woven into the fabric of my artwork.

Further re-tracing the tracks of my childhood, we traveled to the Great Smoky Mountains. There, where the tendrils of mist settle among the rifts, my deep love of Nature was first instilled by my parents. Among the lush greens of those ancient mounts my powers of observation were honed as a child as we hiked the trails and splashed through the tumbling streams. The mists of the Smokies will always drift through my memories like a shadow and call to me in the heat of the Texas summer.

Not to be left out, a more recent addition to the well of my inspiration has been my time at the Durnal Ranch at Chimney Rock Nebraska. This year we worked the herd of Longhorns on horseback and rode the Hills where once the Sioux had placed their summer camps. We crossed the tracks of the Oregon Trail where Chimney Rock signaled to the pioneers that their wills would be severely tested against the peaks of the Rockies ahead. It is the same fortitude still found amidst the ranchers of the West. I always come away tired and stronger after my time among them.

Our journey continued into the Fall with some very special additions. An invitation to present a workshop for Women's Week at Camp Waldemar in Hunt, TX surrounded me with a group of amazing women ranging in age from 30 to 86. We romped through intense classes with a zest for life that had been instilled in them at Waldemar as young women. Then, the three shows of October tumbled over us in a rush (Cottonwood, Bayou Artfest in Houston and the brand new Shops at La Cantera Art Festival in San Antonio). Altogether, it was a grand way to wrap up our show year and still leave some time to swathe myself in reverie. This is the period when the inspiration that has lain dormant during the frenetic shows can bravely come to the forefront of my consciousness. And, when the flame of my inspiration begins to flicker and burn low, I can always tell it is time to return to Africa.

My humblest gratitude goes to the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces for their selfless dedication to defend our Freedom.

May they all be kept safe as they go into Harm's Way.

New Works

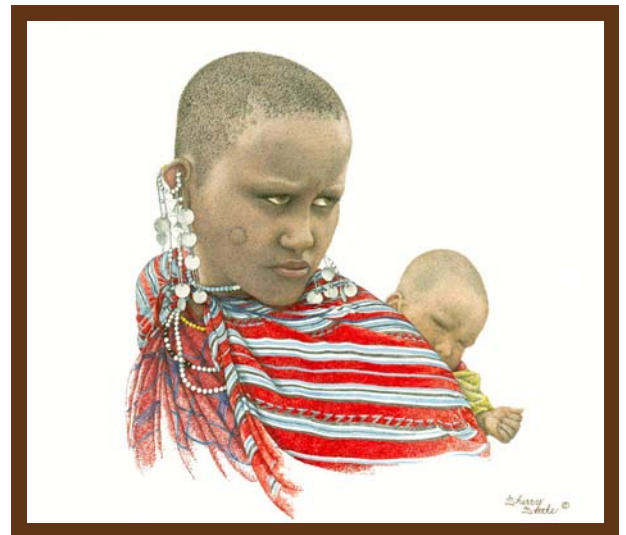
"Wide-Eyed Wonder"

Skittering around her mother, this little Zebra filly came to a skidding halt in front of our vehicle. Batting her eyelashes in confusion, she had to choose between flight or frolic. Under the protective gaze of her vigilant dam she was able to seize the moment as one of pure amusement, and continued her exuberant romp.



"Heart of a Lioness"

It was her youth, and it was her fire, that halted me in the Maasai manyatta (village). Only about 16 yrs. old, she carried her infant with all the tenderness and skill of a veteran. Triggered by an outburst from some of the other women (was it envy?) her instinctive reaction to defend and defy flashed from her eyes. Embodying all it takes to survive in the Maasai culture, her eyes express the fire and the mystery of Africa.



"On Freedom's Wing"

It was time for him. Finally breaking free from his confinement, this American Bald Eagle fearlessly sets his keen sight on the distant horizon. Even looming clouds cannot diminish the power of his wings as each stroke sets him free to soar into the tempest. He is Patriotism and Power.



"On Freedom's Wing" has been cropped for this newsletter.

"When There Were Giants Among Us"



Commemorated in a classic sneak attack, one of the last great bulls of the Ngorongoro Crater makes his entrance. Sighting him four separate times over the past ten years, he has always closed the chapter on my safaris to Tanzania. Now nearly 60 years old, he is shown here in his prime enforcing

his territorial supremacy. The Crater will feel empty if I don't spot him at least one more time.

New Offering

Presenting my work in a fresh way, we are now offering a selection of images on tumbled marble tiles. Each image permeates the stone and is resistant to moisture and wear. They are ideal for use as coasters or to display individually as accent pieces. Coming in a series of the Big Five, my Babies (Giraffe, Zebra, Lion, Camel and Elephant) and Long-horns, they make wonderful gifts to your friends. Or just to reward yourself. Order them individually for \$25 each or a set of five for \$100, plus shipping.



Sherry Steele Safari 2011/2012

It took only a short time after opening the books for the 2011 reservations to have our safari full. In fact, there have been so many requests to join us that we are leading another safari to Tanzania the following year. Changing from our usual custom of skipping a year between safaris is a tempting thought....you know I can never have enough of Africa! Please take a look at the "Safari" tab on my website and contact me at ssteele@texas.net if you would like to consider a future Sherry Steele Safari.



"On Safari with Sherry"

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

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



"The Look of Legends"

Sherry Steele 2011 COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

2011 PLANNED SHOWS

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| Jan 8-11 | Dallas Safari Club Show – Booth 1316-1318
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX |
| Jan 21-24 | Safari Club International – Booth 1177-1179
Sparks Convention Center, Reno, NV |
| May 7-8 | Cottonwood Spring Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| May 28-30 | Kerrville Art Festival –Inside Pavilion
River Star Event Center, Kerrville, TX |
| July 29-31 | Ruidoso Art Festival
Convention Center, Ruidoso, NM |
| Aug 12-14 | Land & Wildlife Expo – Booth 1219+
Opryland Conv. Center –Nashville, TN |
| Sept 1-3 | Wildside Room, AZAD Conference
Cook Convention Center – Memphis, TN |
| Oct 1-2 | Cottonwood Fall Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| Oct 8-9 | Bayou City Art Festival, Bagby Street
Downtown, Houston, TX |
| Oct 2011 | The Shops at LaCantera Art Show
San Antonio, TX |



Sketchbook, Tanzania '09

OTHER SHOWS MAY BE SCHEDULED, check - www.sherrysteele.net