

Beauty is man's connection to the Divine.

Old
Indian
Saying

**Surround yourself with that beauty,
immerse your spirit in it!**



A Salute to our Family of Collectors.

This was a year of fresh challenges and new adventures, all made possible by the special people who make up the Sherry Steele Family. Your encouragement and generosity sustain my dream on a daily basis. I hope you can see your impact on the works that emerge from my hands because it is you who put the heart into them.

What better way to start the year than with the Dallas Safari Club and Safari Club International conventions? Among the fabulous presentations of art and artifacts from around the world, my faithful friends found their way back to our little corner of the hall in a steady stream. Every day seemed to bring a new surprise to our booth, culminating in an enormous gift that overshadowed everything else that happened this year.

Thanks to a wonderful friend and benefactor, I was sent on a safari of a different sort. Given the amazing opportunity to study sculpting with internationally renowned silver sculptor Patrick Mavros (patrickmavros.com), I naively accepted the challenge to tackle a new medium.



Sherry and sculptor Patrick Mavros

Opening his home to us in Zimbabwe, we were given our own little thatched cottage that overlooked the wild game roaming the veldt below us. The remarkable Mavros family included us in their daily routines as they shared themselves and their beautiful country. They charmed us with

their grace and amused us with amazing stories of life in Africa in true Zimbabwean fashion. Not wanting to be intimidated by his commanding personality and master talent, my work in the wax studio went slowly. Sometimes, my hands literally shaking with fear, my fingers refused to push the cold clay into submission.

Always coming at my moments of greatest despair, Patrick's guidance and encouragement buoyed me up again. Perhaps shocking to us both, my clay sculpture actually looks like the innocent lion cub I sought. Receiving its final touches, the piece is currently being poured in sterling silver. Better still, Patrick's words of praise for a job well done still ring pure in my memory.

Following the intensity of the studio, we rewarded ourselves with a trip to see Victoria Falls, truly one of the wonders of the world. Drenched to the skin by its mists as we moved to each overlook, we sought to comprehend the magnitude of this powerful force in full flood. Then, we added one more escapade by taking a game-ride aboard African elephants. These elephants were rescued as youngsters from poaching incidents and I was given the opportunity to first observe them as they freely browsed in the bush. I found myself surrounded by a dozen formerly wild elephants, their inquisitive trunks searching my hands and pockets as I sketched. Even tiny Chizzie, only 5 months old, seemed to realize that I needed to record her story in my sketchbook.



My friend "CHIZZIE"

Further punctuating the year were trips to Colorado (to sketch the courtship rituals of turkeys, ancient petroglyphs and Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep), Nebraska for more Longhorns, and St. Louis to tour its beautiful zoo. And a special exhibit of my work at the Thomasville Cultural Center in Thomasville, GA revealed an area rich in history and cultural heritage. Nestled among the ancient, moss draped live oaks, our stay at the guest house of Pebble Hill Plantation took me back to my Southern roots.

Wrapping up the Fall shows before my thoughts turn to writing this always gives me the chance to put an exclamation point to the year. This is the time to reflect upon my many blessings. Often it feels like my drawing table must be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. There is no greater treasure for me than the gift of being able to follow the flow of my pens and the wealth of having friends such as you. Your faces glitter around me, far more precious than gold. Thank you for making my dreams come true.

Sherry Steele

NEW WORKS

All of this resulted in new works that went from serious to whimsical. It is an honor to share them with you as they slowly emerge.



“The Painted Phantoms of Africa”

Highly endangered, we searched the preserves of South Africa in hopes of sighting this illusive creature. Not to be confused with hyenas, the Wild Dogs are a distinct species of their own. One of Africa’s most efficient predators, their trademark coloration, white-tipped tails and ‘Mickey Mouse’ ears make them a perfect subject for my pens and inks. Caught in a rare moment of quiet, this alpha pair has paused to share the bond of affection and responsibility. A high intelligence is clearly evident in their piercing eyes.



“Talk of the Town”

This is where the whimsy started this year. Irresistibly cute, you almost forget how destructive Prairie Dogs can be to their territory. Clearing acres of prairie grass around their holes for better visibility of predators, they rely on alert lookouts to warn them of danger. Taking advantage of the moment, this charming threesome shares “dog town” gossip over a mid-day snack of prairie wildflowers.

-Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

Exploring the canyons of southeastern Colorado in search of courting Merriams turkeys and ancient native petroglyphs, we were delighted to look up from a primeval drawing to find a small herd of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep eyeing us. Leading his band of ewes and lambs to safety on the hillside above us, the ram paused from his vantage point to survey their progress. This same scene has been observed and etched into stone for thousands of years before us. Looking closely at his granite pedestal you will find the petroglyph I memorialized in homage to those hunters/artists who preceded us.



“Peak of Perfection”



“Show Me A Little Leg” Courting Ostriches

Tempted by his flirtatious preening, the hen steps closer to observe the enticing flutter of the rooster’s long eyelashes. The striking black and white plumage of the male ostrich is his camouflage for sitting on the nest at night and the perfect suit for courting the ladies. Performing her own exaggerated strut, the female’s muted colors are transformed into a study in grace and seduction. Warming to his courtship dance, the male’s legs and neck begin to flush red with the heat of his ardor.

“A New Beginning” Baby Camel

Currently underway, this one surprised even me when it demanded to be the next image coming off my drawing table. Trying to fathom why I may have been impelled to draw a baby camel, other than the fact that they are adorable, left me very puzzled. Sighting this small Bactrian bull calf at the St. Louis Zoo, with his little humps still flat and legs spraddled for balance, struck a chord in me. It may have been concern over my son’s deployment to Iraq that subconsciously triggered the connection. Perhaps this fellow can be an omen for better, more peaceful times in a part of the world that has never known peace.



Images on Leather

We are excited to offer some of my images printed on leather as a new option to my collectors. Look for them at my upcoming shows.

Sherry Steele “Collectors” Safari 2009

Africa beckons again! Our calendar is set for the next adventure, already scheduled for Feb. 24-Mar. 10, 2009. Personally leading you to my ‘tried and true’ favorites in Tanzania, you can count on a safari that is safe, filled with the wonders of Africa’s wildlife and wrapped up in a special camaraderie. All at a revised, and greatly improved, price.

My guides have already been hand-selected. Their exceptional knowledge and friendship from our past safaris has created a personal bond that will immediately put you at ease. Our select group of only 16 travelers (including myself and Chuck) will share the spectacle of newborn wildebeest, antelope and zebras frolicking on their tiny legs as the great migration is forming.

Come with us on this life-changing adventure. Tanzania has become the destination of choice and is raising all of its lodging and park fees to maintain a stable and uncrowded environment for wildlife and visitor alike. For more details and information, please go to the Safari page on my website www.sherrysteele.net. You may contact me by email at ssteele@texas.net or by telephone (512) 892-3553 with your questions.



On Safari with Sherry

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“Pivot Point” –Gemsbok

Sherry Steele ANNUAL COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

Confirmed 2008 Shows

- Jan 10-13 Dallas Safari Club Show - Booth # 246-247
Market Hall on Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, TX
- Jan 23-26 Safari Club International – Booth # 1177-1179
Sparks Convention Center, Reno, NV
- Mar 28-30 Texas Indian & Southwest Art Market –
Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, TX
- May 3-4 Cottonwood Spring Art Festival -
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX
- May 23-26 Texas Arts & Crafts Festival-
River Star Event Center, Kerrville, TX
- Aug 29-31 Copper Mountain Art & Music Festival
Main Pavilion, Copper Mountain, CO
- Oct 4-5 Cottonwood Fall Art Festival-Richardson, TX
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX

Other shows will be added. For details, check my website
www.sherrysteele.net

