

Sherry Steele 2009 COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

We do not touch people so lightly that we never leave a trace. Millin

*May those you touch, and those who touch you,
always leave a fingerprint of Beauty.*

Dear Friends,

This has been a year filled with touching moments and strokes of good fortune. All brought about by the amazing people who accidentally stepped into our booth or have become our collectors and staunch advocates. Your words of encouragement light my way and trail behind you like the tail of a meteor.

While 2008 was a year with fewer major trips, it became a year of short adventures and encounters with special creatures of the two-legged sort. Impatient to embark on my next safari, you made me pause to relish our moments of connection. Whether at my drawing table or observing Nature's treasures, you are beside me as I free the creatures from the pages of my sketchbook. Without you to share them with, there would only be emptiness.



Sketching with a friend

This is my once-a-year chance to say "thank you"! Thank you for choosing my artwork for your homes, where it can nurture you from your walls. Thank you for feeling the passion I have for the creatures in each piece. Thank you for choosing my work because of its subtlety and mastery of the medium. Thank you for letting me use my eyes and hands to capture those fleeting moments. You help me put the heart into them.

Gratefully yours,

Sherry Steele

2008 In Retrospect

Beginning the year with its usual air of eager anticipation, the Safari Club conventions in January did not disappoint us. It always surprises me when the beauties of the Christmas Season can be



eclipsed by the fun of our first shows of the year. The Dallas Safari Club Show and Convention was suffused with traditional Texas hospitality and filled with friends. Morphing into one of the finest shows of its kind in the world, it strives to constantly refine its selection of exhibitors. Next, Reno beckoned with the Safari Club International Convention. Beginning with a two-step and ending on a high note of great sales and great camaraderie, the miles sang beneath our wheels as we headed back home. We were on a natural high after reuniting with our friends/collectors from years past.

Following were the Texas Indian and Southwest Art Market, Cottonwood Art Festival in Richardson, TX (both Spring and Fall) and the Texas Arts and Crafts Festival (Kerrville, TX). We have also added several new shows to further spread our wings and soar. Escaping from the infamous Texas summer heat, the Ruidosa Art Festival (Ruidosa, NM) was a welcome introduction to a refreshing new region and 'flooded' with a new group of collectors. As the heat blazed on we fled to the crisp-edged air of Colorado for the Copper Mountain Art Festival. What fun it was to dance and introduce folks from around the US to my artwork. Then, we were able to wrap up the year with a new bow at our first appearance in the Bayou City Art Festival in Houston, TX. From the turnout, you would never have known the resilient Houstonians were just recovering from Hurricane Ike.

Chimney Rock, Nebraska



Does a real cowgirl wear a safari hat?

Our annual trek to Nebraska to check on our Longhorns on the Durnal Ranch included a wonderful bonus this year when we were able to participate in our first Branding. Founded on necessity, this time-honored institution is filled with many of the principles on which our lives should be based. Teamwork, watching out for your neighbor, efficient and careful handling of the livestock, and sharing the load based on personal responsibility were evident at every turn.

A classic Branding, men, women and children alike participated as we rounded up the Longhorns, roped, inoculated, and branded 200 calves. Included at every stage, the youngsters learned the skills from their mentors that will become the underpinning of their lives. And yes, the Cowgirls were impressive. Confident and skillful, they quietly went about the business of cutting the calves from the herd and roping them for the branding teams. In the truest traditions of the West, they worked without drama or ugly words, giving the guys a bit of serious competition. In the shadow of Chimney Rock National Landmark we confirmed that the traditions of the West are alive and well, safe in the hands of ranchers like our friend Judy Durnal.

Texas Christian University Presentation



Jerry Ray, Sherry, Chancellor Victor Boschini, Christy Hoban, Dir. Of Alumni Relations, and Betty Ray

Texas Christian University was presented my piece "Heart of a Giant" as a gift from alumni Jerry Ray. Known as the Horned Frogs, TCU's fondness for these special little reptiles is renowned. Taking it one step further, our friend and TCU benefactor, Jerry, is donating his entire collection of Horned Lizard pieces to be placed on display in the TCU Student Union. The original of my rendering, "Heart of a Giant", will eventually reside in the Office of the Chancellor. Shown here, Chancellor Victor Boschini is accepting the gift on behalf of TCU.

New Works In 2008

"A New Beginning"

Begun in 2007, and completed in time for our early shows in 2008, this little fellow has continued to steal hearts. His double humps still deflated, I found this little Bactrian Camel

bull calf irresistible when I first sketched him at the St Louis Zoo. With his soft eyes and spindly legs spraddled for balance in the loose sand, apparently he strikes the same chord in others as he struck with me.

"Cause For Alarm"

Silently slipping out of the bush in front of us, the female leopard materialized out of the shadows. She not only seemed unafraid of us, she began to respond to my best imitation of a leopard's call. Gliding past the side of our open vehicle, she echoed me with a low, throaty rumble. Casually, she settled into the fastidious process of grooming her splendid coat within feet of us. Suddenly, a veil dropped over her luminous eyes. I was transfixed with the transformation taking place in "my" leopard as another vehicle approached.

Her eyes now smoldered with a suspicious glint as the instinct to flee flowed through her. She was gone. You can read her progression of emotions as they were shared with me.

"Pixies of the Night"



Pookie, a Lesser Bush Baby

While in Zimbabwe last summer we were guests in the home of internationally recognized silver sculptor Patrick Mavros. Each evening the family's pair of pet Lesser Bush Babies would join us



"A New Beginning"



during the cocktail hour. Among the smallest of primates, these tiny elf-like creatures would spring around the room like furry ping-pong balls. Inquisitive and intelligent, they delighted us with their antics. As creatures of the night, the Bush Babies presented a special challenge to me and my unforgiving medium. There was only one way to create a dark background.....one dot at a time. After 2 months and tens of thousands of dots, I was rewarded with a veil-like luminosity that set my Bush Babies aglow.



“Living the Legend”

Surrounded by Longhorns on several occasions this year was a hint I could not ignore. Clearly, it was time to do another piece about our heritage. This complex, classic composition puts you in the midst of a moving palette of color and horns so real you can almost feel the dust swirling around you. Sixth in my series of “Legends”, it will be ready to unveil at the Safari Club shows in January.



“Living the Legend” (underway)

Sherry Steele Collector’s Safari 2009

Having patiently banked the fire for another safari until now, I am ready to let the flame of Africa burst over me in an explosion of heat and inspiration. We have a marvelous group of 14 people going with us on our next photographic safari to Tanzania in Feb. 2009. Sharing my favorite camps in Africa with friends is one of my greatest joys. Our bags are packed and the cameras are loaded. I wish each and every one of you could come with us.



On safari with Sherry

There has also been so much interest in this safari that we are seriously considering organizing our next safari for 2010 rather than delaying it for the usual 2 years. Please check the Safari page on my website at www.sherrysteele.net for the details and contact me if you are interested. Let the wildfire of Africa rage.



From my sketchbook, South Africa

Did you know?

Did you know that purchase options are available on Sherry Steele Originals?

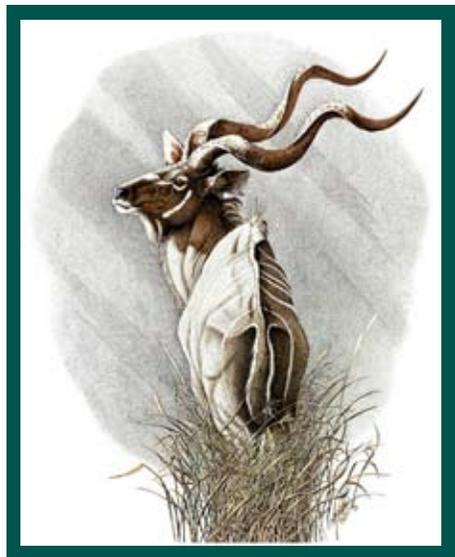
Did you know that a package of “Provenance” (e.g., copies of the sketches, thumbnail compositions and notes made in preparation for the piece) now accompanies each original?

Did you know that the two all-time best selling pieces of Sherry’s are “Spirit of Mother Africa” and “Lady of the Alamo, Her Name Is Courage”?

Did you know you can receive updates and invitations via email? Just email us at ssteele@texas.net to be included in our mailings.

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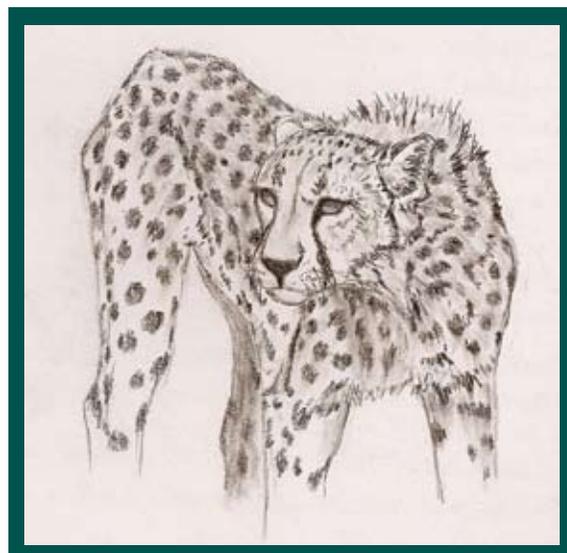
"Arrogance of Elegance"

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PLANNED SHOWS FOR 2009

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| Jan 8-11 | Dallas Safari Club Show – Booth 246-247
Market Hall on Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, TX |
| Jan 21-24 | Safari Club International – Booth 1177-1179
Sparks Convention Center, Reno, NV |
| May 2-3 | Cottonwood Spring Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| May 23-24 | Kerrville Art Festival
Kerrville, Texas |
| July 2009 | Ruidoso Art Festival, Ruidoso, NM
Check Website for Dates & Location |
| Sept 4-6 | Copper Mtn Art & Music Festival,
Main Pavilion, Copper Mountain, CO |
| Sept 2009 | AZAD Conference, Memphis, TN
Check Website for Dates & Location |
| Oct 3-4 | Cottonwood Fall Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| Oct 2009 | Bayou City Art Festival, Houston, TX
Check website for Dates & Location |

OTHER SHOWS MAY BE SCHEDULED - www.sherrysteele.net



"Cheetah sketch, Tanzania '06"