

Sherry Steele 2010 COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

LET THE BEAUTY OF NATURE LEAVE ITS FOOTPRINTS ON YOUR SOUL. Peggy Anderson

Dear Friends,

Like the fullness of a warm African night, the memories of you fill my studio as I work. Your words break the silence surrounding my drawing table like the roar of lions outside my tent. Joining the voices of the creatures springing from the pages of my sketchbook, the chorus is both sweet and insistent. The room is alive around me.

Just as it was for many of you, the year 2009 has proven to be a year of challenges and triumphs. Philosophically, it often seems Chuck and I live charmed lives, so a few bumps in our road to adventure were bound to slow us down eventually. Interestingly, the subjects in my new works reflect the determination it took to prevail over some of the obstacles. From the hardy little Warthogs that began the year (a premonition, perhaps?), to the Cape Buffalo charging out of a mudhole, their powerful demeanor buttressed my spirit every day. Whether it is from the push of the new animals I have seen waiting to be set free, or the near loss of an eye, the ink flowing from my pens has become emboldened.



love for the creatures I capture on paper, it is the confirmation from your own words that my work will live on, enriching your lives. It is with renewed relish that we look forward to seeing you again in the coming year.

Wishing you Sunshine all of your days and Joy in every moment.....

Sherry Steele

The year behind us and the year ahead

What better way to start 2009 than to be among our friends at the annual Dallas Safari Club Convention? Always a fun event for showing the full range of my wildlife, it is traditionally when I unveil my newest works. Hustling on to Reno, NV for the Safari Club International Convention, we had the chance to reconnect with our more far-flung collectors. Setting the tenor for the rest of the year, the collectors stepping into our booth at those two shows both filled our spirits with their approval and left us with optimism for the year ahead.



And that brings me to my newly completed "Rock of Ages". Fired in the crucible of the year, this magnificent lion's gaze carries you into the distance as the granite kopje blazes above him. Paw overturned in open submission, it shows a rare moment of tranquility in the Serengeti. Filled with unexpected symbolism, completion of this piece was a therapeutic victory for me. Rather than a devastating event, my injury has pushed me to a new level with my art. I can hardly wait to discover how my adapted way of seeing will affect future works. Please join me on this new journey.

The simplest joys of the coming Season are the perfect reminder of just how rich you have made my life. Sharing my



Only the brilliance of Africa could have overshadowed that great start to 2009. Gathering up a terrific group of adventurers, we set out to soak up the heart and soul of Africa. Tapping into the wild jewels of Tanzania, we went from being surrounded by elephants in the Tarangire, to sipping Sundowners atop Kikoti Rock, having a cheetah posing with her four cubs beside our vehicles, and dancing with the Maasai in their boma. Our small group piled encounter upon encounter, and Africa gave us her best. I wish you could have been there with us!

Coming back to reality upon our return, my head was filled with crisp, new encounters begging to be shared. At the Spring Cottonwood Art Festival, Richardson, TX, we were deluged with rain and collectors brave enough to face the downpour. The rain failed to dampen our enthusiasm as we rolled on to the Texas Arts and Crafts Fair in Kerrville, TX. As the only official art show limited to Texas artists, it was an honor to be awarded *Best In Category* for my work.



Escaping from the scorching mid-summer Texas heat and unrelenting drought in July, the highly ranked Ruidoso Art Festival beckoned from the cool of the New Mexico mountains. A jewel of a show, it has quickly become one of our favorites. There, the outstanding quality of exhibitors made a second *Best In Category* award even more significant to me. And accompanying the award is an automatic acceptance into next year's show....Hooray! Finding mountains to be

the 'escape that refreshes', in September we packed up again for Copper Mountain, CO (Copper Country Art and Music Festival) and Castle Rock Artfest south of Denver. New for us, Castle Rock was another group of exceptional artists and fresh exposure to a knowledgeable group of collectors. It was a wonderful surprise to find friends from around the region making the trek to see us at this elite little show.

Crowning the year was the Fall Cottonwood Art Festival (did I mention rain?) and then the Bayou Art Festival in Downtown Houston. What a great way to end our 'show' year. We often leave our final show near the point of exhaustion, but the exhilaration this year more than compensates for the fatigue. We are left with such enthusiasm from seeing our collectors again that the months until we see you once more seem to be lacking in substance.

The other incredible news is that I have been invited to do an exhibit of my work at the magnificent new Art Museum at the Cultural Heritage Center in Arusha, Tanzania. Newly completed, this 35,000 sq. foot museum is destined to become the finest presentation of African art in the world.

The dates and events surrounding this exhibit, including workshops with the children in local schools, are still being worked out. You can be certain I will have it posted on my website as soon as we have a firm schedule.

That brings me back to you and the works burning in my mind. This is not a treadmill, this is a fantastic journey of discovery and joy in the wonders of Nature to share with you. If only my pens could go as fast as my brain is spinning!

New Works

"Nothing Butt Tails"



This flight of warthogs is almost ready to take off. Lacking in physical appeal, it truly is a case of personality that makes this tough little creature irresistible. It is always great fun watching the reaction of our safari groups each time we encounter a family of warthogs. Manes flying, tails whipping like warning flags on dune buggies, they bring laughter and frustration every time we try to slip up on them. Even the tiniest piglets bolting out of sight have their tails high in alert mode.

"Bad To The Bone"



Glare, threat and thunder marked this encounter. Heading back to our Serengeti camp at sunset, this old bull erupted out of a mudhole in front of us. Slingshotting muck and water, his muzzle threw a spray of droplets that sparkled like diamonds in the rays of the setting sun. I can still feel his malevolent glower as he swung away from us and lumbered off into the bush.

“A Study In Stealth”



Bringing her cubs within feet of our vehicle as I sketched, this cheetah mother showed us her best hunting technique. Using our vehicle as a foil, it was pure beauty to watch her move. Originally captured on Scratchboard with all of its exquisite detail, you can feel the tension as she spies her target and prepares to launch the final assault.

“Rock of Ages”



Belly bulging from a successful hunt, the pride’s noble male claimed the prime place atop the kopje. Scanning the Serengeti Plains around him in perfect contentment, he seemed to have the world at his feet. Literally glowing against the granite boulder behind him, the vivid turquoise and orange tones of the ancient lichens set the rock on fire. What do you see in the rock? Almost everyone has seen something different in the fissures and shadows.

On the Drawing Table

I don’t know her name yet, but this beautiful little zebra filly frisked in front of us in the Ngorongora Crater. Under her mother’s watchful eye, she tested her new legs and paused to study the vehicle filled with silly people in front of her. Lashes long enough to make even a Diva jealous, she was one of the prettiest little zebra foals I have sketched.



Unfinished Baby Zebra

This is the perfect companion piece to hang with the baby giraffe in “It’s Hard To Be Humble”.

Sherry Steele Collectors Safari 2011

My passion for Africa never lies dormant. My sketchbook is brimming with new images from this year’s safari, impatiently waiting their turn, but my spirit is already longing to be back there. For as long as we are able, I hope to return again and again. The itinerary and information is already on the Safari tab on my website www.sherrysteele.net and the list of guests is already beginning to fill. Join us and let me show you just why I love it so much.

My deepest gratitude and humble thanks to the men and women that are fighting to protect our freedom. May they, and their loved ones here at home, be kept safe in mind, body and spirit.

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2010 PLANNED SHOWS

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| Jan 7-10 | Dallas Safari Club Show
-- Booths # 1317-1318
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas |
| Jan 20-23 | SCI Safari Club International Show
--Booths # 1177-1179
Sparks Convention Center, Reno, NV |
| May 1-2 | Cottonwood Spring Arts Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| July 24-25 | Ruidoso Art Festival
Convention Center, Ruidoso, TX |
| Sept 2-4 | Copper Mountain Art & Music Festival
Main Pavilion, Copper Mountain, CO |
| Sept 10-11 | Castle Rock Art Show
Downtown Castle Rock, CO |
| Oct 2-3 | Cottonwood Fall Arts Festival
Beltline Rd. near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| Oct 9-10 | Bayou City Art Festival
Downtown Houston, TX |



"Maasai Woman"
Tanzania Sketchbook '09