

*"Art enables us to find ourselves,
And lose ourselves, at the same time."*

Thomas Morton

Dear Friends,

Carrying a steaming mug of coffee in the pre-dawn light, the creature on my drawing table greets me as I open my studio and slide onto my chair. The quiet of my studio envelops me like a warm blanket as my fingers grasp a pen. Casting my eyes around the room, the bits of furs, feathers and fossils collected over the years remind me of the artwork enhanced by them.....and the promise of those yet to come.

Africa! My internal compass has been spinning wildly over the past several months, seeking its direction. Frequent trips, frequent interruptions, and all of those animals crashing around in my head awaiting their turn to come out leaves me in a tornado of confusion. There is an urgency to set them free. Oddly, those subjects I most love to depict, the wildlife of Africa, have gone into hiding. It is almost as though I fear releasing them until I am positive they will be replenished again. Our return to Africa in February will, I am certain, calm the turmoil and re-light their fire. For this artist's spirit, Africa is still her true North.



You, the Collectors of my work, have become the Fabric of my life. The animals that we have shared and the friendships we have formed are the golden threads that have woven us together. You have become the mantle that warms me and encourages me. At times, it is a crazy patchwork of miss-matched bits of travel, art and connection. Yet it all still fits together seamlessly in this amazing sampler of Life. What a magnificent tapestry we are creating, one stitch at a time. Thank you for embellishing our lives with the luminous threads of your loyalty.

Sherry Steele

The Year Behind Us and The Year Ahead

2012 didn't wait to get off to a roaring start. With barely time to put away Christmas decorations, the glitter of the Season gave way to the rush of our first shows of the year. The lingering afterglow of the Holidays lit the road ahead of us with anticipation as the Dallas Safari Club Convention created a winning combination for everyone with its spacious venue and welcoming Texas attitude. The record breaking 39,000 attendees savored the exhibits, while the exhibitors themselves reveled in the crowd and the camaraderie of renewing old friendships. Our expanded booth showcased more of my works in Chuck's elegant framing as we presented our first offering of "When There Were Giants Among Us" and "Ready To Rumble" as oversized Giclée prints on canvas. They truly made a statement to the crowd.



KEYE tv interview with host Jason Wheeler

Still kicking up our heels (are people supposed to have this much fun?), we headed to the Safari Club International Convention. Usually held in Reno, NV, it was held in the neon lights of Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. Oversized and divided into separate showrooms, we tried to quiet our misgivings about the venue. Not to worry! Even in our distant corner of the convention our loyal patrons searched us out for a hug and to swap news, while many new customers chanced upon our booth. The spirit of discovery shared with each new collector, and the fond reunions with the old, filled our conversation on the long road home.

To break up the drive back to Austin, we stopped to visit special friends in Truth or Consequences, NM. There, I worked with the Women's Auxiliary of the local American Legion as they packed boxes for our troops in Afghanistan. Having packed more than 5,700 boxes for troops from New Mexico, these dedicated women meet monthly until our troops return home. Filling each box with a carefully selected list of items that sent a bit of comfort from home (yes, that included cans of hot salsa), they always include a note of appreciation for the selfless sacrifice of our troops. It was a true privilege to work alongside these loyal women.

The year rolled on with our tried & true shows at the Cottonwood Art Festival (Spring & Fall) in Richardson, TX, the Texas State Arts and Crafts Fair in Kerrville, TX, and the Ruidoso Art Festival in Ruidoso, NM. Always there to fill our booth with your smiles, you did not disappoint us.

Then, as if our plate wasn't already full enough, we decided to throw in four new events. For the first time in many years we exhibited at a show in Austin. This brand new outdoor event, the first of its kind at the exclusive Domain, was such a success that it will now be held twice a year.

Keeping the roads hot, early June placed us for the first time in the Omaha Summer Arts Festival. Located in downtown Omaha, NE, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet a new group of collectors in a vibrant setting. Still seeking to escape the heat and open new markets, September found us headed north again to the Oklahoma City Arts Festival. Show attendees exhibited their stalwart pioneer spirit and love of art as they faced temperatures hitting 104' inside the tents (so much for escaping the heat!). Both the Omaha and Oklahoma City shows will be back on our schedule in 2013.

"My friends are my Estate."

Emily Dickinson

A Year for Recognition



Dallas Safari Club "Artist of the Year 2013"

This also became a year of recognition for my distinctive approach to wildlife. With Best In Category awards at both the Kerrville and Ruidoso shows, as well as an Award of Excellence in Oklahoma City, it was very rewarding to have the judges recognize the delicate balance of detail and drama I seek to attain in each piece. This was followed by a fun, 30-minute interview on local television. You can watch the interview in its entirety, including an explanation of my technique, on my Facebook page. And, to top off the year, there came the call from the Dallas Safari Club announcing me as their choice for "Artist of the Year 2013". Wow, I am so blessed!

To stay current with events like these, you can check my Facebook page, Sherry Steele Wildlife Artist, for regular postings. You are more likely to find quick little updates there than on my website.

"High Desert Dandy"



Many of you at the safari club shows saw me in the first stages of this portrait of a Desert Mule Deer from the high deserts of New Mexico. Rimed with an early winter snow, the veil of falling snow flakes is transforming the Buck into a frosted apparition. Even his courtly crown is embellished with the delicate lacework of snow caught in the ridges of his antlers.

In Their New Homes

Many of you have shared the creative ways you have used my artwork. We do so enjoy seeing those pictures as it confirms time and again that they do, indeed, go to the right homes. If you would like to share the special way you have used my art to enhance your life, please email a photograph to me at ssteale@texas.net.

“Suspicion”



Shhh! With footsteps muffled, even the slightest movement will confirm her suspicions and trigger her strike. The heavily laden spruce boughs shroud the still air as a silent buffer and screen predator from her prey. Neither one is willing to make the next move. Just like the cougar, you don't need to see her quarry to know it is quivering with fear somewhere beneath the branches. To add footprints or a rabbit in the shadows would be trite. Your imagination will conjure up the rest of the story.

“A Peek At Innocence”

Discovering this little charmer during an early morning walk in our neighborhood, I was able to sketch him before he disappeared. Innocently thinking his beautifully spotted hide kept him well hidden, he was the perfect model for me as instinct kept him motionless while his mother browsed and I sketched. Peeking through the fern, he was betrayed by his big ears and luminous eyes. Finally, panic overcame instinct when a monster garbage truck roared past and he scampered off on delicate legs.

“Something To Strut About”

Caught in half-strut (and nearly half-finished), everything about this Eastern Wild Turkey says this is going to be his day. After years of collecting reference and much, not too subtle, pressure from some of you, I have finally tackled a turkey. A chance meeting with Tess Randle Jolly, a wildlife photographer who specializes in wild turkeys, gave me the extreme detail I needed to tie together my field sketches of them during their Spring courtship rites.



There was a reason I feared this challenge. These remarkable birds are simply brilliant, both in elusive behavior and in coloration. The complexity and iridescence of their feathers have turned this into my most demanding undertaking. I think I can....I think I can!!

I hope to see you in 2013, when I will be filled with new stories and fresh inspiration. It is my debt and my pledge to continue to tempt your eyes and win your hearts as I portray the secrets the animals have shared with me since last we met.



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“Jewels of India”

Sherry Steele 2013 COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

Planned Shows for 2013

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| Jan. 3-6 | Dallas Safari Club Show – Booths 1316-18
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX |
| Jan. 23-26 | Safari Club International Booths 1177-1179
Sparks Convention Center, Reno, NV |
| March | Art at the Domain, Spring Show
Domain Shopping Center, Austin, TX |
| May 4-5 | Cottonwood Spring Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| May 24-26 | Texas Arts & Crafts Show
River Star Event Center, Kerrville, TX |
| June 7-9 | Omaha Summer Arts Festival
Downtown, Omaha, NE |
| July 26-28 | Ruidoso Art Festival
Convention Center, Ruidoso, NM |
| Sep 7-9 | Oklahoma City Art Festival
OKC Community College, OKC, OK |
| Oct 5-6 | Cottonwood Fall Art Festival
Beltline Rd near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| October | Art at the Domain, Fall Show
Domain Shopping Center, Austin, TX |

