

*"A journey is best measured in friends,
Rather than in miles."*

Tim Cahill

Dear Friends,

The headlamp burns softly across the pages of my safari journal, dimmed by the darkness of the deep African night and the brilliance of the day's events. The thin canvas of our tent barely muffles the occasional sounds of approaching wildlife, punctuating my notes and forever resonating in my memory. Hurrying to fill in the hasty sketches begun at the moment of the encounters, I struggle to complete them before the morning light opens its next chapter. Africa is once again unveiling her secrets for me and I must be ready.

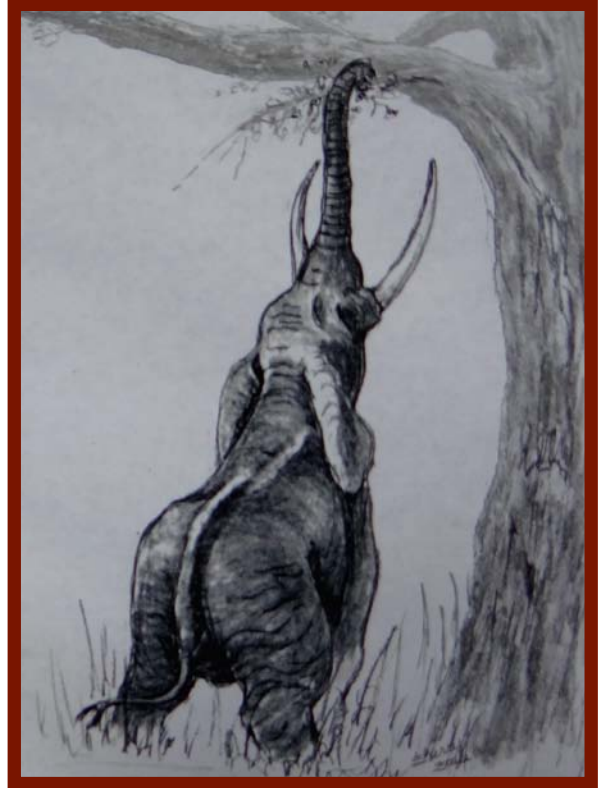
Surely the hunger to return to Africa time and again will someday be quenched. But, not yet. The storehouse of encounters must be repeatedly filled to the brim until they spill over onto my paper. Pent up and pacing the cages of my mind, restless creatures claw at the door of my memory in search of freedom. The prospect of sharing their stories with you wells up within me as the ink begins to flow.

You, my Friends, give purpose to my obsession. I owe it to you to faithfully preserve those stolen moments these creatures have divulged to me. This is my small and humble offering as a "thank you" for the many blessings you have brought to every aspect of my life. I am forever indebted to you.



DSC "Artist Of The Year"

Sherry



Safari '13 Journal Sketch, "Almost Out of Reach"

The Year Behind Us and the Year Ahead

Fireworks and fun marked the start of 2013. Arriving at the Dallas Convention Center on New Year's Day in time to see the sign raised designating me as the Dallas Safari Club "Artist of the Year" could not have been more auspicious. With "When There Were Giants Among Us", embellishing the cover of the annual Convention issue of DSC's "Gametrails" magazine, I was proud to be among our many friends and collectors from around the world. Their constant encouragement and faith in my work has been a powerful factor in my personal and professional success in the world of Wildlife Artists.

Traveling to Reno, NV, for Safari Club International's last event at this venue, we bid a fond farewell to a setting that first introduced me to this fine organization. Moving the Convention to the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, there is a renewed energy and flavor to this event. While I will miss the personal, "cowboy" flavor of Reno, the difficulty of reaching it via ground or air, will not be missed. Mixing camo with sequins, we look forward to kicking up our heels amidst the glitz of Las Vegas.

With Africa quickly looming ahead of us and our two most important shows crammed into a single month, it took immense willpower to maintain my focus. Already packed, we had little time to return home, fill orders, and then head to Tanzania. The select group going on safari with us could only imagine the adventures ready to unfold before our eyes. There, amidst the intense need to capture those ephemeral moments in my journal, my errant vision finally stabilized. Perhaps my best journal ever, it is ready to share with you in our booth.

The return home found us still trying to grasp reality as Art At the Domain (Austin), Spring and Fall Cottonwood (Richardson, TX), Texas Arts and Crafts Fair (Kerrville, TX), and the Ruidoso Art Festival (Ruidoso, NM) fell quickly upon us. Belying the economy, we were rewarded with more great shows as we met new collectors and renewed friendships we have made along the way.

Intertwined throughout this hectic pace there were several special additions. September found me once again among my peers and mentors at the Susan K. Black Foundation's annual workshop in Wyoming, where I studied with the great Robert Bateman. Back at home I hosted the Austin chapter of the American Association of University Women in my studio for a private tour. October followed with a showcase and address before the University of Texas Forum and the Austin Newcomers Club. Re-telling the circuitous artistic journey from my childhood in the Smoky Mountains to Africa, via Washington, D.C., connects on many levels with those in search of following their own passion.



"Sherry with Robert Bateman"

As the sun sets on 2013, filled with the memories of the fire of the African sky, there is the promise of 2014

lying just beyond the horizon. It is beckoning me forward with the promise of new encounters to share.

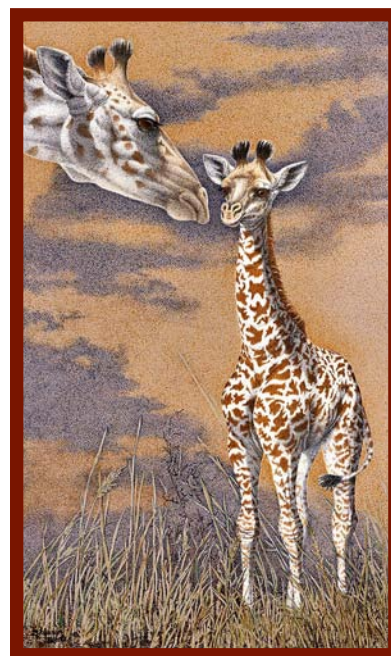
New Works

"This Magic Moment"



A tender moment between mother and cub is frozen in time. Still too tiny to re-join the pride, she has her precious cub nestled safely against her. Forcing him to settle down for a much-needed nap is the last thing he wants to do. In this time of feast and frenzy around the waterhole, he is sheltered from the harsh realities of life on the Serengeti. It is a moment for them both to cherish because all he knows is that he is the center of her world.

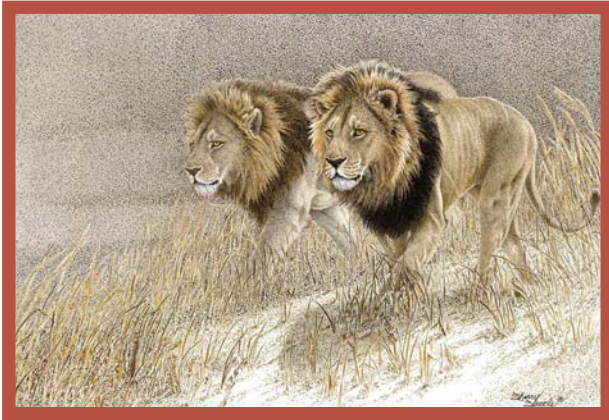
"Life Coach"



A mother knows when to give encouragement to her bewildered babe. Only days old, this little Maasai Giraffe frolicked around the towering adults. With his uncooperative legs still learning how to work in unison, every step was an experiment in coordination. Disappearing into a ravine, he came flying out of the brush at the other end with a Waterbuck close on his heels. Seeking solace, a few words from his mom brought a smile to his face and off he went again.

A big commotion followed in the bush and the entire herd of Waterbuck stampeded out of the ravine, only this time it was our little giraffe in the rear. Gangly legs kicking in every direction, he was beaming with his new-found triumph.

“Power Brokers”



They are a force to be feared. Intent on their patrol and confident in their power, these brothers have only one purpose in mind.....securing their territory. Caught in the early morning light of the Ngorongoro Crater, they must be sure their domain is clear of adversaries before they can rest. Their kingdom is safe, for the time being.

“Something To Strut About”



At once my most difficult and technically challenging piece, this Eastern Wild Turkey also brought me great satisfaction. Layering stroke upon stroke, it took every skill I had to successfully recreate the iridescence and extreme range of colors in his feathers. Look for him on the March cover of Safari Club International’s “Safari” magazine.

Interested in purchasing any of these works?

Please go to my website
www.sherrysteele.net
for information about Giclée print sizes,
prices, and availability.

Stop the Poaching

On a very serious note, I have been joining forces with several organizations through my time and art to halt the trafficking of poached wildlife. We are facing a crisis with the senseless massacre of wildlife, especially of Elephants, in the criminal trade of wild game. The international market for illegal ivory must be stopped, through awareness and heavy penalties, if there is any hope of preserving our Elephants for future generations. My deep affinity with these extraordinary creatures makes the estimated slaughter of 35,000 elephants this year alone a gut-wrenching number. It will take our unified voices to stop the carnage.

Sherry Steele Safari 2013



“2013 Tanzania Safari Group”

2013 was to have been the last time we would lead a group on safari to Tanzania. Little did we know it would turn into our all-time best safari. The number of marvelous sightings and the very special people sharing them with us magnified each experience. From the opening sighting of the baby giraffe (above), to a leopard leading her cubs beneath our trucks, the cheetah cubs trying to climb aboard the hood of another, the Black Rhino strolling back and forth between us, and finally, the epic battle between a Cape Buffalo and a pride of lions filled our days and left us hungering for more. My throat still tightens with the total impact of this safari, making it inconceivable that we would not do it again. Consequently, planning for the Sherry Steele Safari 2015 is well under way. Stay in touch for more details.

*“We have only this moment,
sparkling like a star in our hand...
and melting like a snowflake.
Let us use it before it is too late.”*

Marie Beyon Ray

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"Lord Of The Savannah"

Sherry Steele 2014 COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

"Legends In Training"
Jester Hall,
University of Texas,
John T. Baker - Owner
BEVO, Sherry, Floyd
Hoelting,
UT Director of Housing.

Planned Shows for 2014



Jan. 9-12 Dallas Safari Club Show, Booths 2715-2717
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX
Feb. 5-8 Safari Club International, Booths 4158-4160
Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV
Mar. 21-23 Indian & Southwest Art Festival
Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, TX

May 3-4 Cottonwood Spring Art Festival
Beltline near Coit, Richardson, TX
July 25-27 Ruidoso Art Festival, Convention Center
Ruidoso, NM
Oct. 4-5 Cottonwood Fall Art Festival
Beltline near Coit, Richardson, TX

Please check our on-line show schedule (www.sherrysteele.net) and Sherry Steele Wildlife Artist on Facebook for updates. Give us a call (512-892-3553) if you plan to be in Austin. We welcome your visits to my studio.