

"Life is about the journey - mine and yours - and the lives we can touch, the legacy we can leave, and the world we can change for the better." Tony Dungy



Dear Friends,

Please bear with me as I try to capture the events from this past year as they tumble out in a torrent of memories. Trying to rein them in is like trying to lasso the Great Zambezi River as it thunders over the cliffs of Victoria Falls. Here is the news as we roar into the New Year.

Many of you shared bright moments with me during the past year, adding to the flood of memories as they poured into the whirlpool of 2015. While our annual number of shows is decreasing, permitting me more time at my drawing table, these chances to re-connect with you have become all the more vital to me. Turning to find you there in my booth, ready to share your own latest adventures, keeps a smile on my face for months to come.

Commingled with your voices in my studio is the ever-haunting call of Africa. Sitting at my table, I try to evoke Her colors, Her energy. The longing to feel the silent voices of a herd of elephants reverberate in my chest as I sketch among them washes over me. It is at these moments, with my memories of Africa wrapped around my shoulders like a fringed shawl, that I am most driven by my work. For it is with my pens I am best able to show you those things which you may never have been able to see.

The time many of you spend with my work surrounding you every day, finding delight in its intricacies and emotion, is my greatest reward. You are there with me facing the gladness and the terror as I begin a new piece. With every stroke of my pens a bit of you ends up in each creation. I am eager to see where the streams of our lives will merge in the coming year, creating a powerful river of Inspiration and Beauty together.

Sherry

The Year Behind and the Year Ahead

Starting the year with the Dallas Safari Club Convention is always a sure way to begin with a hit. Able to present a full display of my work in the large venue, framed to perfection by Chuck, the 45,000 attendees are the first to see the works fresh from my studio. For me, the anticipation of the New Year is intertwined with the curtain rising on this exhibit. Your validation at DSC gives me boundless motivation for the coming year.

The long drive to and from Las Vegas for the Safari Club International Convention in February had its own set of incentives. We had uninterrupted time to make notes and recharge our batteries for the show. Entering the SCI Miniature Showcase for the first time, I was elated to find my original piece, "Ultimatum", as the centerpiece of the exhibit. Encouraged, I have created another miniature, "Shadowalker", to be entered in the 2016 Showcase.

Dashing home from SCI, we had barely enough time to unload, grab our bags, and head to Tanzania. So great was my eagerness, our bags had been packed for 2 months. Find more about this safari below.



Opening in bright sunshine and closing the same way, the Cottonwood Art Festival in Richardson, Texas, experienced nearly perfect weather at both the spring and fall festivals. How did that happen? The weather patterns must be confused because there is nothing like an outdoor art fair to tempt Mother Nature. The crowds took advantage of the balmy conditions to browse the array of exceptional art offered at this highly ranked show. In our new location, there was a steady stream of visitors discovering my work for the first time.

“Cowboy Christmas” in Las Vegas. As 2015 draws to a close we have added a new event. Always ready to take on a tempting new opportunity, this one has been teasing us for years. Offered the chance to exhibit with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as an addition to Cowboy Christmas, we knew we had to take it. Held at the Convention Center every December as part of the National Rodeo Finals, this 10-day show is a celebration of everything Western. Pulling on our boots, we look forward to sharing my work with the 220,000 attendees at the Rodeo.

Cultural Heritage Center, Arusha Tanzania



The most exciting news for the coming year is the invitation to have a special exhibit of my work at the Cultural Heritage Center Art Museum in Arusha. This stunning museum, based on the famed Guggenheim Museum, houses one of the largest collections of African based art in the world. In conjunction with the exhibit will be appearances at local schools to share my sketching and Pen & Ink techniques with the children of Arusha. The dates will be posted soon.

New Works



“Sundowner”

It is sundown on the Chobe River in Botswana and we have paused to celebrate the day’s sightings with the traditional cocktail. As we sipped our chilled drinks, the sky flamed and set the river ablaze with the colors of Africa. There, much to our delight, popped up this jolly Hippopotamus in the midst of the fiery water. Merrily chomping on his fill of water lilies, he joined us with his own version of a Sundowner.



“Promises”

Full of the joyful innocence of youth, this little fellow is experiencing the abandon of a mock charge. Still showing a faint blush of color, the peaked ears reveal his very young age. Imitating his elders, he has seen the consequences of a serious charge and relishes a reason to practice his own moves. Ears flared to full spread, he is unable to conceal the glee in his mischievous eyes as he experiences the thrill of his forthcoming power. He is full of Promise.

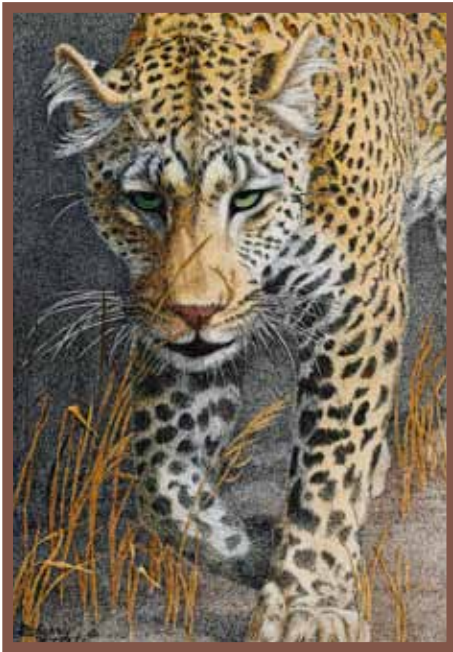
What can’t be foretold is the future of his species as it faces the ongoing slaughter by the illegal ivory trade. My life-long connection with Elephants, beginning with my earliest childhood drawings, leads me to believe I can best bring exposure to this crisis through my art. To that purpose, 50% of all print sales of “Promises” will be dedicated to Ivory Orphans, Tanzania’s first official orphanage for rescued baby elephants.



“Born To Charm”

Our Gamedrives in the Serengeti begin before sunrise. Setting out in the pre-dawn chill, you can imagine our delight to be the first to discover a family of Cheetahs as they began to stir. Her face set aglow in the delicate light of dawn, I sketched the enchanting little female Cub. Bellies still full from a successful kill the day before, it would take several attempts for her to rouse her brother.

Finally, a teasing look from her eyes and the game was on. As the romp of tag and tumble proceeded around our trucks, even a ball of elephant dung became a target bound for demolition. The bolder of the two, she will need every skill she was practicing, and that daring spirit, to be a survivor on the savannah.



“Shadowwalker”

Slipping in and out of the shadows, from barely visible to invisible, he became the specter of danger. Nonchalant as he approached, without moving a whisker the menace of his presence could be felt. Though he was not yet in full hunting posture as he assessed my intent, the threat was tangible. Capturing this encounter with layer upon layer of pen strokes

gave me time to relive and revel in the moment. Even the thousands of dots creating the nightfall behind the leopard became a reward of their own as his eyes began to glow with life.

He was called Oloboini, the spiritual leader of his village. I didn't know it at the time, I only knew his eyes had a depth of wisdom not present in the other Maasai men.



“Wisdom In His Eyes”

Even after our brief introduction as we entered the village, which could have been easily overwhelmed with their flamboyant greeting dance, his

presence still lingered in my mind. My hurried sketch upon climbing back into our safari truck tried to catch his serene demeanor. He had seen the past, the loss of traditions, and now he could feel the press of the future on his people. Revealing that powerful presence has placed him among the rare portraits of people I have been compelled to capture.

Safari 2015



This past year saw us leading another, and possibly final, group safari to Tanzania. Daring and adventurous, our group was game for everything Africa would show us.

Heartened by the many healthy families of elephants with tiny babies in the lush green of the Tarangire, we headed to our bush camps in the dry vastness of the Serengeti. There, the wildebeest and zebra waiting for the drought to break were amassed in the greatest numbers seen in many years.

Coated with grit we braved the clouds of dust to be in their midst, surrounded by the cacophony of sounds and sights. The herd stampeding directly toward us, swerving to avoid the lions charging into their ranks, left us breathless.

The only thing better, except perhaps the magnificent leopard strolling among our trucks, was later reliving the moments together around the campfire. So, if this was to be the last group safari we lead, then it was the perfect one.

“Love the moment, and the energy of that moment will spread beyond all boundaries.”

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"Siren of the Serengeti"

Sherry Steele 2016 COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

Planned Shows for 2016

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| Dec. 3-12
2015 | Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
"Cowboy Christmas"
Las Vegas Convention Center |
| Jan. 7-10 | Dallas Safari Club Show Booth #3115-17-19
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX |
| Feb. 3-6 | Safari Club International Booth #5110-5112
Mandalay Bay Convention Ctr, Las Vegas, NV |
| May 7-8 | Cottonwood Spring Art Festival
Beltline near Coit, Richardson, TX |
| Summer 2016
Date TBA | Cultural Heritage Center Art Museum
Sherry Steele Exhibit, Arusha, Tanzania |
| Oct. 8-9 | Cottonwood Fall Art Festival
Beltline near Coit, Richardson, TX |

Specialty Items



Watch for these special pieces on our website and at our shows. Our beautiful tiles can be Custom Framed individually or to suit your own design.