

When you work you are a flute through whose heart the whispering of hours turns to music. And when you work with love you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God.

Dear Friends,

Come sit with me by the campfire. You will tell me your stories and I will tell you mine. Together, we will watch as the sunset fades into darkness, taking the black silhouettes of the acacia trees with it. Pausing amidst the laughter and singing to listen as the migration calms around us, we are embraced by the magnitude of the silence. As embers flung from the fire by the swirling breeze sting our skin, this shared moment will be seared into our memories.

To the Friends whom have become Collectors, and the Collectors whom have become Friends, you make this a joyful journey. Without you, my efforts would be empty. Every sighting, every hour spent at my table, and every stroke of my pens, is dedicated to you. As each of you walks into my booth you add a new layer to our story. Our next chapter is waiting to be written...

*Sherry*

## *The Year Behind and the Year Ahead*

Turning the calendar to 2017, my heart may have already been set on our upcoming safari, but my head had to stay focused on the opening shows. And fast-paced they were. Coming on the heels of Austin's Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, a ten-day show ending late on Christmas Eve, preparing for our two biggest shows of the year was a challenge.

Dallas Safari Club's annual Convention opened early in January with a renewed enthusiasm. Showing a record number of new works, the attendance of nearly 60,000 people kept the booth full. With just enough time to re-load the trailer in Austin, we then set our sights on Las Vegas for the Safari Club International Convention. Entirely different in personality, the members of these two organizations have encouraged me and sustained me, using my nearly twenty years of art donations toward major wildlife conservation efforts.

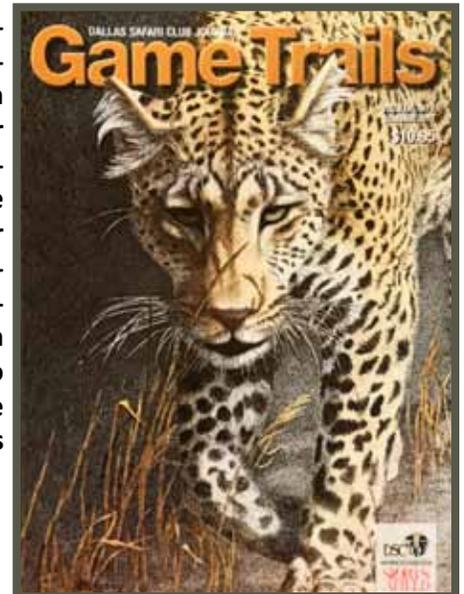
Scooting home, we grabbed our bags and headed for Tanzania. Re-fueling my passion, this safari once again left me intoxicated with the sights and sounds of Africa. Returning home with the burning need to be at my drawing table, new creatures nearly crackled in my head in a fury to be released. They had to wait as we rolled into the Spring Cottonwood Art Festival in Richardson, TX.

Keeping the booth buzzing, many of our safari friends gathered to compare memories and revel in the very special bond we share.

Next I headed to Kerrville, TX for a joint workshop by the Society of Animal Artists and the Susan K. Black foundation. Surrounded by acclaimed artists from around the country, I was knocked out of my comfort zone and into the hands of some of my most trusted mentors. Because of their (mostly) gentle and insightful critiques it is always exhilarating, and just a little bit terrifying, to see how my newest works will evolve.

Having to cut farewells short, I dashed over to the Y.O. Hotel where Chuck had set up our booth for the Texas Masters of Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibit. My first time showing with this prestigious group of Texas Artists, it felt good to be back at an event in Kerrville after so many years away. Classy and elite in presentation, it is an event we are delighted to add to our annual calendar.

In the midst of summer travels, Dallas Safari Club's award winning magazine "Game Trails" featured my "Shadowwalker" on the cover of its summer issue. This unexpected recognition was shortly followed by an insightful article written about my artwork for Safari Club International's August issue of "Safari Times". Far more than the exposure, it is the recognition of my medium and approach to Wildlife Art by these organizations that is humbling.



Fall found us back at Cottonwood Art Festival in Richardson, TX, with good weather, great crowds, and happy new introductions. Never knowing which ones will lead to new friendships or open new doors, Chuck and I simply relish the chance to get to know you. Keeping the adventure aspect in every show for us, it is this very unpredictability that led to the final show of the fall. Breaking new ground, Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences hung my work as the first exhibit in their new Gallery. Introduced by Dr. Eleanor Green, Dean of A&M's CVM, at the Dog Bowl (A&M vs. Miss State) Tailgate party, it proved to be the perfect union between veterinary medicine, game management, and art.

An 11-day marathon of music and art, the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar closes out 2017 for us. This Austin tradition is filled with fine to funky art of every genre and three music acts performing daily. With our booth near the main stage you might spot us slipping away to sneak in a dance to Dale Watson or Asleep At the Wheel.

## *New Works*



**"Perpetual Motion 1"**



**"Perpetual Motion 2"**

With long tails flowing behind and white beards glowing in the sunlight, they run. Seemingly without knowing where they are going, instinct pushes them to follow the heels of the wildebeeste ahead of them. This endless cycle of the Great Migration completes a 1,000 mile journey, pauses, and then begins again. Triggered by the arrival of the rains in the Serengeti, the arrival of nearly 800,000 calves within a span of 3 weeks swells the herds. The sight of Wildebeeste running in a steady stream that begins at one horizon and sprints to the other is one of the greatest spectacles on Earth.

Capturing this phenomenon in words, much less with my pens, is a nearly unattainable feat. Doing only a microcosm of the spectacle, it still required the span of two pages to capture the motion, the rhythm of the marathon, and the vastness of the Serengeti. With the Simba Kopjes looming in the distance, there is the ever-present threat of a predator hidden in their shadows. Working in tandem, these two pieces create a diptych that encapsulates the timeless Wonder of the Migration.



**"Tuned In"**

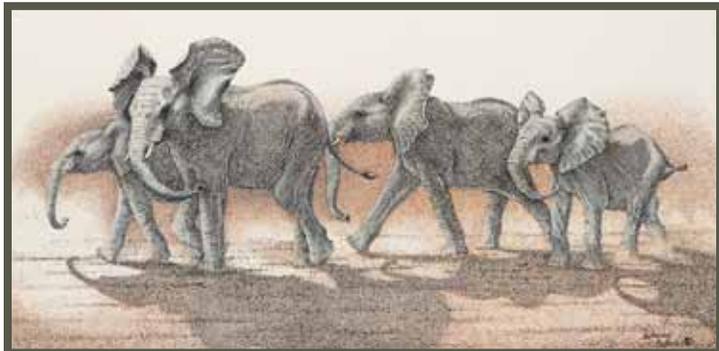
Cautious and rarely sighted, this beautiful little Serval allowed us to join her on an evening hunt in the Ndutu region of the Serengeti. The lowering sun set her exquisite face aglow amongst the reeds as she hunted along the lakeside. Long-legged, with square-tipped ears swiveling at every sound, she located her next possible target more by pinpointing the sound than by sight. Smaller than a bobcat, and a clear target for the larger predators of Africa, it is easy to understand why this was only my 3rd sighting in my 12 safaris to Africa of this captivating little cat.



**"Got Your Back"**

Bring it on. Formidable, intimidating, no other words need be said about Cape Buffalo. Having often observed the "brothers in arms" bond between Cape Buffalo Dugga Boys, I have high respect for the lengths to which they will go to

defend their brothers. Sketched on our most recent Safari, this encounter puts the younger Bull in the forefront. Still full of strength and testosterone, he trusts that his flank is well defended by the older Bull in the rear. The stark clarity of Scratchbord clearly defines the most basic of concepts; unity, survival, brotherhood.



**“Mischief Brewing”**

You could tell by the mischief in their eyes that naughty behavior was just about to break out. Surrounded by several families of elephants calmly grazing around us, these four bull calves could not contain the temptation to stir up trouble. A surreptitious ‘high-five’ between them and they began the charge. Squealing with glee as they sprinted between our trucks, the entire herd erupted into a frenzy of trumpeting and alarm as the instigators dashed away in delight. Whirling around to check on our reaction, they dashed off in triumph.



**“Room With A View”**

Dappled by the sunlight flickering through the leaves, a young Leopard keeps his eyes focused on distant movement. Still too young to hunt on his own, instinct drives him to seek refuge where camouflage and elevation work to his advantage. Sprawled among the leopard-favored branches of a sausage tree, he is safe as he surveys his future kingdom.

## *Safari 2017*

“You cannot leave Africa,” Africa said. “It is always with you, there inside your head. Our rivers run in currents, in the swirl of your thumbprints, our drumbeats counting out your pulse, our coastline the silhouette of your soul.”



More eloquent pens than mine have sought the words and failed. I can only say that, for now, the deep yearning for Africa has been temporarily sated by this year’s safari. From being surrounded by family after family of elephants to being encircled by dots of wildebeeste for as far as our eyes could see, this safari combined the magnitude and the splendor of every past safari into one.

Leading our spirited little group as it laughed and sang its way across Tanzania, we traveled with wonder-filled eyes. Bringing rains with us that broke the devastating drought, we saw the landscape turn from parched, barren earth to the lush expanses of the Endless Sea of Grass. Awakening to chilled morning air and fresh water, the creatures responded. Where there had been no Wildebeeste calves there was now a calf at every cow’s side. Lion cubs romped through the grass and elephant babes played “king of the mountain” on mounds of earth. Skidding through mud and crossing flooded rivers, we were rewarded with the spectacle of the Great Migration pounding past us in a twisting, writhing stream of bodies. Placed in a timeless moment of wonder, we could not ignore our own insignificance.

**Safari 2019 - Interested? Contact us for details.**

*“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.”*

*— Kalu Ndukwe Kalu*

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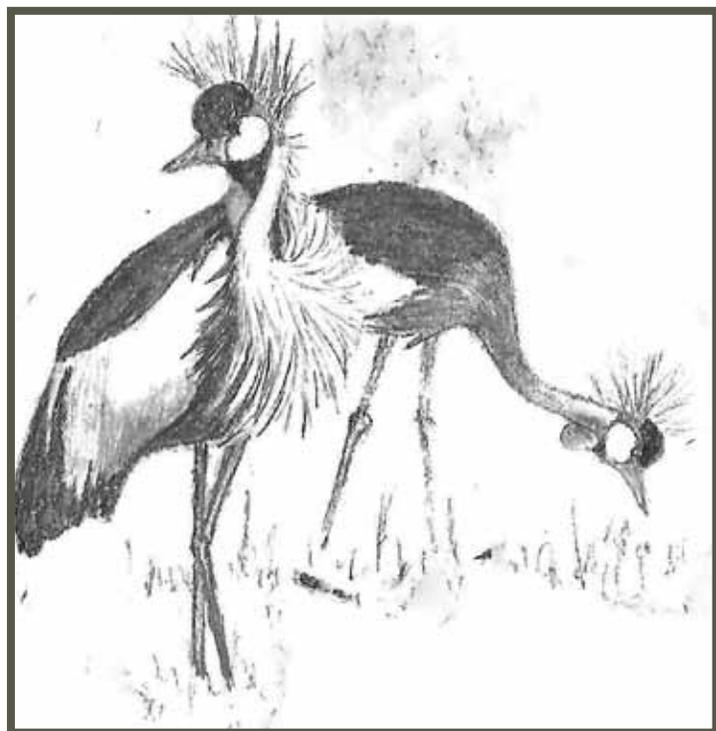
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## *Sherry Steele* 2018 COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

### *Upcoming Shows:*

- Dec. 14 – 24, **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar**  
2017 Palmer Event Center, Austin, TX
- Jan. 5 – 8, **Dallas Safari Club Show**  
2018 Dallas Convention Center,  
Dallas, TX Booth #3115
- Feb. 1 – 4, **Safari Club International Show**  
2018 Las Vegas Convention Center  
Las Vegas, NV Booth #5224
- May 6 - 7, **Cottonwood Spring Art Festival**  
2018 Beltline near Coit Rd., Richardson, TX
- May 25-27 **Texas Masters of Fine Art Show**  
2018 YO Resort Hotel, Kerrville, TX
- Oct. 7-8 **Cottonwood Fall Art Festival**  
2018 Beltline near Coit Rd., Richardson, TX
- Dec. 13-24 **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar**  
2018 Palmer Auditorium, Austin, TX



Crowned Cranes - Tanzania 2017 Journal