

You have not lived today if you have not done something for someone whom cannot repay you. John Wayne

Dear Friends,

Last night I dreamed I was in Africa. It is always there, the primordial power, lingering just behind my resolve to contain it. The need to run among the stars above this mystical continent taunts me. Before I know it, the dam breaks and the emotions flood over me like the great Zambezi River thundering over Victoria Falls. And, once again I am in the midst of its wonders. Soon, very soon.....

Here at home the drought has finally broken. Listening to the rhythm of the rain falling outside my studio window, my pens pick up the cadence and soon their tapping blends into a harmony of nature and inspiration. Taking on a life of its own, the refrain hums through my fingers until an image emerges from the stream of dots. Is it creating a visual melody that will continue to resonate for years to come? That is the hope of every artist.

The threads of 2018 have already become tightly woven into a lovely tapestry of friends, shows, and new artwork. It has been a year of family celebrations and some difficult farewells, causing me to awake each day filled with renewed gratitude for the many blessings in my life. As we look forward to the coming year, thank you for being one of the golden threads in that tapestry.

*Sherry*

## *The Year Behind and the Year Ahead*

For us, the Dallas Safari Club Convention began the New Year as an immediate winner. With plenty of room for the most comprehensive presentation of my work, my booth was ready for the nearly 50,000 attendees. Significantly, the strong auction bids brought by my donated art will aid the Dallas Safari Club Foundation's Conservation efforts against poaching. As a member of the IUCN (the UN's International Union for the Conservation of Nature) after a rigorous application process, DSCF is positioned within one of the world's most influential and respected conservation bodies to better use these funds.

The mad gallop to Las Vegas afterward for the Safari Club International Convention was thankfully done under clear skies. With its upcoming move of venue to Reno, NV, and



"Daniel, one of our youngest clients."

future dates in conflict with the DSC convention, this was our last appearance at the SCI Convention. While sad to say farewell to those collectors we see only at this show, we are glad to be spared the 3,500 mile round trip over the oft-wicked winter roads. I hope these special people will find me at other shows, online, or come for a studio visit in Austin.

Facing heavy downpours during set-up, Spring Cottonwood Art Festival in Richardson, TX, opened to perfect weather. With our tent full of collectors and new friends, the enthusiasm was further heightened by the reunions of many of our previous safari friends. Fall Cottonwood also managed to dodge the weeks of rain plaguing the region. Upholding its position as one of the top outdoor art festivals in the nation, the crowds were energized by the sunny days and came out en masse. What fun it is to introduce the beauties of Art and Animals to the next generation of collectors.

The prestigious Texas Masters of Fine Art and Crafts show in Kerrville, TX, was once again the premier event over Memorial Day Weekend. A distinct privilege to be part of this exceptional group, I loved seeing my Lion piece, "Power Brokers", appear in Texas Monthly. This will continue to be a sophisticated Weekend destination event as the art show-community is revived in the Texas Hill Country.

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar will wrap up 2018 in glitter and music. Founded in the old Armadillo World Headquarters

back in the '70s, this Austin classic is eleven days of Christmas cheer, artists, jewelers, and foot-tapping entertainment. There is always time between the 3 daily performances of top-notch bands to shop for last minute gifts and maybe even catch a dance or two for yourself on Christmas Eve.

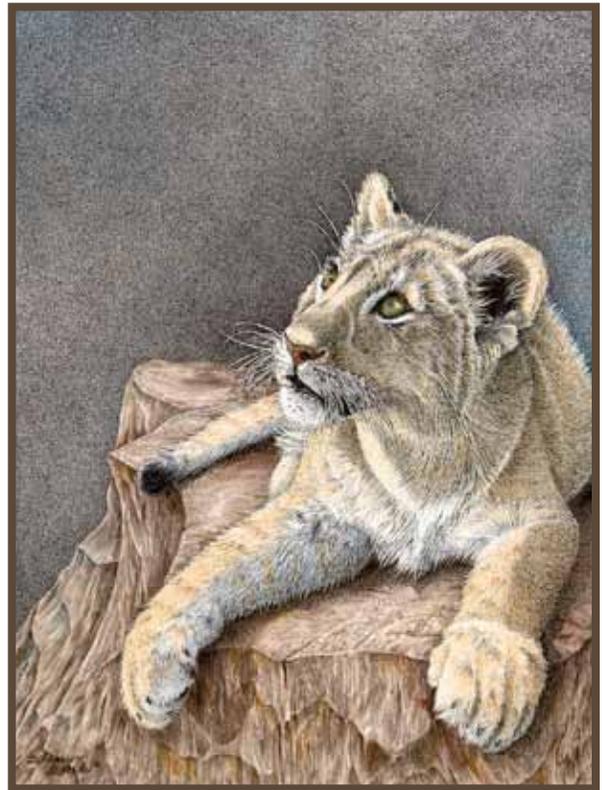
Fewer shows should mean more time at my drawing table and more pieces finished, or so one would think. Perhaps because they are more complex pieces, this year's new works ran true to course at an average of three months each, with an occasional scratchboard created just to refresh my pace. I hope you will enjoy the fruits of this year's efforts; they were done with dedication to the creatures and to you.

## *New Works*



**"Beside Still Water"**

A brief shower bursting across the Serengeti had signaled the end of the dry season and the beginning of the migration. Already muddied by heavy dust and countless thirsty mouths, a roadside puddle beckoned to yet another. Yielding to his need, the Impala Ram cautiously stepped forward to quench his thirst. Mirroring the beauty of the moment, the Spreading ripples broke the still surface and carried his image across the water. The fun with this piece came when I submitted it to facebook for suggestions for its title. Over 100 suggestions later and the new owners of the Original agreed with me; the clear and fitting winner was "Beside Still Water".

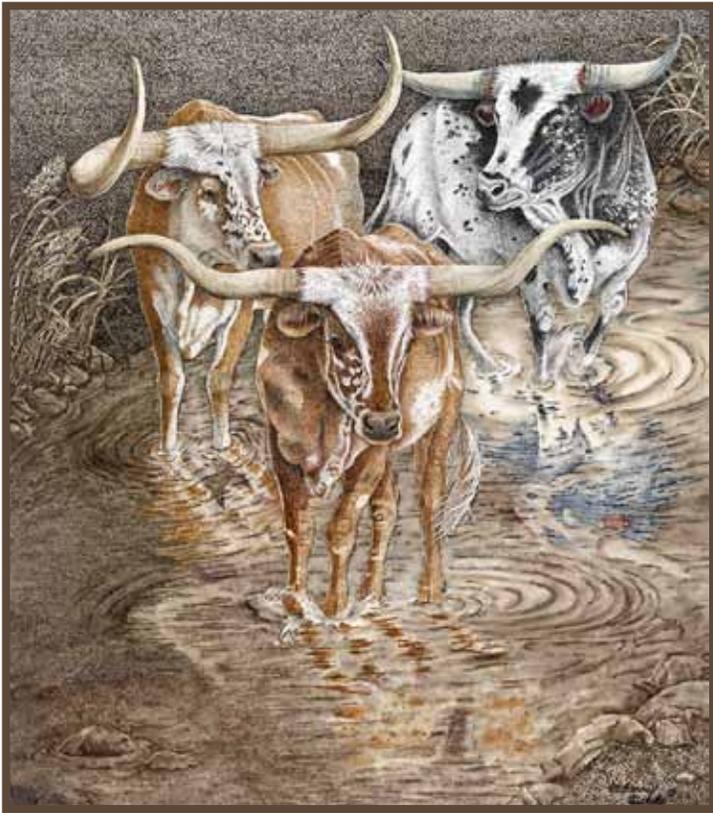


**"Destiny's Child"**

Privileged to bottle feed this cub at a preserve in South Africa, "Destiny's Child" was much easier for me to name. Born a Prince in the pride, the future of male Lion Cubs is hazardous on every level. Only one in every eight male cubs survives to adulthood and it requires the strength of the Pride, the cub's innate gifts to survive, and quite a bit of providence for him to ever become King. Full of wonder and curiosity as he views his world, it is all in the stars for this little fellow.

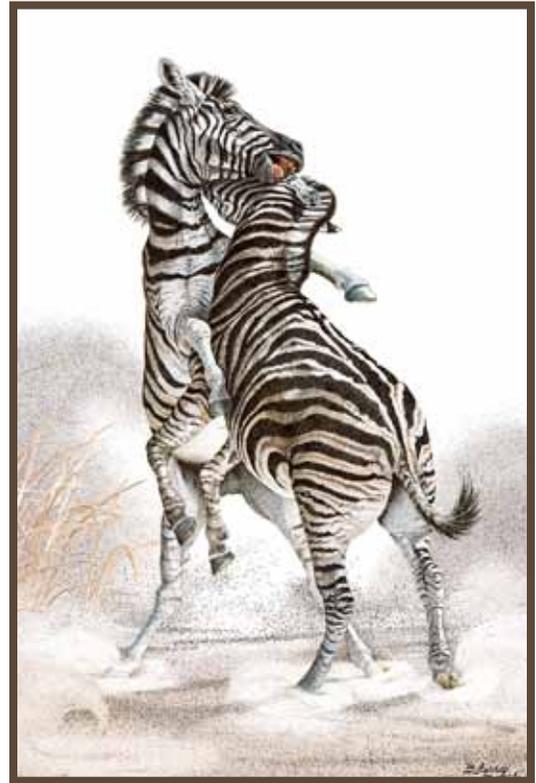


**"To be creative means to be in love with Life. You can be creative only if you love life enough that you want to enhance its beauty, you want to bring a little more music to it, a little more poetry to it, a little more dance to it.." — Osho**



**“Red River Crossing”**

Free for the taking in South Texas, nearly ten million Longhorns were rounded up during the epic cattle drives of the 1860s and '70s. Most had to cross the Red River enroute to the Kansas railheads. Reverting to the speckled hides of their ancestry in West Africa, their varied horns show the force of evolution from survival in the New World. Pausing at the river's edge before being pushed across, these three Longhorns are a microcosm of the era.



**“Striped Fury”**

Blurred by the dust and the fury, tempers burn and flare in the Serengeti. Pushed to their limits, Zebra Stallions explode into furious clashes over territory and their mares. Attempted theft of either one will trigger a battle, especially if it is over a young filly. Forced to prove his fitness, a stallion will only relinquish one of his daughters to a tested rival capable of defending and protecting her.

## *Sherry Steele Safari 2019*

Did I mention safari?! Yes, we are in the midst of finalizing our 2019 Tanzanian Adventure. Sharing the best of the Serengeti and its Migration, the Tarangiri with its 3,500 Elephants, and the Wonders of the Ngorongoro Crater, Chuck and I will be adding our 20 years' of experience to make this a life-changing Adventure for our Collectors. Not certain when, or even if, I would ever be returning to Africa, I am writing this with a happy heart. I promise to take you with me as I run among the stars in the African sky.



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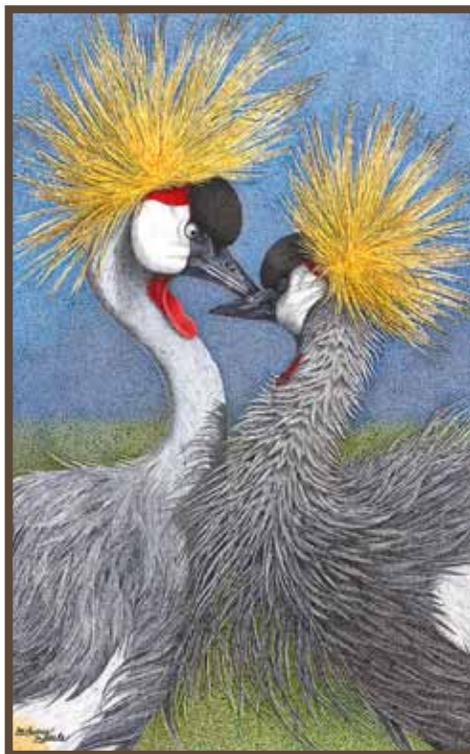


## *Sherry Steele* 2019 COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

### *Upcoming Shows:*

- Dec. 14-24, 2018     Armadillo Christmas Bazaar  
Palmer Event Center, Austin, TX
- Jan. 17-20 2019     Dallas Safari Club Show  
Dallas Convention Center  
Dallas, TX Booth #
- May 4-5 2019        Cottonwood Spring Art Festival  
Beltline near Coit, Richardson, TX
- May 24-26 2019     Texas Masters of Fine Arts Show  
YO Resort Hotel, Kerrville, TX
- Oct. 5-6 2019        Cottonwood Fall Art Festival  
Beltline near Coit, Richardson, TX
- Dec. 14-24 2019     Armadillo Christmas Bazaar  
Palmer Event Center, Austin, TX

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new tiles, prints on metal, & more.



*"Let Me Call You Sweetheart"*