

UPCOMING GROUP SHOW

Up to 125 works

August 7-9, 2015

Columbine Gallery
2683 N. Taft Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 667-2015

SHOW LOCATION LOVELAND, CO

Raising awareness

With the Earth's population continuously growing, numbers of wild animals begin to dwindle, but when humans demand high-priced items, like ivory, poaching becomes an even bigger problem for these animals.

The nine members of Artist Ambassadors Against Poaching (AAAP), representatives of the African Wildlife Trust, aim to raise

awareness for these animals, particularly elephants. During *A Weekend for Elephants*, these international artists will present their work in conjunction with the 23rd annual *National Sculptor's Guild Art Exhibit and Sale* at Columbine Gallery in Loveland, Colorado.

The artists of AAAP include **John Agnew, Julie Askew, Robert Caldwell, Paul Dixon, James Gary Hines II, Jan Martin McGuire,**

Tony Pridham, Sandy Scott, and Dale Weiler.

The AAAP was created in association with African Wildlife Trust, which was founded by Patik Patel, to help raise money and awareness concerning the "literal genocide in elephants, in all of Africa but particularly Tanzania where in some places over 60 [elephants] a day are being poached for their ivory." Patel has recently founded an elephant orphanage, Tanzania Ivory Orphans' Sanctuary, and proceeds from *A Weekend of Elephants* will benefit this orphanage.

"We feel very fortunate to be a part of such an important project through the *Weekend of Elephants* show," says Alyson Kinkade of Columbine Gallery. "We are so impressed by what Pratik Patel and African Wildlife Trust has created with Ivory Orphans. We are pleased that through art sales we can be a part of this global effort to help the elephant population that is traumatically affected by poaching. The list of artists that makeup Artist Ambassadors Against Poaching is impressive; their artwork will enhance any collection and we are truly impressed by the gorgeous depictions of Africa's wildlife created for this exhibit."

The artists were invited to Africa in October 2013 for a couple weeks to work and get first-hand knowledge of the animals of the country and the poaching problem in Tanzania.

"While I have been to Africa 18 times—and my husband and nature photographer, James Gary Hines, 10 times—each time is different, and being with this amazing group of artists, many of whom had not been to Africa, was a wonderful experience," says McGuire.

McGuire's painting *At the Water Hole* was inspired by many experiences in Africa, showing a parade of elephants at a water hole near a large baobab tree.

"Baobabs and elephants have a unique relationship," explains McGuire. "The elephant pulls the bark off the tree and eats it during the dry season, particularly since the baobab stores water in its bark. As an artist I love the textures



Sandy Scott, *Elephant Fragments I & II*, bronze, edition of 35, 14 x 13 x 4" each



Robert Caldwell, *Disquieted Agitation (Lion)*, oil on 1/2-inch maple panel, 15 x 30"



Jan Martin McGuire, *At the Water Hole*, acrylic on canvas, 24 x 38"



Julie Askew, *African Vision*, acrylic, 12 x 24"



The nine members of the Artist Ambassadors Against Poaching pose for a picture during their 2013 trip to Africa.

of both elephants and baobabs, and feel in a way that they 'mirror' each other."

Askew says her piece *African Vision* was inspired by trips to the continent and witnessing the cycle of life, and is the first piece in a series using this theme.

"Witnessing interaction between species in Africa brings home the stark reality of life and death. Every element of nature is connected in a delicate balance," she says. "I hope to highlight the overall impact on the ecosystem that the plight of the African elephant represents."

Caldwell believes as a wildlife artist it is his "responsibility to help secure the future and safety of these beautiful animals," so being part of AAAP was a no brainer. During the trip to Africa, the group witnessed the scene that inspired *Disquieted Agitation (Lion)*.

"It was within 11 seconds that a calm serene moment changed to a state of complete agitation all because a guide stepped out of his Land Cruiser for a moment to pull up his pants," Caldwell explains the scene as he was able to snap photos of the large animal. "The lion's stance and snarl stuck with me so much I decided to paint it." 🐾

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to

www.westernartcollector.com

