



The Society of Animal Artists, which is headquartered in the venerable Salmagundi Club on Fifth Avenue in New York, celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary in 2010. Historically, the Society of Animal Artists has an affinity with conservation organizations such as the Audubon Society and the New York Zoological Society or Bronx Zoo as it is now called, which emerged in the 19th Century to promote conservation and public support, and organizations that grew out of a movement to form associations and clubs dedicated to art. Like the National Academy of Design, for example, the Society of Animal Artists is mandated by its bylaws to organize annual exhibitions to ensure new, strong and fresh work and afford its members with ample opportunities to display their paintings and sculptures of animals.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to invite you to consider hosting one of our upcoming Annual Exhibitions, or our traveling exhibition, *Art and the Animal*. I hope you find the information that follows of interest. Should you have any questions, or need any further information, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

David J. Wagner

David J. Wagner, Ph.D.
Author, American Wildlife Art
Curator/Tour Director
Society of Animal Artists



Cover images clockwise from top: Debbie Stevens, Mary Beacon, William Silvers, Patricia Pepin, David Rankin

Opposite panel clockwise from top: Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen, Timothy Widener, Mark A. Sussino

This panel: Diane Mason



SOCIETY OF ANIMAL ARTISTS **Art and the Animal**

TRAVELING EXHIBITION | PRODUCED BY DAVID J. WAGNER, L.L.C.

DAVID J. WAGNER is founder, president of David J. Wagner, L.L.C., a limited liability corporation in the state of Wisconsin, established for the principle purpose of providing wildlife and nature art exhibitions and educational programs to museums in the U.S. and Canada. In addition to serving as Tour Director for the Society's *Art and the Animal* exhibit, Dr. Wagner has served as Curator for the Society's Sculpture Courtyard at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. He has also served as Curator/Tour Director for *Blossom—Art of Flowers* sponsored by the Susan K. Black Foundation; *Endangered Species: Flora and Fauna in Peril* sponsored by The Wildling Art Museum; and *The Horse in Fine Art of the American Academy of Equine Art*. David Wagner wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on American wildlife art at the University of Minnesota, while he was Scholar-in-Residence at the Silka Center for Art and Ecology. David Wagner has served as a Juror for the U.S. Department of Interior Federal Duck Stamp Competition and The Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition; and Consultant for the National Museum of Wildlife Art and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. Early in his career, he served as Director of the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. During its formative first decade, he named the *Birds in Art* exhibit and established it by arranging and directing tours to museums worldwide. David Wagner also established tours of the National Wildlife Federation Annual Photo Contest, and the National Park Academy for the Arts exhibition, *Arts for the Parks*. His book, *American Wildlife Art*, and his lecture schedule is available at: american-wildlife-art.com.



Author, David J. Wagner, signing copies of *American Wildlife Art* at Charleston premiere

David Wagner is a distinguished curator and art historian whose scholarly and informed contributions to the field of art, particularly wildlife art, have set standards for excellence, innovation, and thoroughness. — J. BROOKS JONNER, DIRECTOR EMERITUS, JOSLYN ART MUSEUM

For further information about the Annual Exhibition of The Society of Animal Artists, or the Art and the Animal tour, contact:

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www.societyofanimalartists.com/tour_director.html

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Over recent decades, a substantial industry has grown up around formulaic paintings and sculptures of animals. Such overabundance has caused many to dismiss animal art automatically, without bothering to look or think ... The Society of Animal Artists and its annual touring exhibition, *Art and the Animal*, represent the very best animal art being produced in the world today.

CAREL PIETER BREST VAN KEMPEN, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

... years ago there was the infamous Valdez Oil Spill and in that moment of horror I created a work titled STILL NOT LISTENING. Sadly, in many ways we are still not listening to the voice of the wilderness, to the extinction of many species of life ... So I am asking any and all museums to take up this cry ... and recognize what is being expressed by the insightful and yes, visionary artists who have endeavored to place on their proper pedestal the animals of this world.

It is their passion and devotion that makes this Society of Animal Artists such an extraordinary group of men and women.”

LEO E. OSBORNE, GUEMES ISLAND, ANACORTES, WA

The Society Of Animal Artists

The Society of Animal Artists is regarded world wide as the most prestigious artist membership organization dedicated to the theme of animals in art. The Society of Animal Artists was founded in 1960. Its headquarters are located in the historic Salmagundi Club on Fifth Avenue in New York. Society members come from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.



The Society's first board president was the sister of Carl Rungius, Elizabeth Rungius Fulda. Past SAA members have included such highly-respected artists as Dharbinder S. Bamrah, Paul Branson (board of directors president from 1961-1976), Simon Combes, Don Richard Eckelberry, Bob Kuhn, Fred Machetanz, Stanley Meltzoff, Lanford Monroe, Roger Tory Peterson, Arthur Singer, and Richard Sloan to name but a few.

Mission

The mission of The Society of Animal Artists is to promote excellence in the portrayal of animals, domestic or wild, in art. Over the past 50 years, works created by members of The Society of Animal Artists have established new standards of artistic excellence in fine art.

Art And The Animal

Art and the Animal is the flagship exhibition of The Society of Animal Artists. *Art and the Animal* refers to both the Annual Exhibition of the Society of Animal Artists, and the Traveling Exhibition and Tour that is generated from it. Noted wildlife art scholar and author of *American Wildlife Art*, Dr. David J. Wagner, serves as Tour Director for *Art and the Animal*. As such, he is responsible for arranging annual exhibition and tour venues and managing the traveling exhibition. *Art and the Animal* has been featured at more than 50 venues including museums, zoos, and art, cultural and science centers throughout North America over the past 50 years. (For a complete listing, visit: www.societyofanimalartists.com/exhibits.html). Only the best animal art is selected for *Art and the Animal*. Consequently, it extremely difficult, and therefore prestigious, for artists to have artwork accepted into the exhibition.

Combining natural history and fine art in creative ways, SAA members compete to have their work included in annual exhibitions chosen by a selection jury comprised of SAA members who meet at the Salmagundi Club in New York each Spring. In addition, an awards jury, comprised of distinguished experts with the highest possible qualifications who are not members of the SAA are charged with the difficult task of reviewing annual exhibitions for the purpose of recognizing highest achievements and bestowing awards to respective artists. Artists who have won five or more awards are given the special status of "Master Signature Membership," which qualifies them to by-pass future annual exhibition selection juries and automatically have their work included in Annual Exhibitions. Current, active "Master Signature Artists" include: Charles Allmond, Chris Bacon, Gerald Balciar, Robert Bateman, Burt Brent, Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen, Guy Coheleach, Walter Matia, Leo Osborne, Sherry Salari Sander, Morten Solberg, and Kent Ullberg.

Annual Exhibition Premiere And Tour

The Annual Exhibition of the Society of Animal Artists typically contains over 120 flatworks and sculptures. The traveling *Art and the Animal* exhibition is comprised of about 45 flatworks and 15 sculptures. Each Autumn, an entirely new *Art and the Animal* exhibition is chosen from the Annual Exhibition to represent the SAA on tour. Tour venues typically include an equal mix of art and natural history institutions. After premiering at the Nevada State Museum, in Carson City, the 2005 Tour Itinerary included, for example, The Wildlife Experience, Parker (Denver), CO; West Valley Art Museum, Surprise (Phoenix), AZ; Muscarelle Museum of Art, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA; Stifel Fine Arts Center, Oglebay Institute, Wheeling, WV; and the Neville Public Museum, Green Bay, WI. In September 2010, the San Diego Zoo will host a special Society of Animal Artists Day in conjunction with the premiere of the 50th Anniversary Annual Exhibition at the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.



Clockwise from top: Robert Bateman, Jan Sharkey Thomas, Guy Coheleach. Sculpture: Kent Ullberg.



ADDITIONAL EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

Outdoor Sculpture

From 2002 to 2007, the Society of Animal Artists provided an annual selection of large, outdoor monumental sculptures for display at National Geographic Society headquarters near DuPont Circle in Washington, D.C. Sculpture from the Society of Animal Artists may be available for outdoor display at other institutions.

Benefit Exhibitions

The Society of Animal Artists has held benefit exhibitions such as the one organized for many years to benefit The MacArthur Beach State Park in Palm Beach, FL, and another of small works to benefit The Wildlife Experience in Parker, CO. Future benefit exhibitions may be considered.