Art and the Animal

SOCIETY OF ANIMAL ARTISTS | TRAVELING EXHIBITION | PRODUCED BY DAVID J. WAGNER, L.L.C.

*Art and the Animal* is the flagship exhibition of The Society of Animal Artists and has been featured at more than 50 venues over the past 50 years including museums, zoos, and art, cultural and science centers throughout the United States and Canada.

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Member American Alliance of Museums and International Council of Museums
The Society Of Animal Artists

The Society of Animal Artists is regarded worldwide 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 Art Club on Fifth Avenue in New York. Society members come from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.

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. 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 P. Brest van Kempen, Guy Coheleach, Walter Matia, Leo E. Osborne, Sherry Salari Sander, Morten Solberg, Kent Ullberg, and Sue Westin.

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. For example, after premiering at The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, NY, the 2005–2006 Tour Itinerary included The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum in Oradell, NJ in the greater metropolitan area of New York City; The Arizona–Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, AZ; and The Canton Museum of Art in Ohio. In September 2010, the San Diego Zoo hosted 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. The 2016 Annual Exhibition was hosted by The Houston Museum of Natural Science.

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 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 others.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**—such as American Wildlife Art book signings and lectures by author, David J. Wagner, Ph.D. are available.

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