

INFORMART

The Limited Edition Print Price Journal

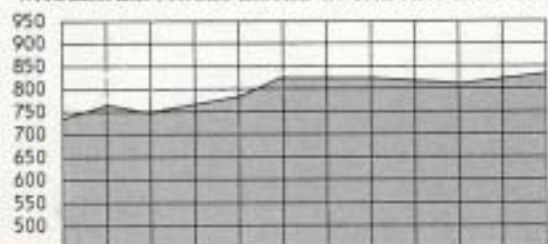
NOV / DEC 1991

\$4.90

AUGUST
RETAIL PRICE
INDEX
\$833.11

AFTERMARKET RETAIL PRICE INDEX

THE RETAIL PRICE INDEX IS A MONTHLY AGGREGATE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE, DERIVED FROM AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES LISTED IN THE ART EXPEDITER



NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT
'90 '90 '91 '91 '91 '91 '91 '91 '91 '91 '91 '91



The Stand Off

by Simon Combes

Hauntingly Beautiful, Africa

by Pam Dean-Cable

An African man stands over his illegal kill, an elephant whose ivory tusk, sold to ivory kings in faraway places will feed his hungry family for many months.

What would we be willing to do to feed and clothe our loved ones? Kill the last eagle? The last whale?

The issues involved in this scenario are complex and far-reaching but so are the opportunities to become involved in solving some of the problems.

For wildlife artists, this opportunity is unique and many have followed their consciences and their hearts by becoming patrons, benefactors and activists in the name of conservation.

While many eco-systems are direly threatened, the cause of Africa magnetizes the emotions with her exotic wildlife and surreal

Hauntingly Beautiful.....continued

the elephant. Artists from around the world, including Combes and Robert Bateman, have donated works to be auctioned. Combes' donation has a minimum bid of \$15,000 and a current bid of twice that amount, with all proceeds earmarked for the East African Wildlife Society.

Both Curry and Combes look forward to their involvement in on-going conservation projects, gratified that through their donations of art, time and money, they have helped insure the survival of our wildlife. Underlying the overt acts of kindness and concern shown by these artists, are philosophies and observations garnered through their own life experiences. The depth of their feelings and commitment are obvious when they speak of such things as the behavior of the human race as it relates to current conservation crises.

"As a Vietnam vet," Curry states, "I saw first hand what mankind is capable of doing to the environment. The desolation through the use of chemicals was catastrophic, not only to the environment, but to man and beast as well. For fun, soldiers would shoot the wildlife. Tigers were favorite targets."

Saddened and forever changed by his war experiences, Curry thoughtfully and eloquently expressed his feelings concerning Operation Desert Storm. "I recognize that there are times when wars must be fought, but I just can't understand our country jubilantly celebrating the killing of over 100,000 human beings and of unprecedented environmental destruction. Wars, when they of necessity occur, should be executed with a sense of regret for the necessity."

In sharing his feelings for the earth his somber tone changed to one of delight and joy. "I am doing what I love and celebrating what I

see there is to celebrate on this planet. I am a fan of the planet. When I was a kid, I dreamed of visiting other planets because I couldn't yet envision my own. I am of this planet. It would be impossible to love anything more than the earth. I am allowing myself to enjoy and be part of Gaia, Mother Earth.

"Most of the problem today," he continues, "is that human population is way out of control. In addition, we have a military mindset and merciless international corporate greed to contend with. I see the possibility of disasters happening because of excess population. This may be a gruesome way to keep us from destroying the planet."

Curry also believes that our definition of living the good life needs to shift from materialism to harmony with nature. "Education is the most important key to the future of the planet and the survival of mankind," he remarked. "What I like most about Nature is that she is indomitable. Man may destroy himself, but Nature will heal herself after we are long gone."

Combes, working in his studio in London, commented reflectively on the cause of so much destruction in Africa. "For years, governments have tried to force Africa to do something to conserve their wildlife by denying them aid if they didn't," he explained. "The African governments' response to this was to ask for aid from a country in conflict with the first country. But with all the changes in world politics today, the Africans have finally lost this source of power.

"In East Africa, where indigenous nomadic tribes were forced off their lands to accommodate a national park 50 miles by 50 miles, the tribes, who feel very strongly about their

"Wars, when they of necessity occur, should be executed with a sense of regret for the necessity."



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Summons Combes & Curry

landscapes. There is an increasing number of artists heeding the call to activism for this hauntingly beautiful place. Among these are Dennis Curry and Simon Combes, both admitted Africaphiles.

In 1982, Dennis Curry, master printmaker and lover of big cats, made his first sojourn to Africa. "I practically had to hook my soul to go, but it was the best investment of my life," Curry said.

Having made many trips back to Africa since, Curry says, "wildlife art and animals form a natural symbiotic relationship. From the animals we take our livelihoods, and to the protection of these animals we have both the opportunity and obligation to give something back."

Curry does much of his conservation work through Friends of Conservation, which proudly claims HRH Prince Charles as its patron. One of "Samburo Leopard", Curry's new limited edition mylar lithograph, was auctioned for \$1,600 at a recent benefit for wildlife and environmental

issues in East Africa. Friends of Conservation will also benefit through the combined efforts of Curry and award-winning artists Al Agnew, Brian Jarvi, Rick Kelley, Gary Moss and Daniel Smith through their new release "The Artists' Africa Portfolio", published by The Foundation Fine Arts, Ltd. Curry guided these five artists through Africa in search of their subjects and through the production of their first mylar lithographs.

Not limiting his generosity to African concerns, Curry has also donated works to the Audubon Society of Morro Bay and the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota.

English artist Simon Combes, most widely known for his limited edition prints of African wildlife published by The Greenwich Workshop, agrees that wildlife artists, through their talent and caring can do much to benefit threatened wildlife.

Currently living in London, Combes spent his childhood and much of his adult life in Kenya and he speaks of Africa with loving respect.

He traveled extensively under the auspices of Game Conservation International during the mid-70's and credits this organization with putting his work on the map. He has continued to support conservation groups and is currently working with Friends of Conservation and the East African Wildlife Society.

"Through Friends of Conservation," says Combes, "specific small and tangible East African projects are targeted. To fund these projects, lectures are presented to small groups of usually a hundred or so people. The hat is passed and \$1,000 to \$2,000 may be raised." One of these projects is a bridge in the Northern Serengeti which will enable the anti-poaching authorities to get to critical areas. Future projects include more vehicles to fight poaching.

Currently, the East African Wildlife Society is sponsoring an exhibition and auction, proceeds from which will go to the struggle to save



Morning Hunt

by Dennis Curry



Companions of Ngorongoro

by Dennis Curry

cattle, graze them around the periphery. They allow poaching to occur because wildlife is seen as a threat to their herds. In addition, all monies from tourism go directly into the government's coffers and none to the displaced tribes. The forces of political corruption, greed and ignorance have kept Africa from making the changes necessary to protect their precious natural resources.

"Absolutely key to survival for many species is the education of the people," Comber continued. "Although many Africans are very sophisticated, there is still a tendency for people to see their wildlife as either food or pests. Supporting education is not as glamorous as

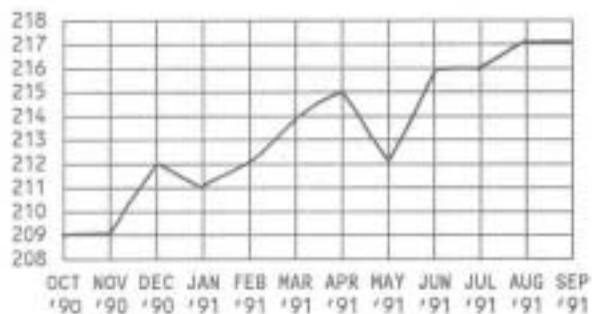
supporting a 'Save the Elephants' campaign but it is by far the most essential need," he concluded.

One species of concern is the cheetah. "We may very well have lost the cheetah," Comber said. "All cheetahs remaining have a genetic flaw so the question now becomes a moral one; whether we have an obligation or a right to interfere using genetic engineering. In any case, it appears that without human intervention, the cheetah has reached its evolutionary end."

Still Comber describes himself as a supreme optimist. "Yes, there is hope. Even though people preach doom and gloom, I feel the elephant, as well as other species will survive in sufficient numbers to propagate themselves."



ARTIST PROFILE -- DENNIS CURRY



INFORMART ARTIST PROFILE presents each month the past 12 months aggregate average retail prices of one selected artist's prints, or selected prints. These averages represent the print/price performance in the secondary market as published in the Art Expediter, wholesale buy-sell guide.

1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991
AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
209	209	212	211	212	214	215	212	216	216	217	217