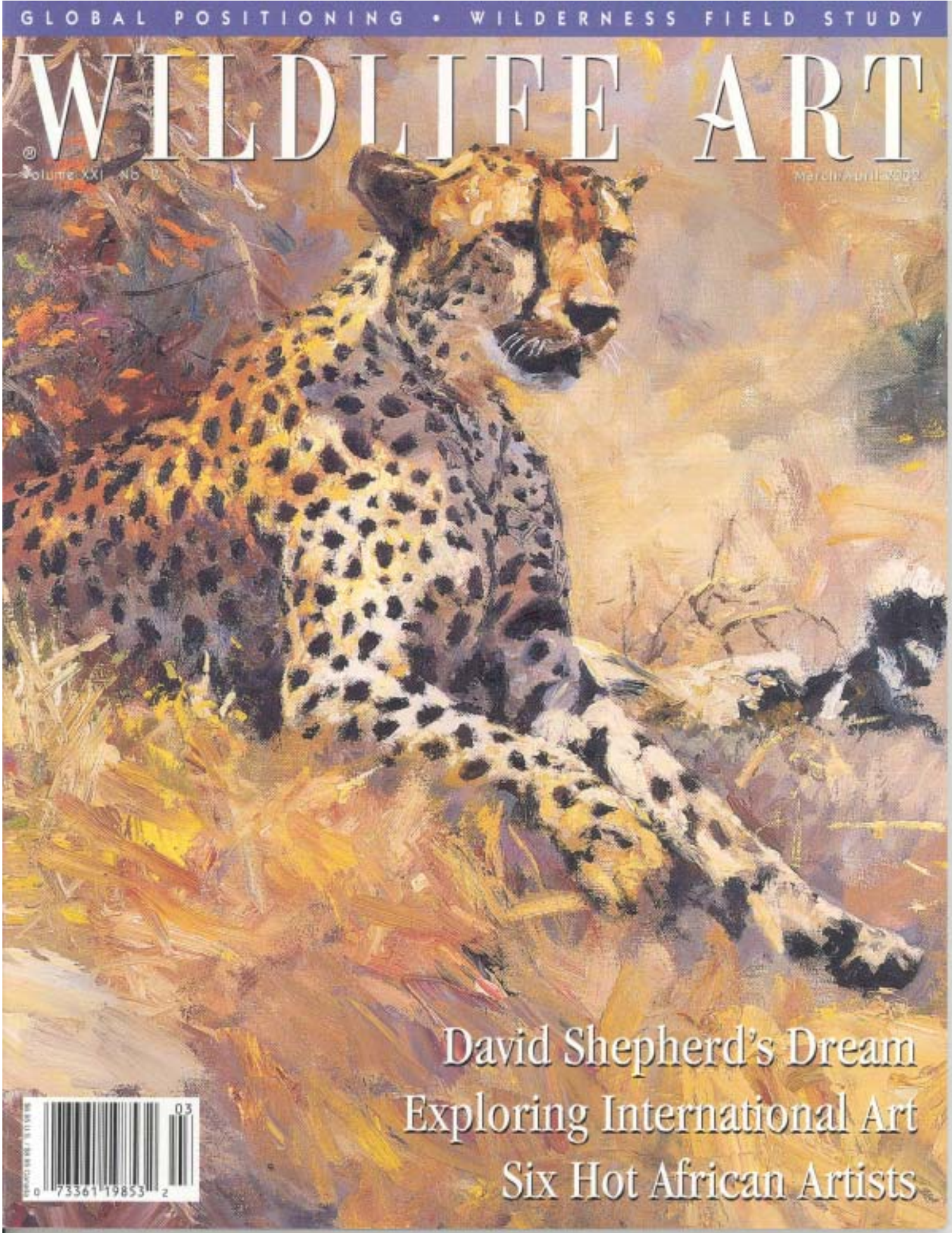


GLOBAL POSITIONING • WILDERNESS FIELD STUDY

WILDLIFE ART

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David Shepherd's Dream
Exploring International Art
Six Hot African Artists



THE Call of Africa

ARTISTS ON SAFARI

The appeal of Africa is undeniable. Contemporary wildlife artists Clive Kay, Brian Jarvi, Jean Abrie, Dennis Curry, John Swatsley and Don Heywood offer their impressions of this vast continent.

BY MARY NELSON

Although in Swahili safari merely means to travel, it evokes more exotic images for most of us: the sand, savannas and grasslands of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana; the snow-covered peaks of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania; the barren, brilliant red sand landscape of the Namib Desert in Namibia. From its vast deserts to lush rain forests and mountain peaks, adventurers and historians have traveled to the far reaches of Africa, chronicling the mysteries of the world's second largest continent.

With its bounty of cultures, flora and fauna, Africa has long captured the imaginations of people around the globe, particularly artists. Although

for most of us a safari to Africa is impractical, if not impossible, the wildlife artists featured here return time and again to photograph, sketch and study the animals and habitats they portray in their paintings. The artists' relationships with Africa and how they depict it are as diverse as Africa itself.

CLIVE KAY

Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Clive Kay left Africa to pursue commercial interests in England and, most recently, in Canada. But Kay found he couldn't shake the lure of Africa, wildlife and art. In the early '80s, circumstances conspired to

Below:
Zebra Resting,
acrylic, 16 x 24",
by Clive Kay

Opposite page:
Over the Top,
oil, 26 x 18",
by Simon Combes



search leopard. Abrie uses high-speed photographic equipment to capture the animal's likeness, because leopards are so quick. "You see them for only a second or two, and then they are gone," he explains. "[When dealing with leopard] things happen too quickly to paint them in the field."

Among his favorite haunts are the bushveld of eastern Africa, southern Zimbabwe and eastern Botswana, because "there are so many pastel colors in the dryness of the countryside," Abrie says. "The dryness, and sometimes the hazy scenes of the African bushveld, is very appealing."

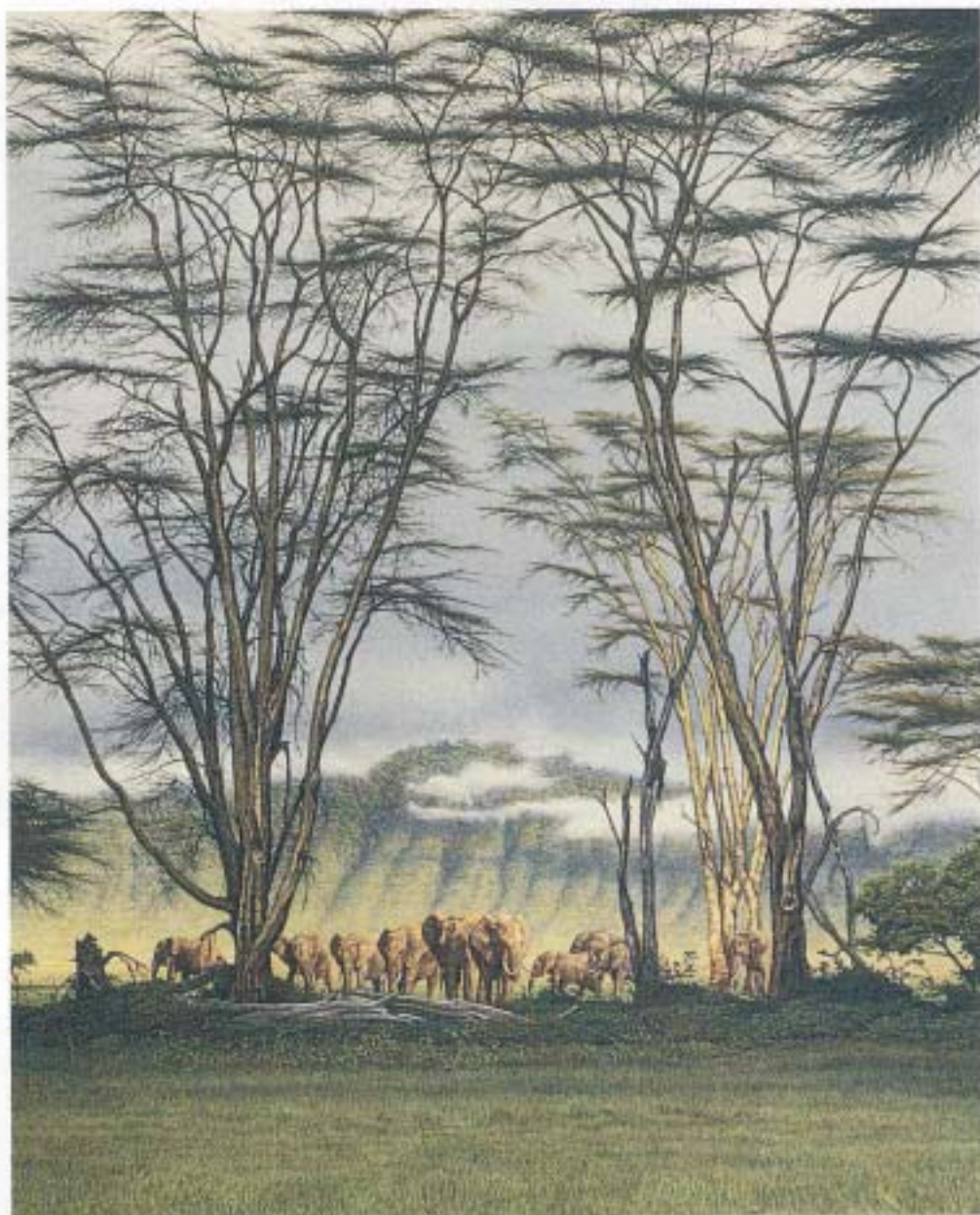
DENNIS CURRY

"The lighting is one thing that makes it important to spend as much time as possible [observing] if you're going to paint African subjects," says Dennis Curry. He went on his first trip to Africa in the early 1980s, jaded by comments about how the old Africa was gone and the country had changed. Nevertheless, captivated by the beauty of the land and its abundance of animals, Curry returns to Kenya and Tanzania for two months every couple of years. He likes to get to know an area and its creatures in depth.

Recently, Curry changed from doing original lithographs to painting in oils. He believes he took lithography, which is time-consuming and laborious, to a pinnacle. "Suddenly, I had a lot of ideas and wanted to get an immediate feel for what I'm doing," Curry says. "The richness of color and texture [that you get with oil] is really attractive to me."

DON HEYWOOD

Predators are Don Heywood's specialty, and helping to conserve endangered species, especially cheetah, is his passion. "The cheetah is the oldest cat in the world and only about 12,000 remain," Heywood explains. "They will be extinct in 12 years if they aren't cared for." He recently completed a series of 12 wildlife images in a limited edition portfolio commissioned by the Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center in Washington,



D.C. Ninety percent of the proceeds from sales of the portfolio go to conservation. Heywood drew the images, which include cheetah, wild dog, Bengal tiger, giant panda and maned wolf, using a form of draftsmanship he has perfected. He begins with a pencil drawing, then he fixes it, adds gouache, fixes it again, works over it with pencil, fixes again and so on, building on each phase.

Originally from England, the artist immigrated to Africa about 12 years ago after a safari to Kenya introduced him to the splendor of the country, its people and the abundant wildlife.

JOHN SWATSLEY

"Quite frankly, the first time I went to Africa, I didn't expect to like it," admits John Swatsley of his research trip to the Okavango Delta in Botswana. "I found out, however, that I love everything about Africa."

Cathedral of the Elephants, original lithograph, 21 x 17", by Dennis Curry