

scene magazine

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY FOR 55 YEARS

BELINDA COFFRIN

A Community Gem

**Transitioning
Sarasota**

**Planning
Your Future**

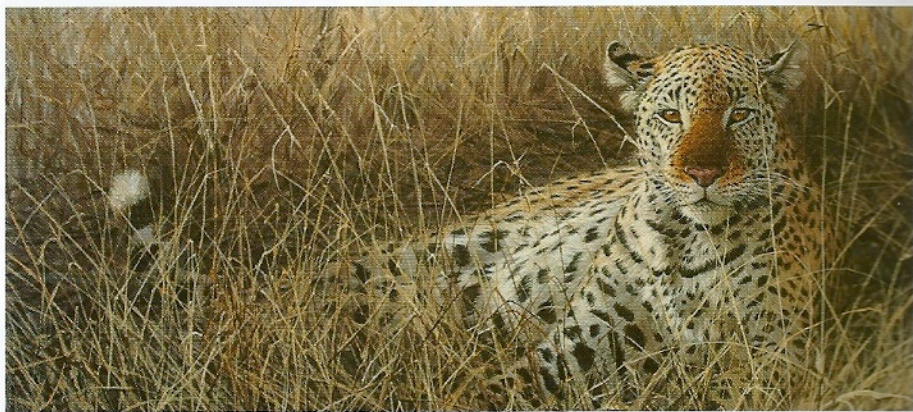
**The Issue
of Aging**

**Dickie V
One-on-One**



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The Visual Arts...

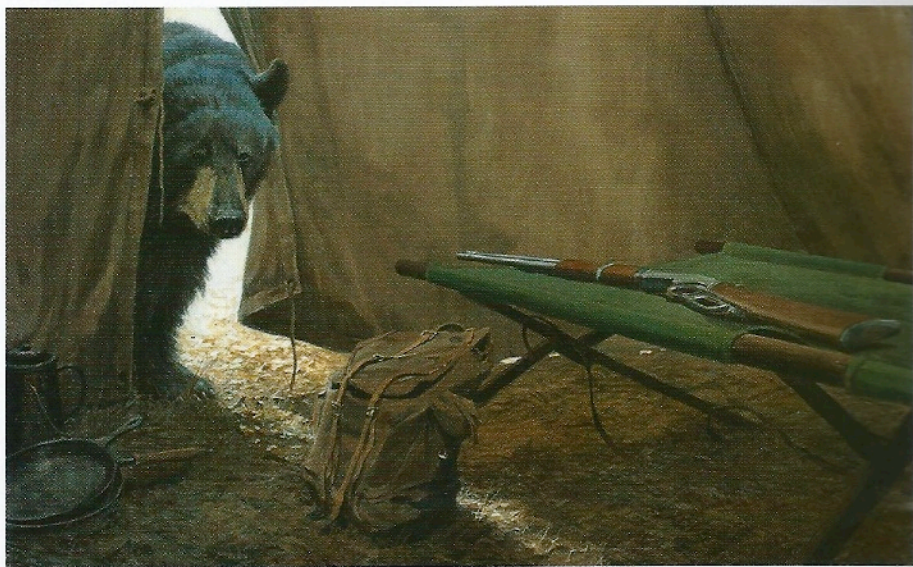
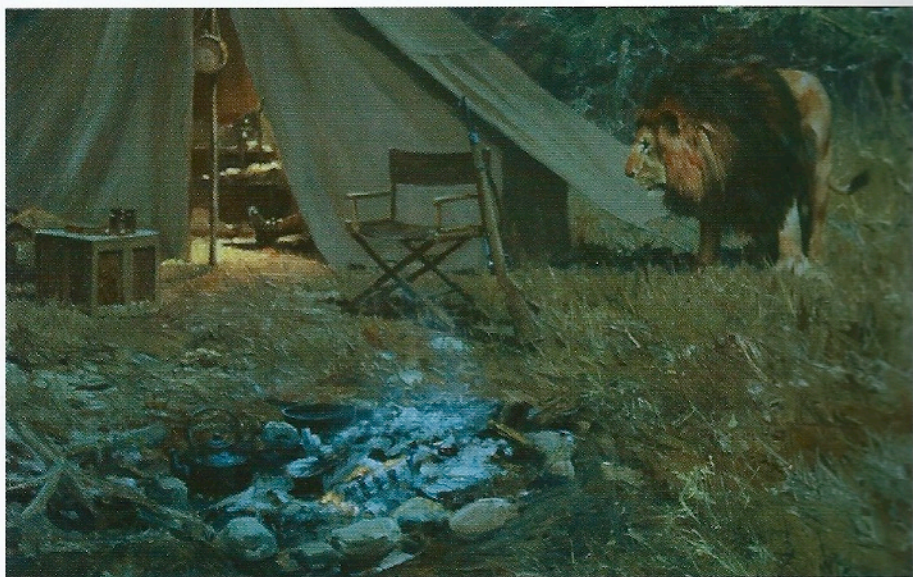


John & Suzie Seerey-Lester

Husband and wife duo John and Suzie Seerey-Lester are both distinguished wildlife and landscape artists whose works depict large mammals, birds of prey, magnificent underwater creatures and environmentally sensitive tableaux. Married in 2000, they have expanded their work to incorporate teaching MasterClasses in the Plein Air technique. Both separately and as a team, their love of nature and passion for conservation and protection continually informs their work and lives.

Born and raised in England, it was a visit to East Africa over thirty years ago that first sparked John Seerey-Lester's interest in wildlife (paintings featured left). Since then, he has traveled to – and painted in – China, India, Antarctica, the Arctic, and various countries in Central and South America. He has displayed in the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, the Gilcrease Museum, and National Museum of Wildlife Art, and in many other permanent collections such as Bennington Center for the Arts, Nature in Art Museum, and even the White House.

The author of several books and recipient of copious awards (including Artist of the Year at Southeastern Wildlife Expo, Pac Rim Wildlife Art Show and Florida Wildlife Expo, and the Award of Excellence from the Society of Animal Artists), Seerey-Lester is a member of The Society of Animal Artists, Artists for Con-



...so rich in inspiration, ambition and sheer beauty. SCENE proudly recognizes the passion and talents of local visual artists in this new monthly feature. Artists are selected by an independent panel organized by the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County.

servation, Oil Painters of America, and a founding member of Southern Plein Air Artists and The PhArtists (a band of merry photographers and artists).

Suzie Seerey-Lester, (paintings featured right) was a professional diver for over 30 years. As a Diving Instructor Trainer, Suzie traveled around the world, as the first woman to teach diving and license instructors. Working for the CIA and the Secret Service, she taught law enforcement personnel how to dive, perform search and recovery as well as other specialized skills. Traveling gave Suzie the opportunity to see extraordinary underwater creatures up close (and some scary stories), which she captured in her earlier paintings.

She has won several distinguished awards for her art, including: Top 100 and Juror's Award in Paint America, Judges Award from LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, and Artist of the Year from The Ocean Foundation, Birds in Art at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, The Bennington Art Museum, Animals In Arts Tour, Grant's Pass Museum, Florida Museum for Women Artists, and the Society of Animal Artist's show. Seerey-Lester is a member of the Society of Animal Artists, Artists for Conservation, Oil Painters of America, American Society of Marine Artists, The Wildlife Artists Association, a founding member of Southern Plein Air Artists, and The PhArtists. More about the artists can be found on their website www.seerey-lester.com. 