

# David J. Wagner, L.L.C. | Traveling Exhibitions

## AMERICA'S PARKS

*America's Parks* features fifty original works of art depicting scenes in parks of all kinds in the United States as well as Canada and Mexico. Jurors have included Pam Dean Cable, Executive Director, Susan Kathleen Black Foundation, M. Stephen Doherty, Editor, *PleinAir™* Magazine; Susan T. Fisher, Past President, American Society of Botanical Artists and former Art Institute Director of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; and Todd Wilkinson, Editor/Publisher, *Wildlife Art Journal*. The history of park art in America is broad and deep, going all the way back to 1871 and the campaign to rescue Yellowstone by transforming it into the nation's first National Park. Watercolors by Thomas Moran and photos of William Henry Jackson were used to lobby Congress to pass a bill to protect and preserve Yellowstone. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the bill creating the nation's first park on March 1, 1872. This exhibition is an artistic tribute to parks of all kinds by a range of talented artists working today. Awards have included an America's Parks Curator's Choice Award, America's Parks Sculpture Award, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Juror's Choice Award, The Priscilla V. and Michael C. Baldwin Foundation Sonoran Desert Art Award, *PleinAir™* Magazine Juror's Choice Award, Society of Animal Artist's Wildlife Art Award, Susan Kathleen Black Foundation Floral Art Award, Wildlife Art Journal Juror's Choice Award.

**CONTENTS:** 50 original paintings and sculptures



## FELINE FINE: ART OF CATS II

is a sequel to the popular 2003 traveling museum exhibition of the same title and its companion exhibition, *Paws And Reflect: Art Of Canines*. Cats have been domesticated since prehistoric times and have often been the objects of superstition as well as veneration, notably, for example, by ancient Egyptians. Today, they continue to fascinate and intrigue humans, as exemplified by the musical comedy, *Cats*, one of the longest running shows on Broadway. *Feline Fine* consists of 50 paintings and sculptures by leading artists who specialize in the subject of cats. Artworks in *Feline Fine: Art Of Cats II* portray domestic breeds and wild cats in a variety of places and styles. Each exhibiting artist was invited to display three to four works to demonstrate the range of her/his particular subject matter and treatment of these fascinating animals. New for *Feline II* is the inclusion of feline sculpture by the past President of the National Sculpture Society, feline fantasy art, feline miniatures, and computer generated feline art by an artist who was on the Lion King animation team.

**CONTENTS:** 50 paintings and sculptures

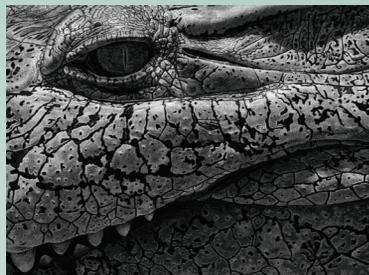


*Cat in Window* (detail), Janet Heaton.

## CROCODILIAN SCRATCHBOARDS BY JOHN AGNEW

John Agnew's career began in natural history museums and zoos where he designed exhibits, produced illustrations, and painted murals and dioramas in the U.S. and as far away as Moscow. In his hometown alone, John has produced nearly thirty thousand square feet of murals and dioramas for the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and Science, the Cincinnati Zoo, and Cincinnati and Hamilton County Parks. One of Agnew's favorite subject groups is Crocodylians, the last of the giant reptiles that survived the great extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. While he works in a variety of media, Agnew most often portrays crocs in scratchboard because it is so well suited to the textures and detail of these pre-historic subjects. *Crocodylian Scratchboards* explores crocodylians as studies in texture and form. Agnew likes the scratchboard technique for its affinity to the engravings in early texts about zoology, and its ability to treat the species in exquisite detail. The contrast of black and white lines is well suited for showing off intimate details of a crocodile's scaly texture. John Agnew has traveled worldwide in search of his subjects, including Borneo, Thailand and the Peruvian Amazon in addition to much of the United States. Among his many accomplishments and honors was his 2011 appointment as Artist in Residence at Everglades. John Agnew's work has been featured in *Artist's Magazine*, *Reptiles*, and various other periodicals. In 2001, North Light Books published a book entitled *Painting The Secret World Of Nature* entirely written and illustrated by John Agnew.

**CONTENTS:** Thirty scratchboards, preparatory drawings/sketches, paintings



*New Guinea Crocodile*, John Agnew

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## ANDREW DENMAN: THE MODERN WILD

“Between the drudgery of illustration and the vacuity of decoration lies the evocative; that is the province of the artist, that is the realm to which my work belongs,” says Andrew Denman of his edgy portrayals of the natural world. In the overly crowded and often overly conservative wildlife art genre, Denman’s cutting edge blend of stylized hyper-realism and surrealism immediately distinguish him from his peers. Denman possesses a deep and abiding love of animals and the wild places they inhabit, and his dedication to technical accuracy rivals that of any other living wildlife artist, but his true passion is a decidedly contemporary interpretation of nature, not a classical representation of it. While the artist often includes naturalistic settings in his work, he is just as likely to depict an animal subject in an entirely non objective space. These contrasts vary from the subtle to the extreme, but always the blend is visually seamless and intellectually challenging. The artist often incorporates letters, numbers, and snatches of his own poetry to create intriguing and even sometimes humorous juxtapositions. Informed by an understanding of art history, poetry, nature, and science, Andrew’s work embodies not only a mature visual expression beyond his years, but an intellectual depth and conceptual significance seldom found in “wildlife art.”

**CONTENTS:** 35 paintings plus drawings, photos, sketches, poems



*Modern Dance, Andrew Denman*

## BIODIVERSITY in the Art of Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen

Brest van Kempen’s paintings reveal an imagination of limitless proportion and unique perspectives. They also reveal the pure joy that comes from a truly imaginative creative process. This can be seen in the artist’s subjects. Brest van Kempen’s subjects do not include clichés like those painted ad infinitum by ordinary wildlife artists; rather, his works are populated by under-represented species which give real meaning to the phrase, biodiversity. To appreciate this point, consider just a handful of titles of his paintings: *Bat Falcon & Golden Free-Tailed Bat*, *Meller’s Chameleon & Leaf-Toed Gecko*, *Gripping Tail—Yellow Baboon & White-Throated Monitor*, *Hippopotamus & Nile Softshell Turtles*, *Maned Wolves & Three-Banded Armadillo*. Another manifestation of joy in the paintings of Brest van Kempen is the relationship in which he places the viewer to his subjects or, in other words, perspective. There is simply no other wildlife artist who has produced a body of work that consistently affords viewers with richer views. This aspect of his style, combined with virtuosic technique and, most importantly, vivid imagination, imbue Brest van Kempen’s work with a depth that is rare in the world of natural history art. A book, entitled *Rigor Vitae: Life Unyielding*, about Brest van Kempen and his art, with an introduction by David J. Wagner, accompanies this exhibition.

**CONTENTS:** 35 to 40 original paintings plus preparatory drawings



*Hippopotamus & Nile Softshell Turtles, Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen*

## KENT ULLBERG: A RETROSPECTIVE

A diverse, retrospective range of bronze and stainless steel castings and clay models by sculptor, Kent Ullberg. The exhibit, which premiered at The Joslyn Art Museum, demonstrates the range of Ullberg’s subject matter and treatment of nature. There are many worlds of art. But no matter in which Kent Ullberg’s sculpture is judged, it succeeds because of the breadth, depth, and sophistication of his knowledge and talent. In the world of New York’s National Academy of Design, Ullberg’s art stands out because he deeply understands nature, and his treatment of it goes beyond urbane aesthetics. In the world of New York’s Society of Animal Artists, Ullberg’s work rises above the rest because he applies his broad knowledge of art history to create his sculptures. This duality is unusual. Relatively few other artists embody much less embrace it. It is a result of Ullberg’s aspiration to be true to art and to nature. To date, Kent Ullberg has produced more than 50 monuments and 250 smaller castings. For most artists, this would be enough, but not for Kent Ullberg. Because Ullberg demands more from himself for art than do most artists, he has distinguished himself in yet another way. Kent Ullberg has advanced the story of wildlife art by embracing a postmodern philosophy and bridging an entire genre into the 21st Century. As a sculptor at the vanguard of contemporary art, Ullberg employs his deep knowledge of nature and his exceptional skill and talent to create monuments that endure.

**CONTENTS:** A range of bronze and stainless steel castings and models for indoor AND outdoor installation



*Canyon Watch (Bronze), Kent Ullberg*