



September 16, 2017 unveiling at The Reif Center for the Performing Arts, Grand Rapids, MN, which drew attendance exceeding 800 in paid admissions.

What Brian Jarvi endeavors to create is something momentarily novel—a grand panoramic that invites viewers to become a participant in the experience. Jarvi’s ambitious concept is without rival among his living contemporaries in wildlife art. Regarded as one of the finest dramatic painters in the wildlife genre, Jarvi is also a conservationist who seeks to address ecological challenges through his art.

*AFRICAN MENAGERIE* addresses an extinction crisis that confronts Africa’s animal kingdom today. Unlike extinctions going back to the age of dinosaurs, the current episode is the only one that has occurred during the tenure of Homo sapiens. The spiraling loss of biological diversity, prominent ecologists say, stands to erase many of the Earth’s iconic megafauna and other smaller animals that imbue our quality of life with wild richness.

Brian Jarvi’s career has spanned more than a quarter century. In 1989, his career took a pivotal turn following a month long safari to Kenya and Tanzania. Interest, transformed into passion for the flora, fauna, land, and people of Africa, has beckoned him back twelve times since. Consequently subject matter from The Dark Continent has come to dominate his work. The universal appeal of the great, iconic species he paints has created a broad international audience for his work, and he is now considered one of the World’s premiere painters of African wildlife. Brian Jarvi has received numerous honors and awards in that time, including the prestigious Award of Excellence from the Society of Animal Artists, and twice the Artist of the Year award from Safari Club International. His artwork has been used to raise hundreds of

thousands of dollars by various conservation organizations, and his concern runs deep for the future of Africa’s natural world.

— Todd Wilkinson, Author, *Last Stand: Ted Turner’s Quest To Save A Troubled Planet*

**EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS**

**CONTENTS:** Seven, interlocking panels, forming a thirty-two foot wide, free-standing segmented arc serve as the exhibit’s centerpiece; plus 65 research sketches and mixed media studies (many in large format); title panel and labels

**SUPPORT:** Education, Press, Registration

**ARTIST APPEARANCES:** Possible pending availability

**BOOK:** Coffee-table-sized book in two editions pending publication by Rizzoli Publications, New York

**EXHIBITION AVAILABILITY:** Beginning in August, 2018

**CONTACT**

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Member American Alliance of Museums and International Council of Museums

— BRIAN JARVI’S —

# AFRICAN MENAGERIE

**AFRICAN MENAGERIE** is a traveling exhibition consisting of a thirty-two foot wide, free-standing, segmented centerpiece arc; plus sixty-five research sketches and large-format, mixed media preparatory studies, portraying a wide array of African wildlife. The exhibition is available in August 2018. A book by Todd Wilkinson accompanies the exhibition.

“In 1857, the great Hudson River School painter Frederic E. Church unveiled his 40” x 90” painting of Niagara Falls. The fascination with and publicity about the painting brought out more than 100,000 people to see what was then considered a colossal masterwork. Brian Jarvi has spent the past fourteen years realizing a [similar] dream grounded in his childhood fascination with collections of local animal species and informed by his lifelong studies of Africa.”

— M. Stephen Doherty Former Editor-in-Chief, *American Artist*; Current Editor of *PleinAir*

“What’s happening in Africa is disturbing but it is reflective of problems affecting wildlife around the world. It is my hope that *African Menagerie* will serve as a catalyst to wake people up.”— Brian Jarvi



The backstory of AFRICAN MENAGERIE consists of a calculated subtext intended to dramatize the urgency of the moment to save not just the great iconic species of Africa, but also wildlife across all of our shrinkingly-diverse environmentally-threatened planet.

The exhibition's centerpiece features an array of 209 species set against the grand panoramic backdrop of receding snows atop Mount Kilimanjaro. Here, Africa's iconic wildlife including Cape Buffalo, Elephant, Leopard, Lion, Giraffe, Gorilla, Rhino, Hippo, and Zebra mingle with lesser-known species such as Bongo,

Okapie, and Mandrill, all of which gaze directly at viewers, in a way that reveals the artist's subtext for the exhibit, the plight of threatened and endangered wildlife species and an Inquisition of those responsible, namely, Homo sapiens.