

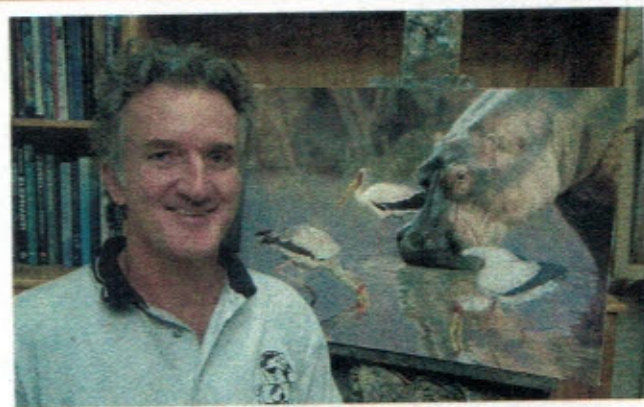


David Langmead, *Blaze of Glory*
Oil | 24 x 36 inches

In 2015, famed sculptor and cowboy-sportsman T.D. Kelsey, whose masterworks can be found in a half-dozen museums across the West and in prominent private collections, makes his return to SCI after a five-year absence. Some of Kelsey's new bronzes are being exhibited at the Call of Africa Gallery booth.

Call of Africa, which operates in both Jupiter and Naples, Florida, is unveiling the first part of a multiyear exhibition called *The Great Zambezi*. The show features paintings by African artists David Langmead and Jaco van Schalkwyk, and sculpture by Mopho Gonde, all celebrating the wildlife-rich Zambezi River corridor. Gonde, a Ndebele, has been called the Michelangelo of indigenous carvers in southern Africa for his classical depictions of megafauna. All three will be present in Las Vegas.

Gallery founder Ross Parker also plans to have live painting demonstrations by John Seerey-Lester, who has gained critical acclaim for his historic hunting camp scenes portraying Theodore Roosevelt. T.D. Kelsey will be on hand



A native of Zimbabwe, David Langmead finds inspiration in the land and skies of his homeland.

to talk about his hair-raising hunting escapades flying across Sub-Saharan Africa in a bush plane.

Another highlight is a sneak preview of painter Brian Jarvi's ambitious, multiyear magnum opus, *An African Menagerie*. When completed, the visually interlocking project — which stretches 27 feet across — will feature seven monumental paintings with panoramic portrayals of more than 140 African species. Jarvi is also offering more than 100 exquisite studies and pre-studies for sale. A special

museum tour is being planned for *An African Menagerie*, and Jarvi says the intent is to heighten public awareness about the plight of African mammals and birds.

"Americans understand keenly the role that fine art has played in our history, in making society realize the urgency of critical moments when the survival of species and wilderness hangs in the balance," Jarvi says. "Were it not for Thomas Moran, we might not have Yellowstone today. Had other romantic painters like Bierstadt, Remington and Russell not documented the dire outlook facing bison and elk on the frontier, Theodore Roosevelt wouldn't have been able to marshal our hunting forefathers into action — and have it register in Congress. The wildlife crisis happening right now in Africa is a metaphor for something bigger."

In terms of bringing together a concentration of potent resources — financial, human and political — SCI is a place where the power of art fuels visionary conservation, Jarvi

says. "SCI operates globally on the front lines of wildlife conservation, not only here at home in the United States, but in many far-flung places that most people don't often think about. The sporting art sold helps raise awareness and generates funds for bettering the prospects of wildlife on the ground," DeLone explains, adding that millions of dollars have been raised over the years through the proceeds

of art sales to benefit conservation and to battle poaching, which is taking a grim toll on elephants, rhinos and lions.

“There’s no other show in the world where one can find such an assemblage of big safari-type animals represented in fine art — not at any auction or museum show.”

— John Banovich

"No matter where they're from, there is a common identity our members feel in their hearts, a sense of mutual belonging and stewardship," he explains. "Great art is yet another element that unites us. You can vote for the things you value with your wallet, take home something that inspires others and change the world." ■

Todd Wilkinson, a contributing editor to *WA&A*, is author of *Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet* and editor of the online *Wildlife Art + Nature Journal*.

David Langmead, *The Big Tree*

Oil | 24 x 36 inches

