

[CAPTURE]
the experience.

ARTIST OF THE *Year*



JOHN SEEREY-LESTER

BY JOHN HOUSEMAN

With his paintings hanging in the White House, John Seerey-Lester has become one of the most renowned wildlife and historic artists in the world today. "When it comes to reliving in both words and paint, the world's greatest explorers and hunters, no artist does it better than John Seerey-Lester," says *Sporting Classics Magazine*. His passion for painting the great outdoors from life has enabled him to gain a unique understanding and vision drawn from years of study in the wilds of every continent except Australia.

Seerey-Lester's featured painting, "TR In Search of Elk," depicts a scene from over a century ago. It was September 1891, in Wyoming, and the youthful hunter, Theodore Roosevelt, was embarking on what he would remember later as one of his favorite hunts.

TR's hunting party, which was comprised of his ranch partner Bob Ferguson, longtime friend Tazewell Woody, and Edward Hofer, who doubled as cook and packer, were heading for Two-Ocean Pass to hunt elk. The party had 20 horses, 6 to ride and 14 for packs. This was a large outfit, even for TR. Although many of the ponies had seen better days, they were hardy animals who, despite the usual problem of occasionally straying, the horses, served them well on the long hunting trip. They carried three tepee-style tents, two for sleeping and the other for storing the hunter's gear and to serve as a dining tent during adverse weather.

Before producing the painting, John and his wife Suzie travelled the exact route taken by TR over a century ago, from Heart Lake in Yellowstone through Two-Ocean Pass and the Shoshone

National Forest to the badlands. "I chose to paint the scene from the elk's point of view with TR's hunting party and 20 horses winding their way through the background," says John. This painting appears on page 53 of Seerey-Lester's new book, *Legends of the Hunt - Campfire Tales*, copies of which he will be signing and personalizing at the *Sporting Classics* booth during the Houston Safari Club 2014 Convention. Paintings by the artist will be offered for sale at Call of Africa's booth.

Ross Parker and Call of Africa were instrumental in offering Seerey-Lester's original historic wildlife paintings and giclee prints since the conception of this art theme in 2007 and his first book, *Legends of the Hunt*, in 2009. Over 250 paintings have appeared in the 2 books, and Call of Africa exhibited and sold most of them at their 2 galleries in Ft. Lauderdale and Naples, Florida.

There are very few paintings left from the two books and Call of Africa will be offering these and Seerey-Lester's new collection of work at their booth during the convention.

When asked, Seerey-Lester said; "Being chosen as the Artist of the Year for HSC was an honor indeed. The very best traditions of hunting and conservation are represented by this organization and I am most proud to be part of it this year."

Last year John Seerey-Lester was knighted in Houston by his Imperial and Royal Highness, the Archduke Andreas of Austria on behalf of St. Hubertus. ★