

Old World-New World

The Wildlife Art of Guy Combes & Andrew Denman

Nature in Art Museum

Gloucester, United Kingdom,

August 7-26, 2012

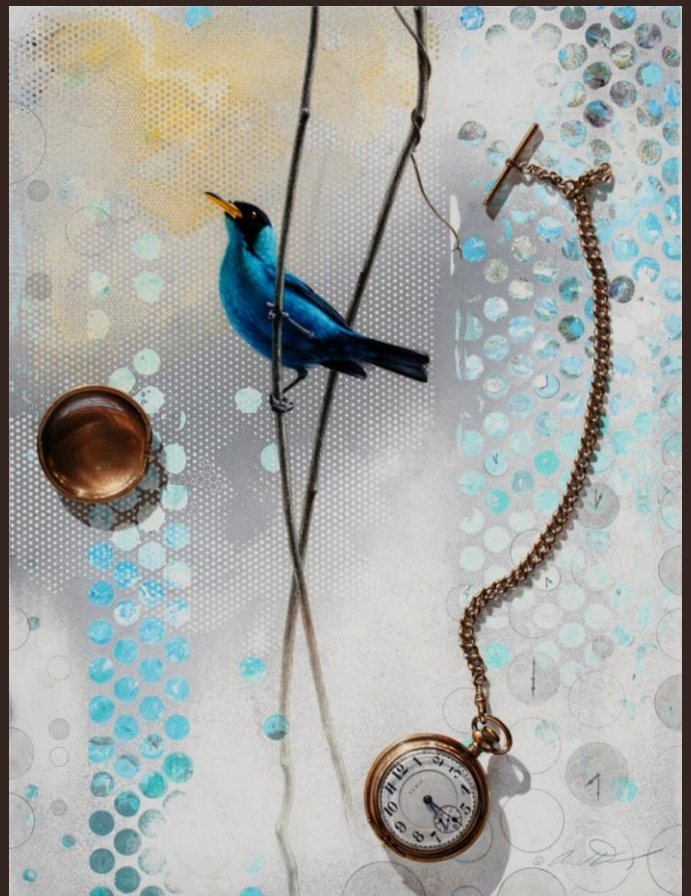
Artist's Reception: 6:30-9:45 p.m., August 11th, 2012

Old World-New World is a joint exhibition of original artwork by two of the most notable young painters in the field of wildlife art today. Fast friends since meeting at the 50th anniversary of the Society of Animal Artists in San Diego in 2010, these two artists work in distinctly different but complimentary styles. This August, the United Kingdom's prestigious Nature in Art Museum will host the first ever two man gala event for Denman and Combes.



Above: "Big Daddy" by Guy Combes, African Elephants, Oil on canvas, 32 x 32." Based on the artist's experience in Kenya's Amboseli National Park.

Right: "Trin Time" by Andrew Denman, Green Honeycreeper, Acrylic on Cradled Board, 16 x 12." From the artist's expedition in the mountain rainforests of Trinidad.



Combes, a native of Kenya, uses oil and canvas to communicate his extensive knowledge of African Wildlife with an old master's technique, a novelist's love for dramatic narrative, and a 21st century eye for color and design. Denman, born and raised on the West Coast of the United States, approaches the wildlife of the New World, particularly birds, with the precision of a naturalist coupled with a thoroughly modern sensibility that allows for the abstract and descriptive to meld

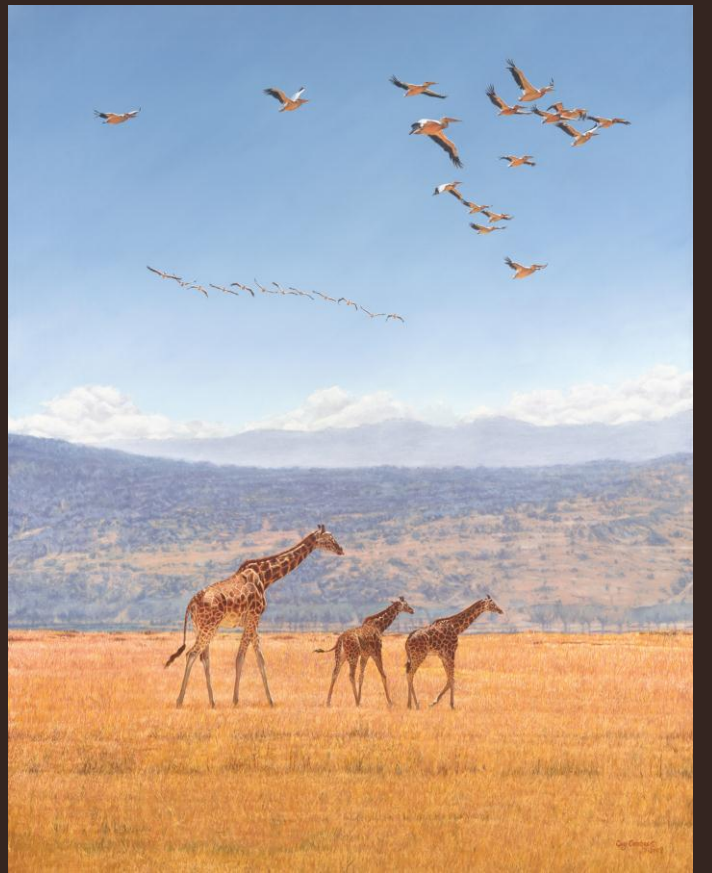
seamlessly in his acrylic on board compositions. The wildlife art genre today is in a state of flux, and Denman and Combes are among a new artistic vanguard bringing a fresh and creative approach to animal painting.

Old World-New World will consist of more than twenty original works of art representing the cutting edge of these two painters' artistic endeavors. Combes' body of work will focus on the wildlife of his beloved Kenya, from charismatic megafauna to the lesser known but equally remarkable denizens of one of Africa's most biologically rich landscapes. Denman's work will include diverse animal subjects from both North and South America, with special attention given to the bird life of Trinidad, where the artist visited in 2006 on a Society of Animal Artists grant.



Above: "Twist" by Andrew Denman, Palm Tanagers, Acrylic on Board, 24 x 19.5"

Right: "High Hopes" by Guy Combes, Rothschild's Giraffes & Great White Pelicans, Oil on Canvas, 38 x 30"



"A successful painting always begins with a direct experience with nature and careful observation, but a good representational artist is more than a mimic; he views the world through his own unique set of eyes and "re-presents" that vision to his audience. Though our stylistic approaches differ, both of our work is as much about the processes we employ and the abstract possibilities a bird or animal subject suggests as they are about the subject itself. It has taken years of dedication, struggle and experimentation to develop our own unique artistic voices, and we are eager to share our perspectives with a new audience as we bring Old World-New World: the Wildlife Art of Guy Combes & Andrew Denman across the pond."

-Guy Combes & Andrew Denman, November 2011

GUY COMBES was born in Kenya (1971) the son of the late wildlife artist, Simon Combes. His art background came not just from his father, but an interest in exploring different forms of media and commercial application. His education included sculpture and design at college in England where he also majored in art history.

He returned to Kenya in 2001 and quickly rekindled his love for Africa and her wildlife, becoming involved in a number of conservation causes for which he now tirelessly campaigns, including Soysambu Conservancy- the rich mosaic of biodiversity in the Great Rift Valley. His most recent efforts plan to build a highway across the Serengeti that threatened to cut off the



Guy was Artist in Residence at the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum in New Jersey from 2006 through 2011, an experience which granted him the opportunity to reach an American audience. He is a signature member of both Artists for Conservation, Canada, and the Society of Animal Artists, New York, from whom his work has both been awarded and accepted into national museum shows and tours. His work can be found at the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum and in private collections around the world. Guy travels extensively, and regularly revisits Kenya where he leads expeditions for artists and groups of conservation biology students from the US. He has also regularly lectured at zoos and universities on the East Coast including Yale and George Mason, with whom he has set up research programs at a facility he helped develop at Soysambu Conservancy. Guy will continue to develop his own field knowledge on the ground in Kenya and to pursue artistic projects that bring awareness about his homeland and its unique wildlife to international audiences.



Left: "Leopard Lounge" by Guy Combes, Oil on Canvas, 28 x 40"

Right: "The Creche" by Guy Combes, Oil on Canvas, 30 x 40"

"Guy Combes is at the forefront of a new generation of wildlife artists" - **Scott Usher, President, The Greenwich Workshop, Seymour, CT, USA**

"I have no doubt that Guy Combes will continue to contribute significant works of art throughout his career, and will continue to raise public awareness of the need for conservation and protection of endangered species"- **Marijane Singer, former Director, The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum, Oradell, NJ, USA**

"Guy has achieved international distinction for his wildlife paintings which have been sold and commissioned in the UK, Africa and America. He has an international following."
- **Simon H. Trapnell, Director, Nature in Art, Gloucestershire, UK**

“People are able to pick up on things in Guys’ African paintings that they may not be able to express, but intuitively know. From design, to color, to atmospheric conditions, they see this in Guys work.” –**Scott Usher** in **“Son of Combes: of Life, Loss, & the Search for Meaning in Kenya”** by **Todd Wilkinson**, **Wildlife Art Journal**, Winter 2012.

ANDREW DENMAN, born in California in 1978, began teaching art classes at age thirteen and acquired his first gallery representation as a precocious sixteen-year-old. He has since gone on to earn a BA in Fine Arts and gain national attention through major gallery showings, numerous museum exhibitions, artist workshops and speaking engagements, and feature coverage in such publications as *Southwest Art*, *American Artist*, *Wildlife Art*, *Western Art Collector*, and *The Artist’s Magazine*.



His work has toured nationally with *Birds in Art* and the *Society of Animal Artists*, which has thrice honored Andrew’s work with Awards of Excellence. The artist shows regularly at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, where he was Artist in Residence for Winter of 2009. Denman’s work can be found in the National Museum of Wildlife Art and The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin, and numerous private collections across the country. The artist is a member of the *Society of Animal Artists, NY*, *The International Guild of Realism, AZ*, and *Artists for Conservation, Canada*. Denman is currently represented by *Astoria Fine Art* in Jackson, WY, and maintains *Denman Studios* at his Antioch and Orinda CA residences.

Denman goes to great lengths to faithfully portray his subjects, taking frequent field trips around the country to acquire reference material. Yet while accuracy is always of great importance, Denman is an artist before he is a naturalist. The sense of fearless experimentation and originality he brings to his paintings testifies to the artist’s true focus. As Mary Nelson writes in the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of *Wildlife Art* magazine, “In the end, it’s not the mood, the meaning, or the method that Denman craves. It is the medium-art.”



Left: “The Grey Scale” by Andrew Denman, Chilean Flamingo Chicks, Acrylic on Board, 20.25 x 15.75”

Above: “The Tyrant” (detail) by Andrew Denman, White-Headed Marsh Tyrant, Acrylic on Cradled Board, 16x12”

"On first viewing, Andrew's innovative compositions and exceptional artistic skill were self-evident. I started following his work and soon saw a painting that 'spoke to me.' *The Answer* still speaks with each revisit." -
Bill Kerr, Founder of the National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, WY

"I've interviewed hundreds of artists in my capacity as senior editor of *Western Art Collector* magazine and Andrew is among the most articulate and organized painters I've had the pleasure to speak with....His unique combination of hyper-realism, stylization and abstraction compliment his subject matter, leaving viewers wanting more." -**Michelle Borgwardt, Senior Editor *Western Art Collector Magazine***

"I... enjoy Andrew's approach to his subjects, which often challenges the viewer and that's a good thing. Andrew also brings a contemporary edginess to his artwork that differentiates him from his peers. He possesses an enviable mastery of his medium and also demonstrates a sophisticated and skillful drawing technique. I expect – and look forward to – continued good work from Andrew and an array of surprises, too." -**Kathy Kelsey Foley, Director Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, WI**

"...[T]he study of Piet Mondrian, Robert Bateman, Ray Harris-Ching, William Harnett, John Haberle, August Rodin, Salvador Dali, and Hieronymus Bosch...fostered an eclectic mixture of the representational, the abstract and love of the natural, which meet, merge, and marry on Denman's canvases." - **Mary Nelson, former editor *Wildlife Art Magazine***

"No great artist sees things as they really are; they interpret their observations and blend them with their thoughts and beliefs. When done well the result is something of immense beauty layered with narrative. Andrew Denman is such an artist, his work is contemporary, his chosen subject the natural world and at a time when so much contemporary art is preoccupied with ugliness his has a gentle beauty that resonates with the soul." -**Simon Gudgeon, one of Britain's foremost sculptors, Dorchester, Dorset, UK**

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