

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ANIMAL ARTISTS



The Society of Animal Artists is very pleased to return to The Wildlife Experience for our 47th *Art and the Animal* exhibition. It was in 2002 that the SAA was invited to be the premiere exhibition at The Wildlife Experience's inauguration. The SAA would like to convey its appreciation for The Wildlife Experience's commitment to wildlife art, and its support of wildlife artists by annually displaying *Art and the Animal*. We are honored to join in the celebration of their 5th year anniversary.

Long before artists depicted the human figure, or turned to landscape or still-life painting, art had only one subject, the animal. Prehistoric cave art illuminates the connection between humans and the animals that co-existed with them. Early man painted the animals that sustained him, providing food, clothing, and shelter. Somehow we have lost that connection and for our own survival it is crucial that we preserve this heritage.

The very stars that were visible to those cavemen have a connection to the SAA. Our logo, the Catasus, depicts a winged cat reaching for a star. The eminent artist, Paul Bransom, who served as our second president, designed this logo to symbolize the striving for artistic perfection. As a tribute

to Paul, founder Patricia Allen Bott arranged with the National Star Registry to name an actual star "Catasus." Star number: Hydra 10H 20M 1940 has been so redesignated, and will retain the title "Catasus" in perpetuity.

The 47th annual *Art and the Animal* exhibition and the publication of this catalog were made possible with the contribution of many people. On behalf of the Society of Animal Artists, I would like to express sincere appreciation to Mr. David Liniger and the Board of Directors of The Wildlife Experience. A special thank you goes to Deanna and David Rankin for this beautiful catalog. I would also like to thank David J. Wagner, Ph.D., our Tour Director, for giving so many people the opportunity to experience a selection of art works from this exhibit in the nationwide *Art and the Animal* Tour.

Artists working in this genre often are inspired to create with a specific altruistic goal in mind. Their works reflect a commitment to promote and foster both domestic animal and wildlife art. Not only do our members raise money for conservation and other wildlife causes, but, more importantly, through their art they hope to stir public awareness and action.

Leslie Delgyer
President
Society of Animal Artists