

## THE ART AND THE ANIMAL TOUR

The Wildlife Experience has been an essential partner of The Society of Animal Artists since 2002. On August 30 of that year, it officially opened its doors for business thanks to Dave Liniger by premiering The Society of Animal Artists' 42nd Annual Exhibition. Every year since then, The Wildlife Experience has hosted the traveling *Art and the Animal* exhibition. The Society of Animal Artists 47th Annual Exhibition marks the fifth Anniversary of the opening of The Wildlife Experience and the partnership of these two leading organizations.



The Wildlife Experience undoubtedly selected *Art and the Animal* for its inauguration because of The Society of Animal Artists' reputation for quality, and the prestige of The Society of Animal Artists, a global organization comprised of members who perennially produce the best animal art in the world.

Not surprisingly, The Wildlife Experience is scheduled to host the *Art and the Animal* traveling exhibition annually for the next five years, as well as a pre-Christmas small works holiday sales exhibition, organized by SAA Board Member and Exhibition Chairman, Diane Mason. TWE will host the premier of this event during the 2007 Christmas holiday shopping season, from November 23 through December 24.

By way of introduction, I am also proud to announce this year's *Art and the Animal* tour. It consists of the following venues: The West Valley Art Museum in Surprise, AZ; Spartanburg Art Museum in South Carolina; The Zanesville Art Center in Ohio; and The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute in Tucson.

By way of acknowledgements, I wish to thank Dave Liniger, President of the Board of Directors of The Wildlife Experience, and that museum's staff for hosting *Art and the Animal* for the past five years, and for making a commitment to do the same for the next five years. Special thanks to The West Valley Art Museum, particularly its former Executive Director, Dr. Wallace A. Steffan for committing that institution to host the Annual Exhibition in 2001, and then the *Art and the Animal* traveling exhibition for the next five years running. Special thanks to Theresa Mann, Director of Spartanburg Art Museum, and to Susan Talbot-Stanaway, Director of The Zanesville Art Center, for each hosting *Art and the Animal* for the very first time. The final venue for the 2007-2008 *Art and the Animal* Tour is The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute, made possible thanks to Robert Edison, Executive Administrative Director, Susan T. Fisher, Art Institute Director, and the generous support of the institute's founder, Priscilla Baldwin.

Finally, I would like to thank Society of Animal Artists President, Leslie Delgyer, for her steadfast loyalty and friendship and leadership throughout her term of office, and of course the artist members of the Society of Animal Artists. Your artwork and participation in the Annual Exhibition and the *Art and the Animal* Tour are what make the Society of Animal Artists the most prestigious organization of its kind in the world. Thanks as always for the opportunity to work with you and share your art with audiences throughout the nation.

David J. Wagner, Ph.D.  
Tour Director