



ROBERT BATEMAN

Resides: Salt Spring Island,
British Columbia, Canada
b. 1930, British Columbia, Canada

Meru Dusk

Lesser kudu

Acrylic on board, 12 x 18

In all of my African safaris, I had seen the lesser kudu only once before. Greater kudus, although more spectacular, are relatively easy to see, especially in southern Africa. The lesser kudu is a more subtle and delicate antelope which lives in dense, thorny scrub. It was the last evening in Meru National Park—the only place likely to produce a lesser kudu on this family safari. I had given up hope, but my son, John, said that he had a feeling in his bones

that we would “score.” He was right. As we came around the bend in the track, there he was—a male in his prime. As we gazed, awestruck, another male emerged from the bush to join him. “I have seldom seen such a lovely sight. The whole scene had a translucent quality because the kudus were all soft brown, greys and beiges, as were all the twigs of the background—everything was caught in this lovely, slanting light.