

The Center for
Circumpolar Studies
WREAF Program



Artists' Showcase &
Auction Catalog

Opening for bidding online December 6th.

www.circumpolarstudies.org

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Artists' Showcase & Auction Catalog

Opening Friday, December 6th

The Wilderness River Expedition Art Fellowship (CCS/WREAF) Program, under the inspired leadership of Rob Mullen, encourages nature artists to live their art on extended, self-supported river expeditions in some of the most rugged and remote regions of the world. The arduous rigors and sublime joys of wilderness canoe travel provide intense experiences that inform the artists, ensuring that the artwork remains grounded in the realities of the natural world.

The resulting artwork, however varied, is connected by a thread of shared adventure and experience. By exhibiting these individual visions together, usually within a natural history context, we work to raise awareness of the areas in which these rivers run. A principal focus of WREAF expeditions has been the North American portion of the Circumpolar Boreal Forest - the largest terrestrial ecosystem on Earth, critical for global climate, fresh water, indigenous cultures, wildlife and birds.

We are delighted to present this showcase for CCS/WREAF artists, featuring 45 original artworks from 12 exceptional artists. In addition to supporting the work of these artists, your purchases will help support CCS/WREAF programming. Thank you for participating!

NORTHERN LIGHT

DAWN BANNING

9" x 12" • Oil



About Dawn Banning

Dawn comes by her passion for nature quite honestly. Her mother, a nurse and avid gardener, has always loved to be outdoors. With her father employed as a Park Conservation Officer, Dawn quickly came to love all the things in nature that she encountered daily in Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks.

She has been deeply influenced by the vast diversity of Canadian regions in which she has resided, from the big sky of Saskatchewan, to the vibrancy of the Yukon, the lush forests of B.C, to the colorful parks of Ontario.

LORD OF THE NORTH **LINDA BESSE**

20" x 16" • Oil

About Linda Besse

Like most wildlife artists, Linda was enchanted with animals at an early age. It was vivid childhood memories of her great-uncle and his African hunting stories which gave her an immediate sense of the adventure one experiences when exploring wild animals and places. Linda was drawn to the outdoors through her geology bachelor's degree from Colgate University, followed with a Master of Science degree which enabled her to get into the back country of Alaska, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana.

Linda works from her field sketches, small field paintings and her photographs to create a composition designed to reflect the inherent artistry of nature. Painting exclusively in oil because she likes its luminosity, depth, and intensity of color, Linda uses a mostly wet-on-wet technique to capture the immediacy of the image. She lives in the country surrounded by deer, wild turkey, grouse, quail, coyote, and the occasional moose, bear, and mountain lion.



TITANS OF THE TUNDRA

LINDA BESSE

15" x 34" • Oil



LABRADOR GUARDIAN
LINDA BESSE

18" x 36" • Oil



CROSSING
LINDA BESSE
11" x 22" • Oil



RUSH HOUR
LINDA BESSE
12" x 30" • Oil



WATERFALL ABOVE THE NOATAK

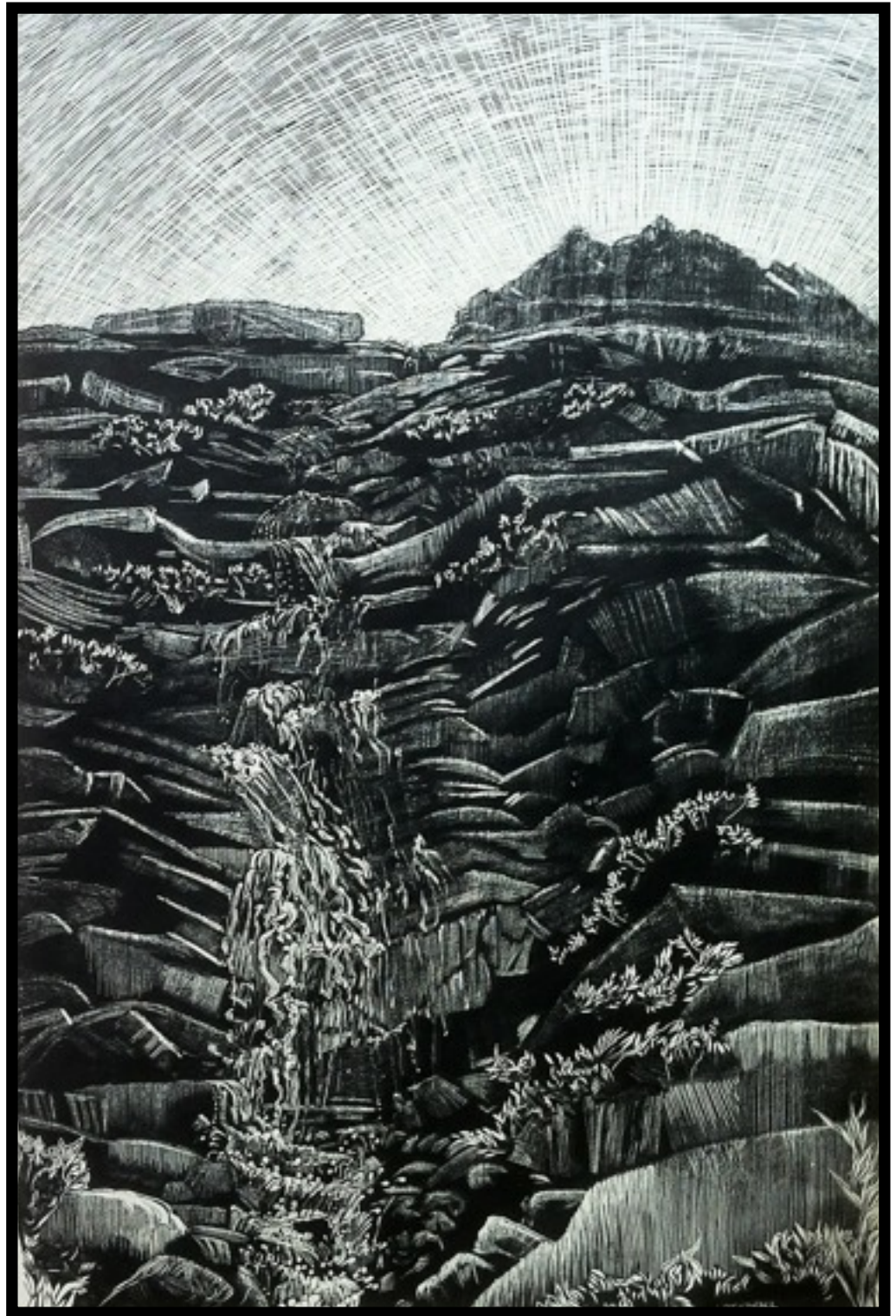
UNFRAMED EDITION 25

BILL BRODY

24" x 36" • Woodcut

About Bill Brody

I have been going into the wilderness for the past quarter century to witness the landscape by painting and drawing what it is like to be there in mind and body. I commit to this venture so long as I am able. This is my beacon, the measure against which all the rest of my art must stand. When I'm out in the landscape I wait until the land seems to move; to come alive. I start to see geological processes and personalize them. I feel how the land folds back onto itself, touching one part to another like a blow; like a caress; like hands rubbing against the cold... And then there's the light, and the clouds blowing and dancing in the sky. I paint all day, most every day. It is enormously satisfying to finish a large canvas in the field; the more difficult the subject matter, and the more challenging the terrain the better. Sometimes I force myself to break away and explore. Then I sketch and take panoramic photographs. The photographs are not source material for my paintings, but rather material for another kind of art, one of immersion in virtual reality, or for web presentation, or as very large photographic prints. The sketches, journals, and panoramas are source material for other paintings, prints and very large-scale works on forged and carved copper and bronze. I was honored by the Governor's Individual Artist Award by the state of Alaska in October of 2011.



WATERFALL ABOVE THE TUPIK CREEK

UNFRAMED EDITION 25

BILL BRODY

24" x 30" • Woodcut



WATERFALL ABOVE THE NOATAK

BILL BRODY

24" x 36" • Oil



ANGIAAK PASS
BILL BRODY

24" x 36" • Oil



ÉCLAIRICIE
JEAN-LOUIS CORTEAU

30" x 40" • Oil



About Jean-Louis Courteau

I have been a painter, and still am. I say "painter" instead of "artist", because I make paintings, more than art pieces. Because like the old masters, I think that painting is a craft, a job, a school, and that you are a student all your life. I also think that painting, like any art form, is more the vision than the object, a vision that you have on the surrounding world. And that this vision changes all the time, along with your humors, your preoccupations, your state of mind...

So I claim the right to have that changing vision, when and where I please, on whatever I choose. The notion of style serves the art market more than it serves art itself. It is the antonym of Creativity. I refuse to be the painter of this or that. I will be the painter of all, or nothing.

I also write. And sculpt, And draw, and take photographs. I'm a diver, I like history, geology, fantasy, literature and cinema, travels. I like lots of things, because they give me the impression of living intensely. And THAT is my main interest. To live, as passionately as possible, here, now.

WILDLIFE ART, ANCIENT AND NEW

JULIA HARGREAVES

24" x 30" • Acrylic

About Julia Hargreaves

A leap of faith. That's what I'd call my decision to leave a successful career in England for a new start in a Canadian town unlike any I'd lived in before.

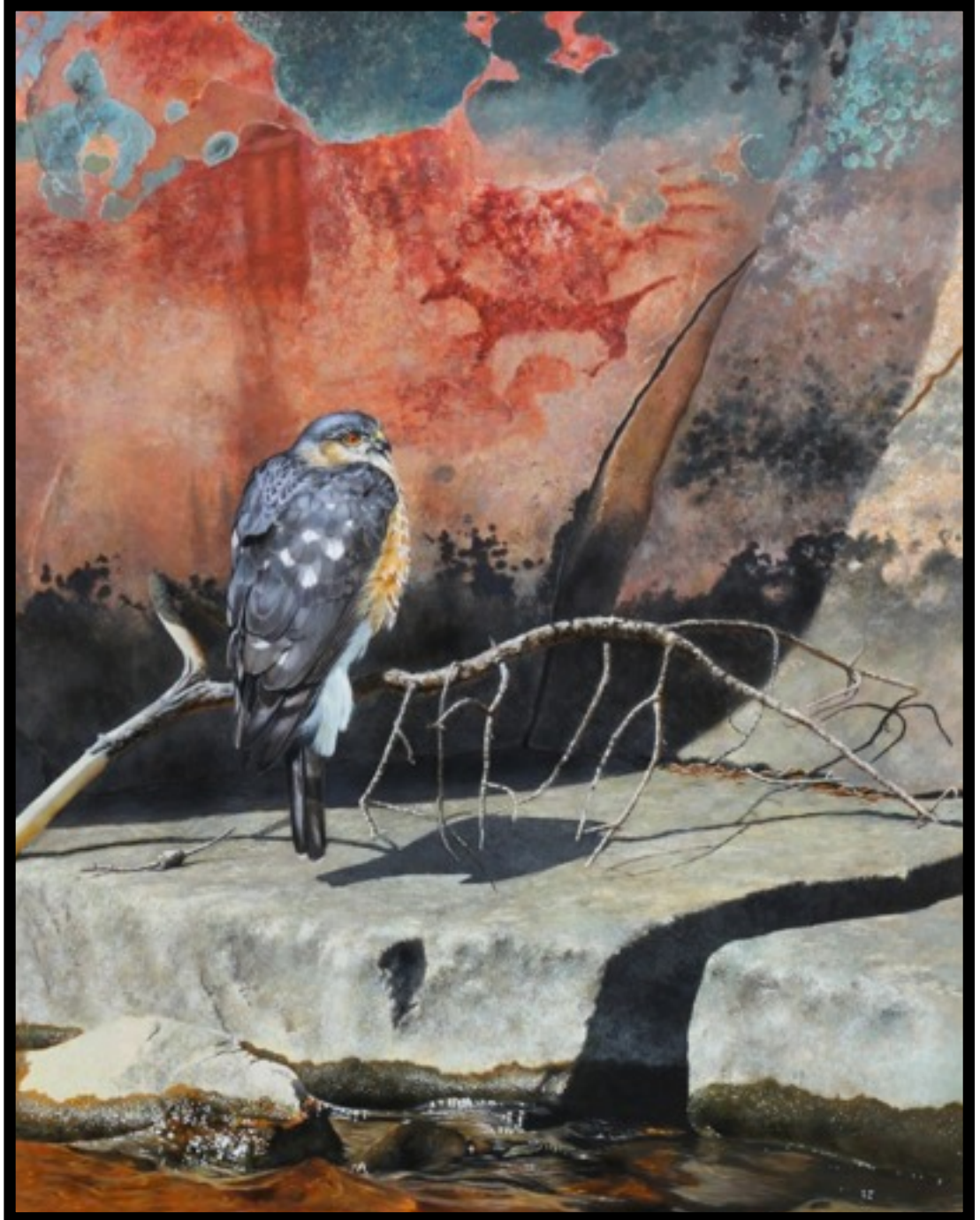
We were on holidays in Vancouver, gazing upon Grouse Mountain's glorious peaks, when it suddenly became clear that I needed to "burn my boats" and make a radical change. I felt like my soul was telling me what to do, and for once I listened.

I won the Ducks Unlimited National Art Portfolio competition – twice – and with encouragement from Fred became a full time artist.

In 2007, I was asked to illustrate Birdscapes, a pop-up birding guide pairing the landscapes I painted with bird songs from habitats throughout North America.

Since then my work has been included in the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum's prestigious "Birds in Art" exhibition, the Artists for Conservation Exhibit, and the Artists for Conservation exhibition at the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum in New York.

I was also honoured to have taken part in the Wilderness River Expedition Art Foundation trip up the Bloodvein River and to have the chance to raise awareness about the importance of the Boreal Forest.

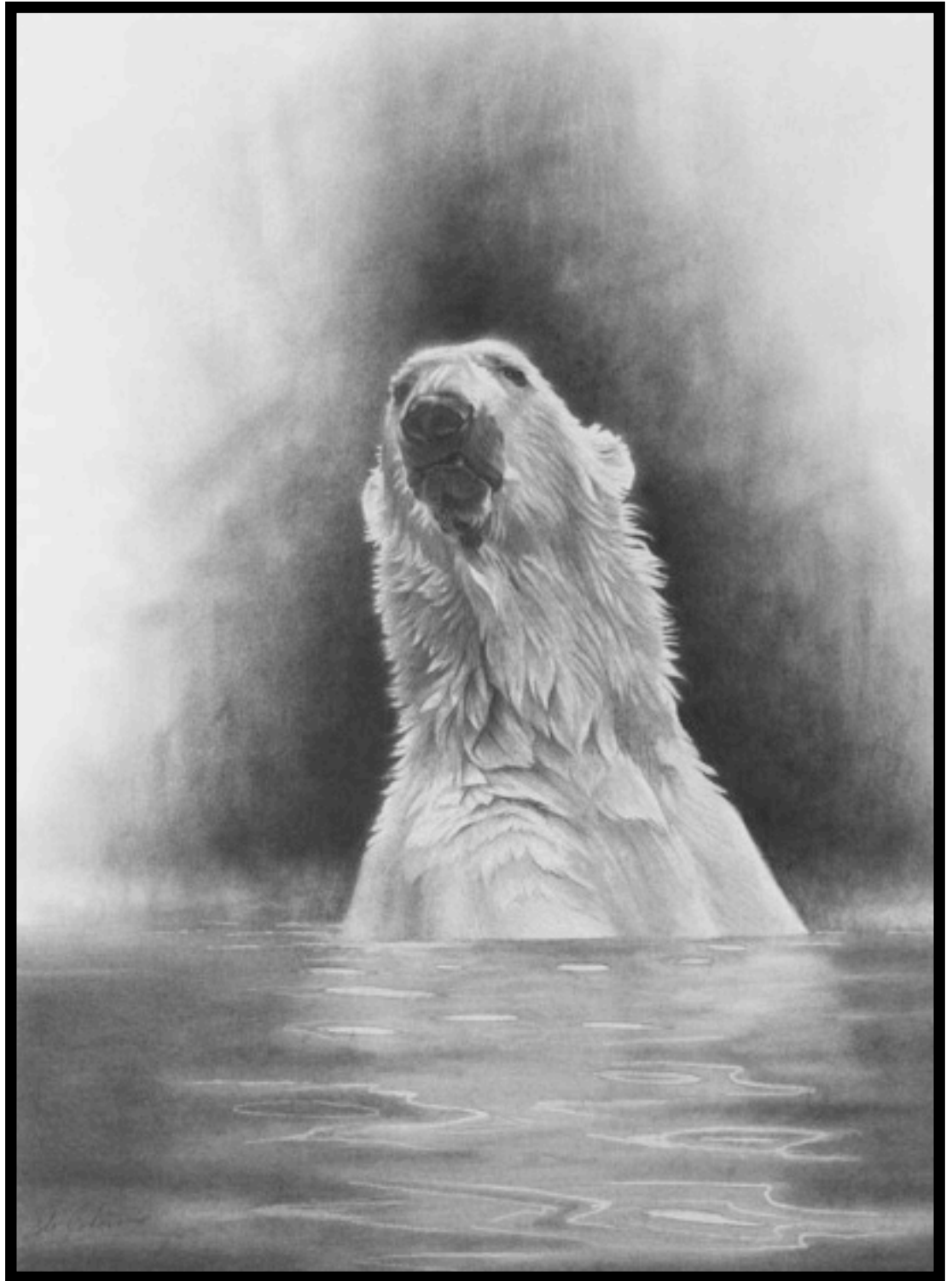


ICE BEAR
COLE JOHNSON

22" x 16" • Graphite

About Cole Johnson

Cole Johnson has lived in upstate New York his entire life and now resides in Deposit, New York, a small town in the Catskill Mountain region. Hunting, fishing, and spending time in "the woods" have been the preferred activities most of his life. Favorite subjects include the species he is intimately acquainted with in the field - the white-tailed deer, trout, turkeys, hunting dogs and waterfowl.



TUNDRA TAIL CHASE**COLE JOHNSON**

7" x 11" • Graphite



NEST DEFENSE
COLE JOHNSON

21" x 29" • Graphite



HOMEWARD BOUND

ROB MULLEN

20" x 38" • Acrylic



About Rob Mullen

A freelance advertising artist in Manhattan until 1994, Rob has won over 30 awards in more than 70 shows from coast to coast, including "Birds in Art", "Art and the Animal", "Art of the Animal Kingdom", and the Arts for the Parks Top 100 Show and National Tour. Combining his art career with his degree in biology, interest in natural history, and 25 years of wilderness canoeing experience, Rob founded WREAF, which was recently welcomed as a CCS Program, with Rob taking on the role of Program Director. Working with the Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center and the Canadian Boreal Initiative, among others, WREAF strives to expand environmental education and awareness.

WING LIGHT
ROB MULLEN
11" x 14" • Acrylic



WING LIGHT STUDY

ROB MULLEN

12" x 18" • Graphite



GILDING THE LILIES

ROB MULLEN

16" x 27" • Acrylic



KAMESTASTIN BULL

ROB MULLEN

6" x 8" • Graphite



BASIN HARBOR DAWN

ROB MULLEN

15" x 30" • Acrylic



SPRING SNOWS

ROB MULLEN

7" x 21" • Acrylic



HUNTER'S MOON

ROB MULLEN

14"x 18" • Acrylic



BOREAL MORNING

ROB MULLEN

9" x 12" • Acrylic



TRIO OF DRAKES
STEVE OLIVER

7" x 10" • Acrylic



About Steve Oliver

Throughout the years, I have done several kinds of artwork, but for me, it's wildlife art that allows me to combine the two things I am most passionate about: Wildlife and Art. My paintings are based on my passion for all living things and the many trips I have had the good fortune to undertake. On these trips, which have taken me all over the United States, I take opportunity to observe and understand as much of the wildlife as I can. During these trips, sketches are made, photographs are taken and information is written down. Then, back at the studio, I put all this together. Although very proficient with several mediums and techniques, I prefer acrylics for painting, sometimes combining them with ink.

ON THE MOVE

STEVE OLIVER

8.5" x 15" • Acrylic



CROSSING THE MEADOW

STEVE OLIVER

7" x 10" • Acrylic



PRIBILOF SUMMER

JOHN C. PITCHER

35" x 24" • Acrylic

About John C. Pitcher

For over thirty-five years John C. Pitcher has expressed his passion for birds and the natural world through his paintings. His success in capturing the sense of a place and likeness of his subjects reveals not only his mastery of technique but also his knowledge as a naturalist.

Pitcher first developed his art skills in Alaska, where he lived and painted birds for twelve years. As an active member of the Anchorage Audubon Society he taught bird identification, co-led birding tours across Alaska and served as a Guest Naturalist on the famous natural history cruise ship the M.S. Lindblad Explorer's maiden voyage to Alaska.

In 2001 Pitcher and artist/adventurer Rob Mullen canoed the wild Missinaibi River of Ontario, Canada. Inspired by that trip, Mullen created the WREAF (Wilderness River Expedition Art Foundation). Now as a WREAF crew-member, Pitcher has explored the wild Canadian northern boreal forest and tundra with expeditions down the George River, Quebec and to the migrating Caribou herds of Lake Kamestastin, Labrador.

Subsequent WREAF art/educational exhibits followed at the Wildling Art Museum in Los Olivos, CA, & The Wildlife Experience in Parker, CO.

Pitcher is an honored member of the Society of Animal Artists, married to nationally recognized wildlife artist Sue Westin and has had dozens of ONE MAN EXHIBITIONS throughout his career.



A NEW DAY'S PROMISE

JOHN C. PITCHER

12" x 16" • Oil



ALPINE SUMMER

JOHN C. PITCHER

12" x 9" • Acrylic



PACIFIC NORTHWEST CLIMATE CHANGE - YEAR 2010

JOHN C. PITCHER

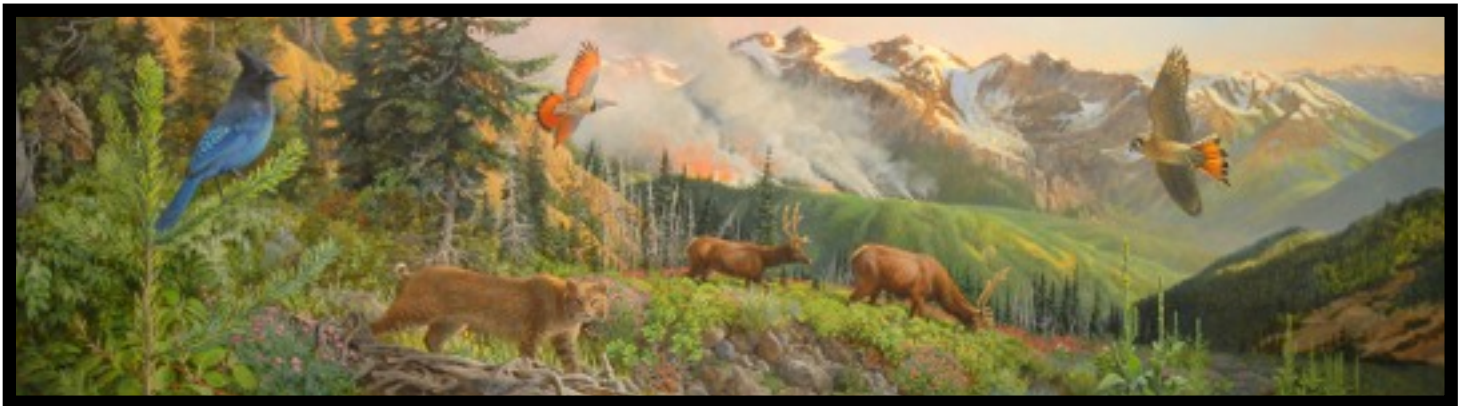
11" x 41" • Acrylic
sold as pair with below



PACIFIC NORTHWEST CLIMATE CHANGE - YEAR 2110

JOHN C. PITCHER

11" x 41" • Acrylic
sold as pair with above



SHARING THE RIVER

JOHN C. PITCHER

20" x 30" • Acrylic



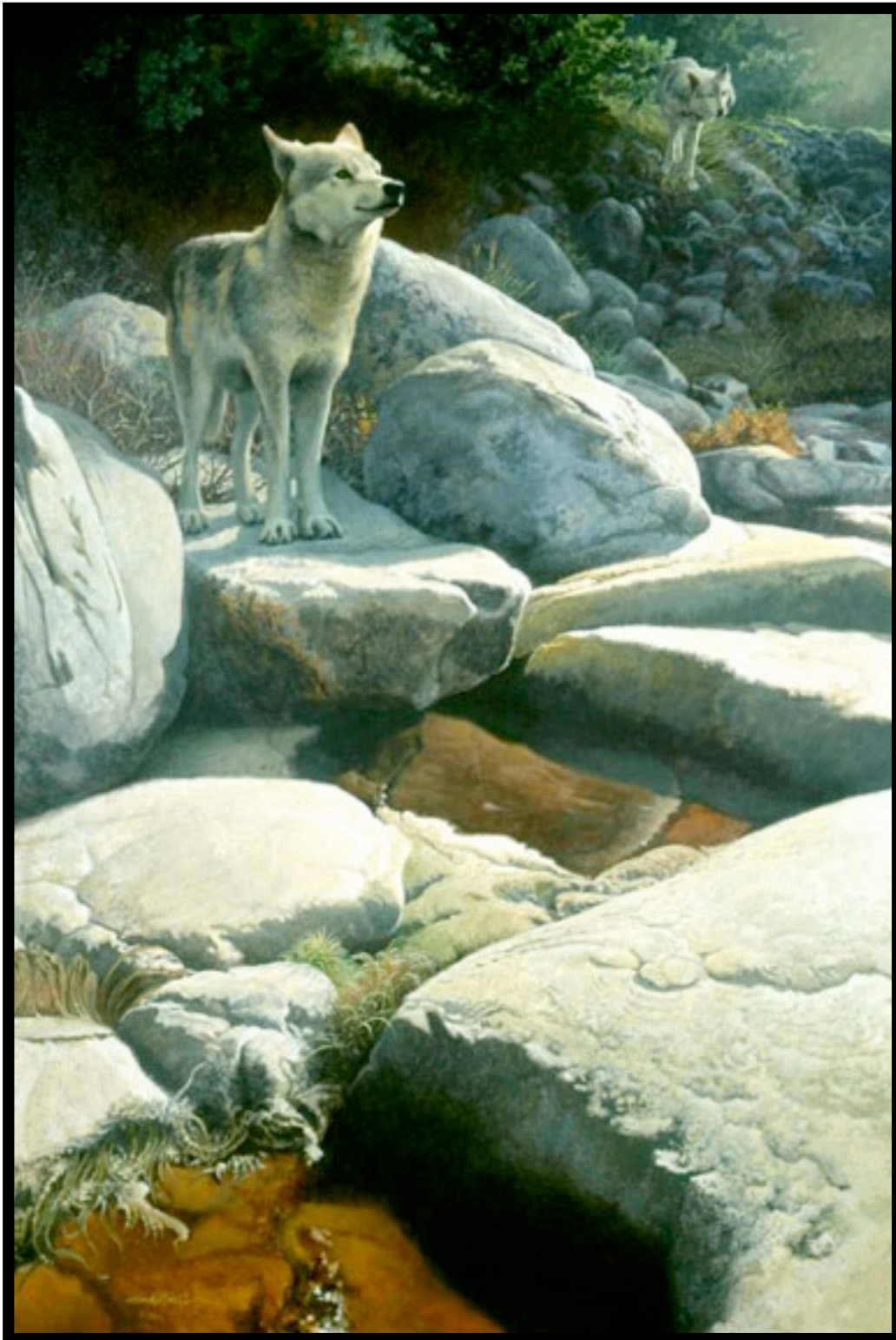
ACADIA LIGHT
JOHN C. PITCHER
29" x 48" • Acrylic



A TASTE OF THE SUN

JOHN C. PITCHER

48" x 33" • Acrylic



GEORGE RIVER FIELD SKETCH COMPOSITE #3

JOHN C. PITCHER

13.5" x 22" • Ink and Gouache



GEORGE RIVER FIELD SKETCH COMPOSITE #5

JOHN C. PITCHER

23" x 15.5" • Ink and Gouache



COLD TRAIL **PATRICIA PÉPIN**

7" x 5" • Oil on linen

About Patricia Pépin

Born in 1964, Patricia Pépin spent her first years in Bromont. As a child she loved to roam in the woods and fields, observing the wilderness and drawing her many findings.

Pépin paints with oil colours and is interested in the traditions and techniques of her medium. While studying the works of old masters, she was attracted by the art of Vermeer and Vélasquez, struck by their mastery of light and colours.

Their influence is well represented in Patricia's paintings, in which the realism born out of these notions can be clearly seen.

Add to this the love of nature, which Patricia Pépin paints and draws with a scrupulous fidelity, and you get a symbiosis of technique and knowledge that gives the paintings of Pépin very high credibility.

She has exhibited in "Birds in Arts" at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, WI, and at the Bennington Center for the Arts, VT. She is a member of the Society of Animal Artists (S.A.A.) and has illustrated a Quebec Wildlife Habitat Conservation stamp. She is published by Mill Pond Press, FL.



MERGANSER'S BROOD - LAKE SUPERIOR

ANDREA RICH

15" x 27.5" • Woodcut



About Andrea Rich

I first became interested in woodcut prints as a student at the University of Wisconsin in 1971 when I was introduced to Japanese Ukiyo-e prints. Their elegant compositions and intricate surface textures inspired me to explore the medium's many possibilities for design. I cut my blocks using cherry plywood. I may carve six to twenty blocks for one final image. Printed on oriental paper, the editions are most often runs of thirty or less. Printmaking works for me because it slows me down and makes me have to consciously decide what I am putting in as well as what I am leaving out. Like a sculptor I cut away what is unnecessary and am left with an image, clear and strong like the animals I portray.

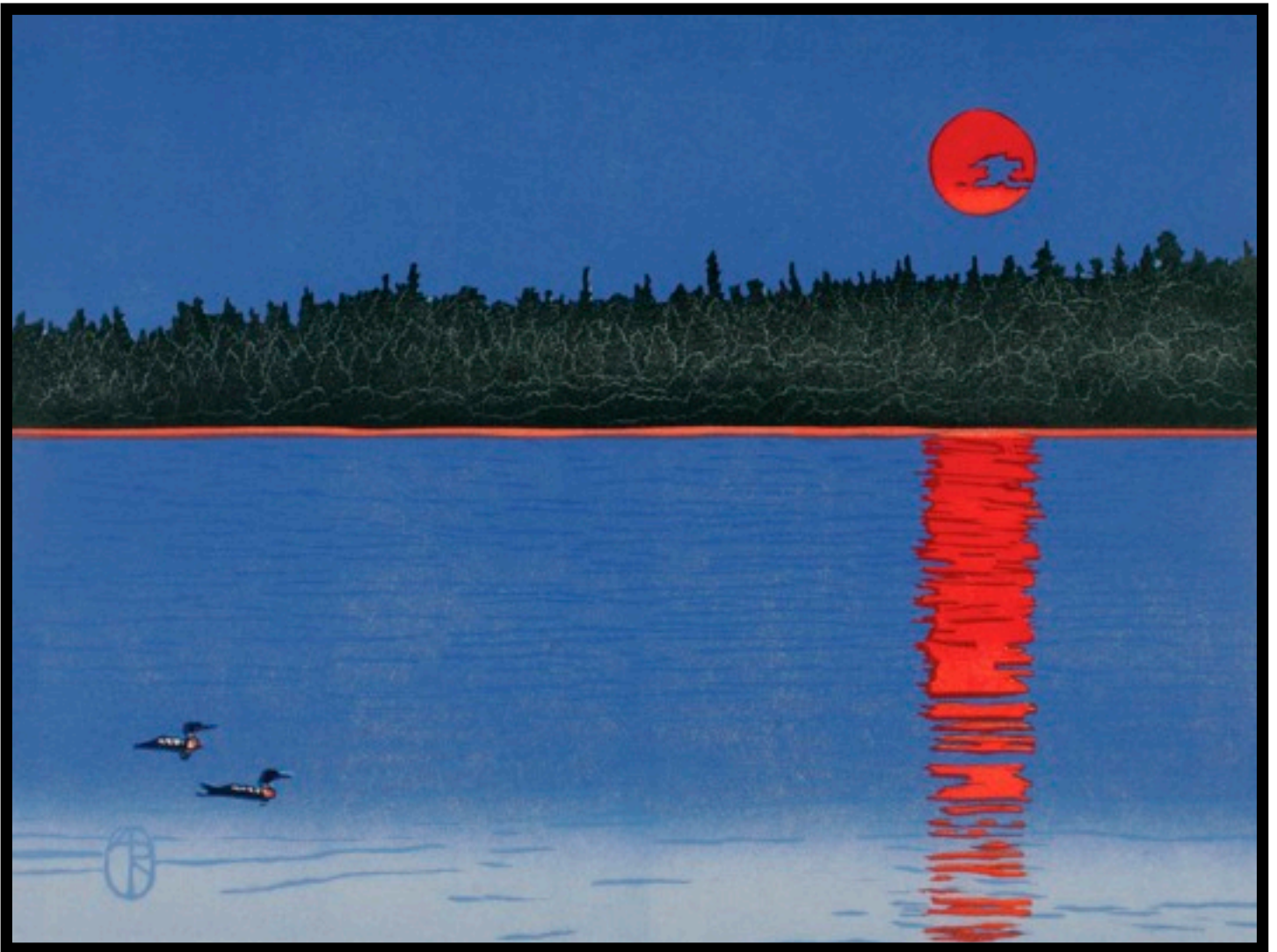
Initially my prints focused closely on individual birds and animals. I always strive to show them as true individuals. I became personally involved with Native Animal Rescue on the Monterey Bay and studied many of the animals we rehabilitated. With the passing of time I find myself needing to put these individuals into context, that is, into their natural habitats. It is only in the wild that they are truly able to be themselves.

Unfortunately for us all, opportunities to observe wildlife in the field are becoming increasingly rare. As habitat is destroyed at an ever increasing rate year after year, it may one day be more than rare, it may become impossible. I sincerely hope that never happens and I am committed to doing what I can to prevent it.

MOONRISE - LAKE SUPERIOR

ANDREA RICH

12" x 16" • Woodcut



WILLETS IN BLUE

SUE WESTIN

18" x 12" • Oil

About Sue Westin

Sue Westin is a versatile artist, having worked in stone, theorem painting, watercolors and oils. She has painted on paper, stretched canvas, gessoed board and even gessoed paper with stone dust applied. If one were to look at her work over the years, one would find a true smorgasbord of subjects as well: wildlife, still life, landscapes, architectural scenes, marine scenes, domestic animals, figure and human portraiture. She considers art and life to be an adventure.

Sue Westin's works have been exhibited in Canada, Japan, Sweden, Germany, Kenya, The National Arts For The Parks Competitions and museums throughout the United States, and have been exhibited repeatedly in the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's annual "Birds In Art" exhibitions and in over twenty annual juried exhibitions of the international Society Of Animal Artists. Westin has won numerous awards from national and international exhibitions.

Today Sue Westin and her artist husband John C. Pitcher have their home and studios on the beautiful shores of the Dorset Marsh in Dorset, Vermont. There they greet visitors to their Gallery On The Marsh and share in the joy of an abundance of wildlife and beauty right outside their doors.



FERN ROCK

SUE WESTIN

12" x 16" • Oil



RELIEF
SUE WESTIN
24" x 18" • Oil



TIDAL GATHERING

SUE WESTIN

18" x 30" • Watercolor



WHITE LAMB

SUE WESTIN

12" x 9" • Oil



EBB & FLOW

SUE WESTIN

8" x 10" • Oil

