



Wednesday, April 05, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Art and the Animal 2006
April 14 - May 28**

Animals wild and domestic will be on display at the West Valley Art Museum as the best animal artists in America, members of the Society of Animal Artists, exhibit their creations beginning April 14. The Society of Animal Artists is a world-wide organization headquartered in New York City. It is located in the historic Salmagundi Art Club on Fifth Avenue in New York. Society members come from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. The mission of The Society of Animal Artists is to promote excellence in the portrayal of animals, domestic and/or wild, in art. The Society was founded in 1960. Over the past 40 years, works created by members of The Society of Animal Artists have established new standards of artistic excellence in fine art.

This is the fourth year the West Valley Art Museum has hosted this premier exhibition. It has traveled to the Nevada State Museum in Carson City and The Wildlife Experience in Parker, Colorado. From Surprise it will travel to Williamsburg, VA and Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Among the artists showing is Edward Aldrich, a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design who's works have appeared in national magazines such as Wildlife, American Artist and Southwest Art Magazine. He is the author of Drawing and Painting Animals, published in 1998 and now in its second printing.

Missouri native, Tom Altenburg is another artist in the exhibition. Known as a wildlife and western painter, Mr. Altenburg recently won the M. Graham award in the 2001 Best In America exhibition.

Artist-illustrator Joni Johnson-Godsy grew up in Ohio and now lives in Shawnee, Kansas. She worked for Hallmark and also illustrated articles for the American Kennel Club. She now divides her time between working part-time for Hall mark and painting her fine art paintings.

Still another example of the high level of accomplishment in these exhibits, is the work of Robert Bateman. Bateman's reputation is international. Though known primarily as a wildlife painter, and recognized by peers world-wide as the most influential one of all time, Robert Bateman is an artist whose oeuvre also encompasses subjects such as architecture, the human figure, land-and waterscapes, modes of transportation, still lives, and portraiture; and other media including original prints, jewelry, and sculpture.

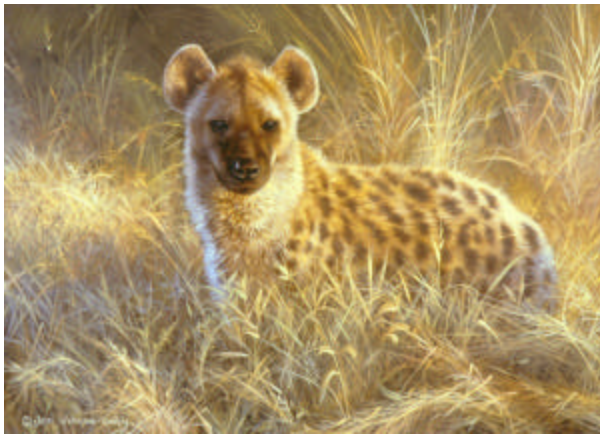
West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



“Standing Alone” oil
By Edward Aldrich



“Riding Horses” acrylic
by tom Altenburg



“Here Comes Trouble” acrylic
By Joni Johnson-Godsy



“Nebraska Dawn”
By Robert Bateman

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