

Drawn to Nature Newsletter

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Mostly HOT Greetings from Sunny Colorado!

So many things have happened with my art since I wrote my last newsletter in 2007, and it is long past time for an update! What follows is my attempt to catch everyone up on some of the many highlights from *Drawn to Nature* for 2008!



On the road again....



Spring and summer travels all started with a definite need to go to Virginia to attend my daughter's college graduation in mid-May. No way would I miss that! Such a special time to celebrate a victory hard fought and well deserved!



And while I was at it..... So, I got to thinking about what else I might do along the way. Seeing family in Indiana was a must. (As it turned out, it was an especially well-timed visit, too, as we 6 siblings wrestled with all the very complicated, confusing, and delicate issues of deciding suitable housing, medical needs, and continuing care for our mother. We're all still talking to each other, so it must have worked out.... more or less.)



And, Art-wise, the annual Ward World Carving Championship was slated for the end of April in Ocean City, Maryland. And after all, Maryland is not that far from Virginia..... And then, of course, there is also opportunity for wildlife photography during the annual horseshoe crab/shorebird migration on Delaware beaches in May.....



Before embarking on this journey, I had entered some pieces for jurying to the prestigious Bennington Center for the Arts' show, "Art of the Animal Kingdom" in Bennington, Vermont. My art advisor and good friend suggested that if I had any work accepted into the show, I really should try to attend the show's opening reception. And, low and behold, they did, in fact, accept my largest piece, "The Swimming Lesson"! This piece is a life-size mother alligator's head and three babies, weighing in at 76.5 lbs. of bronze and walnut! The show's opening was to be June 14th, so that meant being on the road with the camper, plus the 2 cats, even longer. (Yes, I added another kitty, Bailly, to our little family last January! Such a sweetheart, but not the sharpest tack in the box!) To protect the alligators from any potential damage while enroute, meant taking a crate 2/3 the size of a bathtub, plus bins of other bronzes for the Maryland show (plus my new bike, etc.), which required that I also take my little trailer. Now, as many of you know, I am not the greatest trailer-backer-upper, especially with the camper's limited visibility, so I knew this would be a challenge throughout the trip. And as I suspected, it was.



Detail View

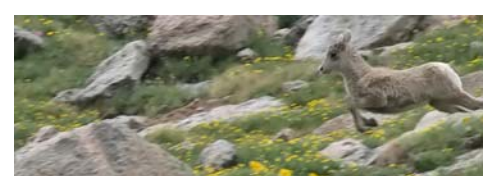


"The Swimming Lesson"- American Alligators



Well, leaving out all the gory details of mechanical difficulties along the way (of which I definitely had more than my share), I was gone from home for a little over 2 months! And it was a long and challenging trip. There were many rewarding moments along the way, with new friends made and old friendships renewed, a few beaches to roam, and new places to explore-- but home looked pretty darn good when we walked back through the door last month!

(As I go to press, I managed to take one more somewhat small photography jaunt-- a couple of days up at Mt. Evans-- a 14,000+ ft. peak west of Denver. There we encountered a blizzard in July, breathtaking scenery, funny marmots, cute pikas, wonderful mountain goats, a herd of bighorn sheep ewes with their frolicking fresh crop of kids, and some of the most beautiful alpine wildflowers I have ever seen! Definitely worth the effort!)



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Now, the scramble is on to prepare for the Loveland Invitational Sculpture Show, which will take place August 8th-10th. This is the largest sculpture show in the country, with 450+ sculptors from across the country participating. At least there is no traveling for this show, as it takes place about a mile from my house!

2008 Art Highlights

National Juried Exhibitions

Art of the Animal Kingdom XIII, Bennington Center for the Arts, Bennington, VT
 17th annual Loveland Sculpture Invitational Show, Loveland, CO



International Exhibition on Animals in Art, School Of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
 2007/2008 American Women Artists National Juried Competition, Scottsdale, AZ

These were quite prestigious shows this year, and it placed my work on a whole new level.

2008 Awards

"The Swimming Lesson" – Am. Alligators, 3rd Place, Sculpture Division,
 Ward World Championship Carving Competition, Ocean City, Maryland

"Time to be Moving On" – Copperhead Snake, Honorable Mention,
 International Exhibition on Animals in Art, Baton Rouge, LA



Commissions

"Space Invasion" – Prairie Rattlesnake

Commissioned by The Wildlife Experience, Parker, CO



This was the first time this museum (who has an extensive collection of international artists) has ever commissioned a piece of work from an artist, and I was incredibly pleased and honored to have been selected to create a new work that is now held in their permanent collection.

Workshops

2007 saw a flurry of carving workshops, as I finally branched out and got experience with 6 different carving/sculpting instructors. This broadening of teachers, gave me new insights and methods to carry into my work. Plus I learned to do a little small-torch welding, which I hope will eventually add new aspects to my pieces.

Website Update

There will soon be some new pieces up on my website www.EvasWildlifeArt.com, so check back periodically!

Sculpture News

Over the past year, I have created several new pieces to add to my body of work:

- 1) *"The Swimming Lesson"*- Am. Alligators
- 2) *"A Day at the Spa"* Grizzly Bear
- 3) *"Ocean Treasures"*- Royal Tern and egg (multiple patinas available)
- 4) *"Checking out the Competition"*- Red-breasted Merganser
- 5) *"Following in her Footsteps"*- Newborn Foal (multiple patinas available)
- 6) *"Space Invasion"*- Prairie Rattlesnake (multiple patinas available)



New Gallery Representation

The Link Gallery, 1609 Capital Avenue, Cheyenne, WY

