



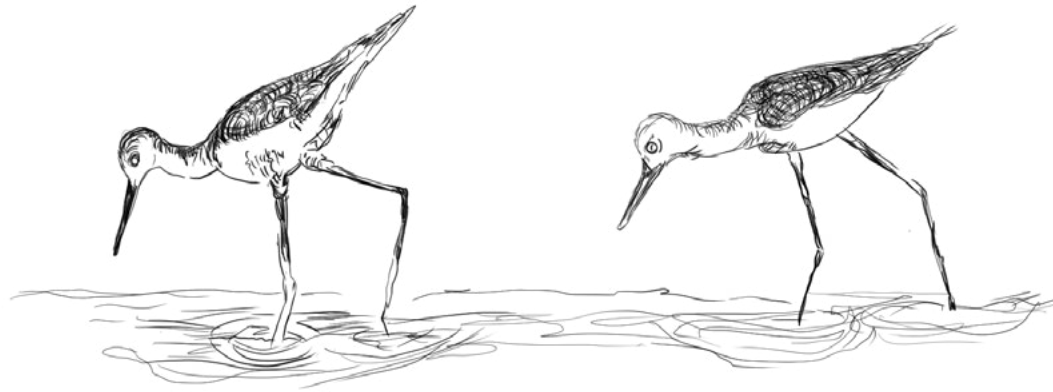
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SUN SETS?

The Art of Will Astley Maberly

| www.willmaberly.org



Growing up, listening to myths and legends of the Bush veld and of Africa as a whole, in some regards my destiny with the wild was already set. Africa is a tough and beautiful place, and for those who truly see her you will never get her out of your soul.



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Africa is a place that captivates the mind, she is old and tells her tales in mysterious ways, we only have to sit quietly and listen to the stories that flow from her. My late father Colonel Ted Maberly's stories of East Africa as a child thrilled me and inspired by all my late Uncle Charles Astley Maberly's work on wildlife, set a path for me to follow later in life.

Africa is perhaps best described in pictures, as I know of no way to really portray her beauty in words, which is why I have turned to painting and photography to find some way of conveying this beauty across to all. This journey certainly hasn't been a search for answers, this has been more about learning to listen to the wild.

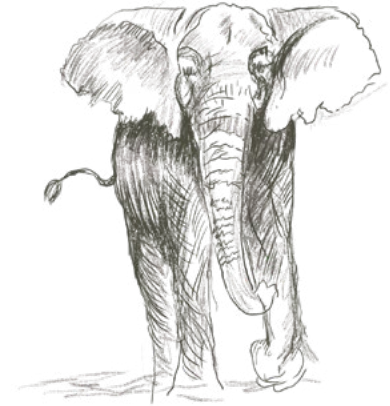
It has been my privilege on this trek to have been able to share time with many knowledgeable and tough women and men who have thrown their lives into conserving the world's greatest wilderness, from men who have worked with me as trackers and accompanied me everywhere, to people who have lived their lives with the wild as their main focus. From these encounters with these special people, and from my own experiences I have tried to encapsulate all of this into painting and sketches, my intention has been to make us pause for just a moment and take a look, and listen to our souls, for if ever there was a time to listen to the purest part of us, it's now. The pressures and endless indecision of the politicians, media and social media has pulled us away from our purpose. We as a species have been blessed with the power of thought and some form of intelligence, if used correctly.

The advent of digital photography has offered us the opportunity to capture some truly magnificent scenes but as every photographer knows it is through shooting of hundreds of frames that one might find a single image that effectively conveys the story the artist sought to share. The Painting offers an entirely different means to tell the tale. One where the artist himself is equally immersed within the scene with the content of the imagery. The act of painting is in a way a replication of what one experiences in the wild where you become not only an observer but a participant.

My preferred medium is oil, I love working with it, although I have often worked in Pastel and ink. There is nothing like being able to create a piece of art that captures even just one person's imagination or transports them back to a place and a time. As an artist it is a delight to see this effect on someone. The need to paint and recreate comes from deep within me, it's a compelling urge to make others aware of the awe inspiring wild and all its beauty. Life is in fact just a painting formed by the various experiences we live through, like the various brush strokes and colours in a painting, we are perhaps the artist of our own lives?

Nature tends to evoke a deeper purer thought process within us and the legends and myths of the wild swirl through the generations' imaginations, weaving a tapestry of Africa that fits snugly over the shoulders of those who stop to contemplate. Now more than ever it is our duty to conserve or soon there will be nothing left, as we will have given it all away, destroyed it and unwittingly lost the part of our world where the very core of our existence is preserved. Stop and listen, take in that blend of heat, dust aromas and the sound of the wind gently soothing the aged branches of the trees. Come on a visual safari with us, one that will captivate you enough to inspire your own participation in the preservation of these wild places for our children and the generations to come.

The pages that follow contain a series of paintings and sketches of places hardly visited by anyone, others prominent in the memories of many who have had the privilege of exploring the Zimbabwean bush. The Paintings are my translation of the images in my mind that will hopefully engage you in such a way that it will ignite a passion in you to come and immerse yourself in these soul replenishing surroundings, and feel the atmosphere that only exists in Africa. Each picture has a story to tell, each is a snapshot of life as I have seen it. Often painting the captivating scenes of sunset, the question is presented, what will happen when the sun sets on us? Will we have left a legacy we can stand up and be counted for, and will our children's children be able to stand proud knowing that we have protected that which is so fundamental to the human experience?



KUTERERA
(SOMETHING IS HAPPENING)
OIL ON LINEN
140cm x 100cm

This scene is typically Zambezi valley, some small natural pan in the Sapi Safari area. These pans have an ambiance of their own, they are the source of life in these areas and sitting here quietly, one gets the feeling of being in some timeless capsule.

Imagine yourself here as the soft evening light hits the trees and the shadows lengthen on yet another day. In the typical warmth of the sun, quietly observing the comings and goings. Where the scents of damp Mopane soil, dung and the vegetation mingle with the sounds of Africa, creating an atmosphere that will remain with you forever.



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AN EVENING SOJOURN
OIL ON LINEN
120cm X 90cm

Dusk demands to be acknowledged, as the final moments of the day retreat with the light a spectacular display of pinks and purples spray across the vast African sky, focusing one's mind instantly on the moment. It is a captivating sight, watching the dogga boys make their way to the water, navigating this harsh landscape, the dead trees remind us of our mortality while the resilience and strength of the buffalo assure us that it is not time yet. Our lives are built through our experiences, one at a time, moment to moment. As each of the footprints around this pan tells a story, so does each breath we take.

Life is now, not in 10 minutes, right now. This is the only guarantee we have.



PADARE
(THE PLACE OF MEETING)
OIL ON LINEN
160cm x 100cm

This piece was done for a great friend and brother of mine, centered around a great tree that exists in the Chewore river, where the memories of a lost friend and brother call to us. The reason for this name is clear as the picture is centered on the Baobab, as seen from the East, directly opposite over the river on the Chewore north side. The tree is our meeting place, where we meet with “our brother”. The meeting is not a noisy affair, it is quiet and respectful. Where we remember, and as we watch the movie that is our minds, we see life for what it is, beautiful and unpredictable.

The Elephant beside the tree is leaving to join others who are feeding close by that have left the shade of this great tree, just as we do when we leave this life to join others that have left before us. There are few things that depict Africa as well as the Baobab! They have an aura around them that is almost inexplicable. Great scars that adorn their massive trunks like medals won in some far off campaign, creating the energy that we feel when we stare up at their majestic presence!

As we have so often said, life is short. Live it, feast on it, smell the roses!



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SPRITS OF THE VALLEY
OIL ON LINEN
140cm x 100cm

I have always loved trees. They are truly wonderful beings and I often wish they could talk because they could really tell some stories about what they have witnessed. Perhaps they can verify some of the myths that have been handed down for centuries. Baobabs are timeless, and I find them deeply spiritual as there is an air that surrounds them that penetrates my soul, calming me. Their relationship with the elephants, the old men of the bush entralls me.

As the sun slips toward the horizon, these great old trees, like sentry's watch and monitor all life around them, quietly living each moment as it is. Their trunks anointed with markings and messages from generations of elephants, they are the notice boards in the thick Zambezi Valley.

This painting has been modeled on three trees, some where deep in the Zambezi valley, hidden away in the Jesse, they have been a meeting place for the great grey giants for centuries. Set in the hazy afternoon sun with elephant dung scattered around them, creating an atmosphere of its own, so typically Africa!

These are the 'Spirits of the valley!



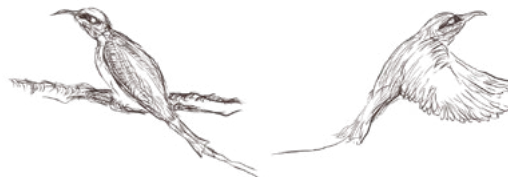
MANA RIVER MOUTH
OIL ON LINEN
160cm x 120cm

There is nothing as awe inspiring as the gathering of the clouds and the premonitions of an African thunderstorm. The thunder and the lightening in these epic events will humble you, bringing you back to reality.

This oil painting is of one year in the Zambezi Valley at a place known as Mana Mouth on the mighty Zambezi River, looking across toward Nkupe. If you have been here you will know the great contrasts of the colours as the rains come in on this rich flood plain area. The scene is epic, its Africa. All the moments in life come together as one in a place and time like this. There is an ambiance to all of this that is difficult to put into words, but it's why we come to this place. Away from the crowd, drawn by the simplicity and reality of life out here.



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THE WILD
OIL ON LINEN
120cm X 80cm

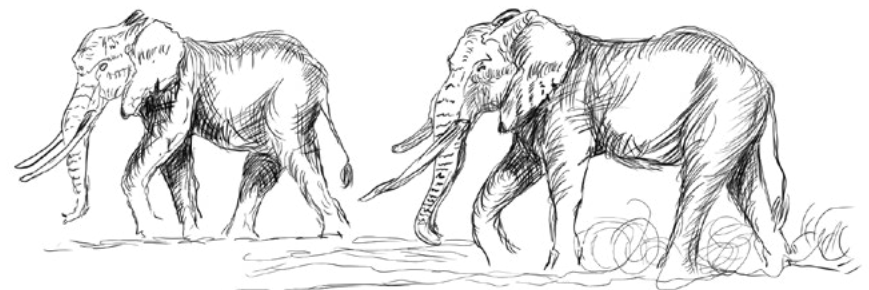
A painting inspired by many thoughts and visions collected over years of being in the presence of Africa. Without exception we are all affected by the Wild, it is not only where we come from, but it's where we belong.





SIBLINGS
OIL ON LINEN
120cm x 90cm

The Acacia Erioloba (Camel Thorn) growing in the western areas of the Zimbabwean wild is an incredible tree. Their pods are very nutritious and eaten by much of the game. This tree stood in the Ngweshla area of Hwange National Park. These trunks linked at the base remind me of close siblings - joined at the hip.



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ZAMBEZI LADIES
OIL ON LINEN 120cm
X 90cm

A picture inspired by many years in the presence of elephants.

There is something about being on the Zambezi flood plain that affects many. Looking across towards the Zambian escarpment, with low light on the hills in the distance. I sketched most of this picture on location, the ever present groups of elephant cows and calves moving to and from the great Zambezi River to water.





THE CROSSING
OIL ON LINEN
200cm x 100cm

The evening lights turn to an Orange as these Elephants start their trek across the Zambezi river. Maybe to the far off Zambian escarpment, or perhaps just to the greener feeding areas on the islands and spurs that jut into the river.

“The Crossing”, the name often used in reference to movement of the soul from life as we know it to the spiritual world. To me Elephants are the old souls of the African bushveld, they display a wisdom that even we insensitive humans are able to appreciate, and if we pay attention we may learn from this. Whether they cross the threshold of the river or the threshold of life, they do so with peace and an absolute trust in their own instincts.



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THE ROAD TO NGWESHLA
OIL ON LINEN
220cm X 160cm

I sat quietly watching as the October sun lowered in the sky. As always, the colours started to change as the light penetrated the dust, promising yet another beautiful and timeless African evening. Standing here like some Guardian, this great Leadwood has probably been here for centuries as a witness to the scene that plays out daily on “the Road to Ngweshla”.

Today the dust rises as these old Buffalo Bulls swagger slowly down the track towards the pan on what was once a path now a road, cut by the feet of countless buffalo and elephant in the Kalahari sands. The air is filled with that intoxicating blend of the wild, a sensation of heat mixed with the scents of Africa that sits deep within your senses for ever!



IGANYANA
OIL ON LINEN
100cm x 60cm

I have had the privilege of sitting for many hours with these enchanting animals, their aesthetic alone is enough to entrance the eye of any artist. It is fitting that they are sometimes called the African painted dog as it is impossible to resist trying to capture them through art. Wild dogs have an intricate social structure, acting as a family, they are led by a matriarch and are one of the most successful predators in the bush. Patience and respect may be rewarded as the group eventually begins to accept your presence, and you find yourself an honorary, albeit temporary, member of their pack.



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GONAREZHOU

(PLACE OF THE ELEPHANTS)

OIL ON LINEN

250cm x 100cm

This scene has left people in awe for many years, it's where the epic Runde River journeys on its way to join the great Save River. These waters continue flowing through Mozambique and then into the Indian ocean.

To be here and quietly take in the incredible scene with the continuous movement of the animals is hard to describe, suffice to say the enormity of it all, and in fact the reminder of our own mortality amongst it becomes very evident. This area is full of legend and myth, battles were fought just to the eastern end of these cliffs and there are other places of great reverence here. The evening light on the cliffs is like some beautiful cathedral lit up for an evening service!

The heat of this September day is evident, even the wind is warm. The bush is wilting and thirsty, and the streams of shallow water that flow down the river at this time of the year provide much needed sustenance to the elephant and other animals. As the shadows lengthen, heralding the end of another beautiful day, I take in this magnificent scene and marvel at the great symbiosis that is nature. The experience is as always humbling as I try to imagine the myths and stories that have formed the character of this place. The great Tuskers, maybe even Dulamithi (taller than the trees) and Kabakwe, the well known elephants that walked this area. The lions that have lived here over the centuries, hunting the buffalo as they come to drink. The scene is tranquil and yet explosive in the same moment.

This is the 'Gonarezhou', Place of the elephants.



HWANGE STORM
OIL ON LINEN
160cm x 80cm

This painting is a scene that was imprinted on my mind one October in the Hwange area, three Elephant Bulls walking through the scrub toward me with a storm forming in the background. The incredible light and colours of Africa etched deeply in my mind.

There is something incredibly gracious about an old tusker moving toward you as he moves his head from side to side, his tusks almost swinging like a pendulum in time with his movement. It is a truly wonderful sight.



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NGWESHLA
OIL ON LINEN
250cm x 100cm

These watering points are the source of life for many many species, as they go about their day to day lives they have to be aware of where the water is, and these places have been their gathering points for many years.





MANA EPIC

OIL ON LINEN

250cm x 100cm

A painting I have always wanted to do in large scale. The magnificent Mana flood plain overlooking the great Zambezi River, onto the Zambian escarpment. The painting tells the story of how wild this area is, and the variety of wild life that exist here, free in their natural surroundings. It is truly an Epic scene.



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THE ARRIVAL
OIL ON LINEN
100cm x 80cm

The Evening is upon us, the light has changed as it does in the great Zambezi Valley. It has been another long day and it feels like very bush is sighing in relief.

Deep in the Jesse the dust is stirred up by the feet of these Elephant as they smell the water's proximity. The Bulls increase their pace to the small pan, their size is impressive, humbling and above all the silence is spiritual.

This is a group of Bachelors, the young and the eager out front, often known as "Askari" or "Policemen", they accompany the older Bulls, learning from them and respecting them. Like the youngest in the family, the "Askari" is often cajoled and reprimanded but taught by his elder brothers.

The sheer pleasure of being able to witness moments like this is in fact indescribable. Wherever you fetch up in life and whatever you end up doing, moments like those will keep you strong. The knowing that you have been a part of this incredible life we have led here in this beautiful pristine bush will keep you powerful and resolute beyond measure and above all it will remind you of where you come from, for without a past there is no future!



MUCHENI PAN
OIL ON LINEN
200cm x 100cm

There are many things that combine in the creation of a painting, some may believe that it's simply a copy and paste of a scene somewhere or an image created from a photograph. I see a creation like this as a 'coming together' of so many parts of life that have been lived by the artist in these wild places, and these experiences exude an energy through the painting.



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THE NOW

OIL ON LINEN

120cm x 90cm

Early mornings and early evenings are spectacular in these wild places. The combination of seeing these vibrant scenes as well as listening to the start up of the morning and evening sounds of the wild is an incredible experience. For me the sights, scents and sounds have become triggers that transport me deep within to the purest parts of me.



MHONDORO
OIL ON LINEN
120cm x 60cm

I have called this piece “Mhondoro”, as these trees symbolize strength and solidity. The term is one used by the Shona people who have a spirit called a “Mhondoro”, meaning both lion and Guardian spirit of a tribe. They are generally referred to as “Lion Spirits” and are associated with the strength and fearlessness of a lion.

Baobabs have throughout Africa, been a part of culture and folklore in one form or another. The myths are many and these magnificent trees have played a role in African tradition since the beginning of time. Legend says that spirits of our loved ones live amongst the branches, others say that Baobabs are upside down trees, made that way when the Gods were angry.



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CHIPEMBERE
OIL ON LINEN
100cm x 60cm

As the evening colours cast their shadows, this female Rhino and her calf move off from their vulnerable position by the water. Vulnerable because like us humans they are creatures of habit, and have been slaughtered for nothing more than to satisfy a demand erroneously believed to be medicinal. Sought to satisfy the requirements of some far off market, that has no respect and understanding of the terrible damage they have done to this species and others. In fact, it is embarrassing, knowing what we know has happened to the Rhino of Africa, that we are still divided about the conservation of all species here.

Interference from powerful bodies, who should know better and don't stop to contemplate that the facts come from people at the rock face whose lives are passionately guided by the preservation of all species here. Our inability to prevent foreign interference in our own magnificent heritage is a sign of our total lack of understanding in the enormity of ecological collapse under the guise of progress at any level.

Listen, the drums are beating!



THE STORM
OIL ON LINEN
120cm x 80cm

I have always been interested in black and white photography, it has a way of capturing light beautifully and yet simply. This oil painting depicts the battle that is going on in many of the wild places in Africa. The elephants move at pace toward the sanctuary on the oncoming storm, perhaps symbolically to new life and away from the dry harsh landscape that depicts the bad lands, where they are under siege from ivory poaching and man in general.

Are we ever going to own up to the massive destruction and devastation we have brought down on the natural world, or will we bury our heads in the sand until one day, like the rhino, the elephant will only be seen in zoos and BBC documentaries. This is our time, we need to take responsibility for our actions!

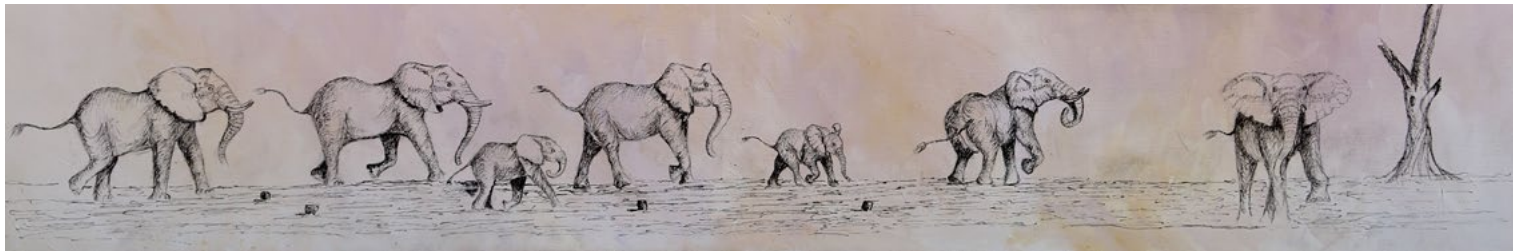


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THE ALLIANCE
OIL ON LINEN
160cm x 90cm

Lion males often join up into small groups, to ensure their ability to manage an area and the females in it. I have seen up to four male lions in a group, a formidable “army” as it were to make intruders think twice about trying to take over a pride.





WE WILL REMEMBER
OIL ON LINEN
120cm x 80cm

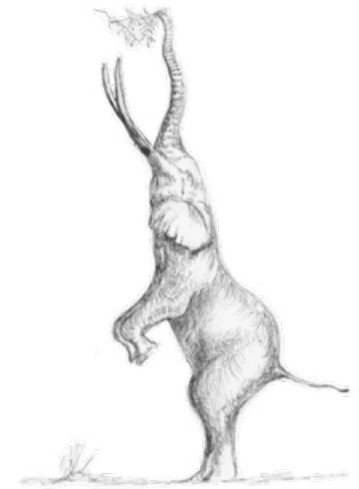
Somewhere out in the magnificent wilderness of the Zambezi valley, this old tusker and his companion move silently along tracks that have been used for centuries. These old paths or “gwaschas” are timeless. As we walk these paths we contemplate our own place in this beautiful organization that is nature and our own mortality! It’s evening time and the sun is setting on another day. The egrets are flying to the trees they will rest in tonight and the beautiful carmines flit and flutter around the small pan, drinking and catching insects.

This great bull walks from the shadows of yet another monarch of the valley, the baobab, and as the heat of the day shimmers on her branches, untold stories and legends dance in the energy she exudes.

Out here in the grey haze, deep in the Jesse of the Zambezi valley, we see you.



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ELEPHANT TRICKS
OIL ON LINEN
120cm x 80cm

Some of the Elephants in the great Mana Pools National park are known for their ability to stand on their back legs and grab tasty Albida branches full of pods. I have seen them using props like anthills and dead branches to get up and reach these branches, and yet some of them including the iconic “Boswell” stand in one fluid movement, it is an incredible sight!

I have often watched “Boswell” (Sketched above) stand and break off branches. The amusing thing is as soon as the branch cracks and falls, there are usually a team of elephants hanging around who promptly try and “steal” his spoils. So these scenes are often accompanied by some trumpeting and flapping of ears!



THE BRANCH MANAGER
OIL ON LINEN
80cm x 60cm

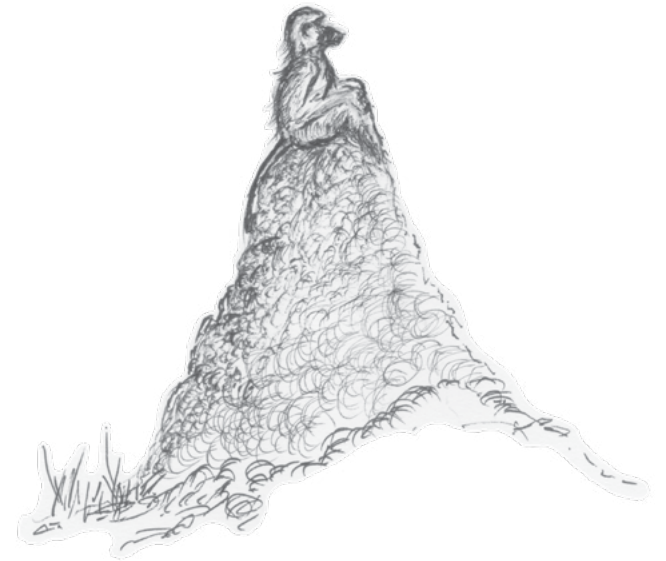
One early June morning in the Hwange area, I watched this baboon sit as far out on this branch as possible as he tried to get the first rays of the sun, to warm himself from what had been a very cold night on the Kalahari sands. Often I have seen the members of a troop hugging each other in the early morning chill.



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KIDS THESE DAYS
OIL ON LINEN
60cm x 80cm





THE SUN SET OF MY LIFE
OIL ON LINEN
100cm x 60cm

As the early morning sun reflects on the palms, sultry pinks spray across the sky from the light shining through the haze of the valley. Already the heat of this September day is apparent, creating its own atmosphere in the jesse bush that surrounds this small waterhole in the Sapi Safari area. Out here there is always the feeling that something is about to happen, it is harsh and almost violent in many ways and yet so peaceful in others.

This morning an elephant bull leaves after having drunk his fill, moving off into the thickets where he will feed and maybe sleep in today. When watching these animals in their natural habitat, we start to realise how out of touch with our instinct we are, constantly chasing things we don't need and most of all not living in the present!



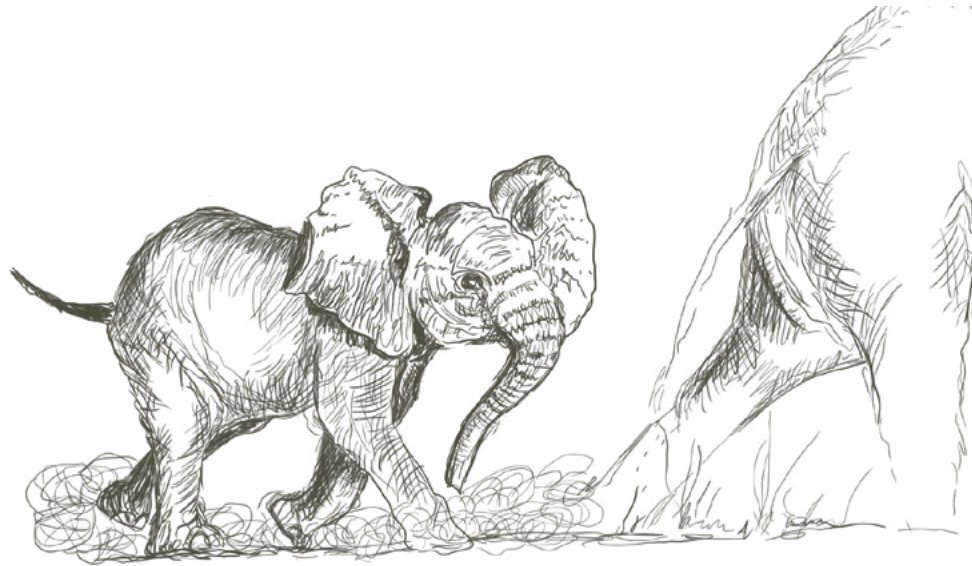
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THE LEGEND THAT IS AFRICA

Out in these magnificent places, legends and myths abound. Everyone who has ever been here knows that the campfires that have been gathering points of man for centuries in these wild areas are Africa's library, fascinating generation to generation, bringing understanding and grounding us.

The energy of being out here transports us to the present, a place where there is a purer purpose to life, where there is no thought given to greed, a place where silence is a friend not an enemy!

All my life the wild has resonated so deeply within me, creating a thirst for more knowledge of this place and its inhabitants, a need to understand the symbiosis between man and the wild.



"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain!"

- Vivian Greene



ELEPHANT BULL
Sketch Study
Pastel and Graphite

Sketching from life and sketching generally are essential to developing skill, even sketching on canvas before the oil goes on is important to the planning of the overall picture.

I have worked with graphite, ink and pastel as mediums, sometimes all three together. I love a good line drawing as well, and the use of sketching allows the development of proportion and form as the subject moves.



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MOTHER & CHILD

Pastel on paper study

Pastels, ink and pencil are great ways to quickly put together basic studies of animals, perfecting form and technique. I find working with these mediums a quick and easy way of understanding movement and body position. A great sketch book is a full one, I have many sketch books in various places that I pick up and work in, maybe 4 or 5 at a time.

Ink and line drawings I love, I have often printed photographs and done line drawings around the edges. The old animal reference books had no photos, mainly line drawings and my uncle Astley Maberly was incredible at his line drawings in his many books (*Animals of East Africa*, *Animals of The Kruger*, and other illustrated books such as *Memories of a Game Ranger*).

Much of my inspiration to do what I have done has come from my fascination with his drawings.





AMAJONGOSI
Oil on linen
100cm x 60cm

– Zulu for young warrior, young man!

These young bulls often display themselves in a fairly aggressive way toward intruders, to show their strength and size to create a larger than life impression!

This young bull was on an island in the Zambezi river, his reaction to our proximity was typical, disdainfully turning his back on us, head up. As he walked off he effortlessly plucked a small tree from the ground as if to prove a point!



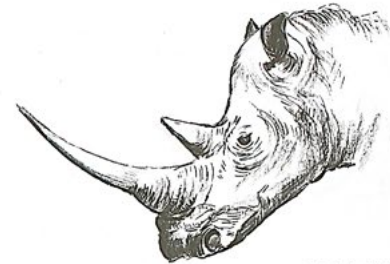
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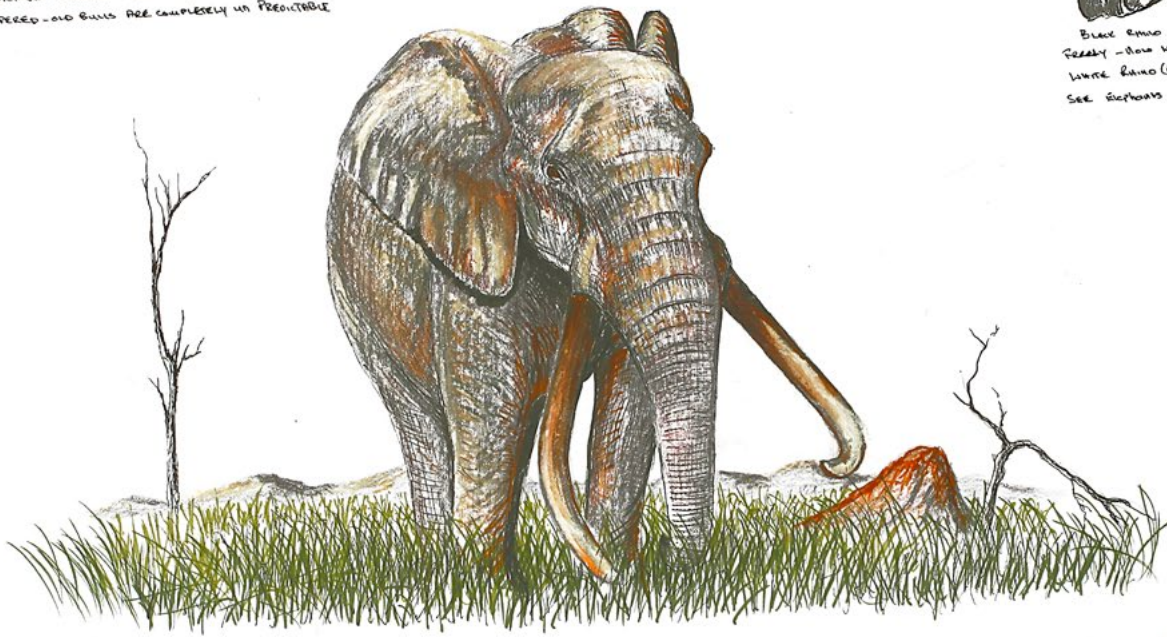
UNPREDICTABLE - BUFFALO - DARK COY
OFTEN HAS TEMPERED - OLD BULLS ARE COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE

KARONGA

MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK
ZIMBABWE



BLACK RHINO AND WHITE RHINO ONCE FORMED
TOGETHER - NOW WE ARE LUCKY TO FIND EVEN THE
WHITE RHINO (ABOVE). WHEN WILL WE DO THESE
SEE ELEPHANTS LIKE KARONGA



ANT HILL

WILL MOBERLY 07

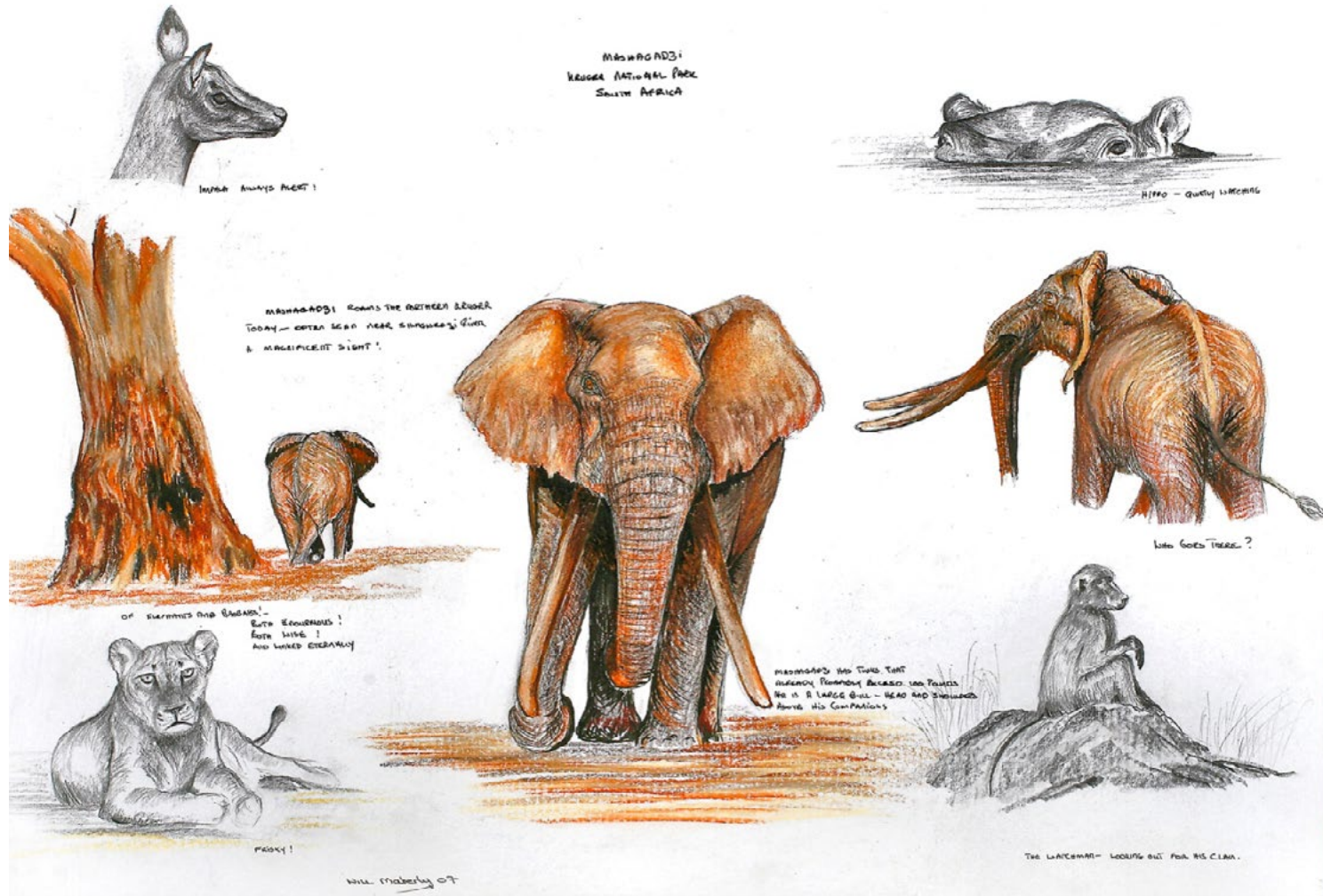
THE KARONGA BULL LIVED IN THE MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK ON THE
SHORES LAKE KARONGA. HE EVENTUALLY DIED IN THE LATE 1960S AFTER A
FIGHT WITH A YOUNGER BULL.

GIANT HERON
OFTEN HEARD IN THE EARLY
MORNING -



KARONGA BULL - MATUSADONA

Pencil, Pastel Study



MASHANGAIDZE - BULL OF THE KRUGER

Pencil Pastel study



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NKUPE SENTINEL

Oil on linen

Your Life is Now
Your Life situation is mind stuff
Your Life is real
Find the narrow gate that leads to life, it is called the Now
Narrow your life down to this moment
Your life situation may be full of problems, most life situations
are, but find out if you have any problem at the moment
Not tomorrow or in 10 minutes, but now
Do you have a problem now?

- Echart Tohle





NGWESHLA SENTINEL

These are three trees on the Ngweshla plain in Hwange, they are so close together and somewhat intertwined. They stand next to Ngweshla pan on the white Kalahari sands. For many years they have watched over the plain and the incredible comings and goings at this water hole.

She is the Ngweshla sentinel.

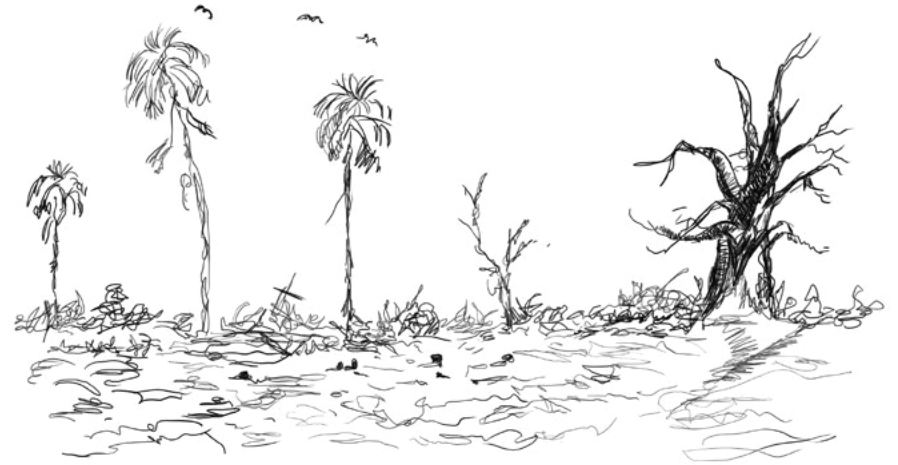


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BAOBAB – "MUUYU"

Oil on linen
80X60cm



Baobabs are unfailingly unique and individual, each one adorned with a variation of markings from a host of elephants, reminiscent of the walls of graffiti we find in urban areas. Ultimately, the enthusiastic efforts of these elephants will lead to the collapse of the tree, where over time the moisture ferments and can create an alcoholic snack which has been known to intoxicate baboons. The tree transitions from a place of art to that of theatre as you watch the antics of the blundering drunkards.



NOW WE ARE FREE

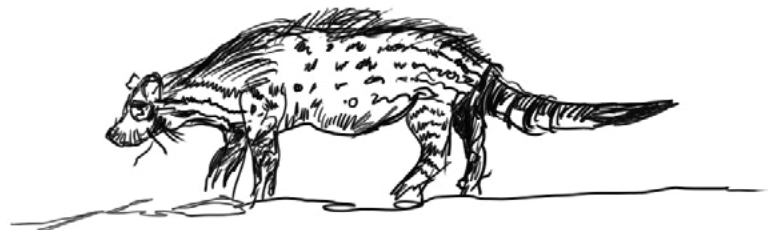
Oil on canvas
200cm x 100cm

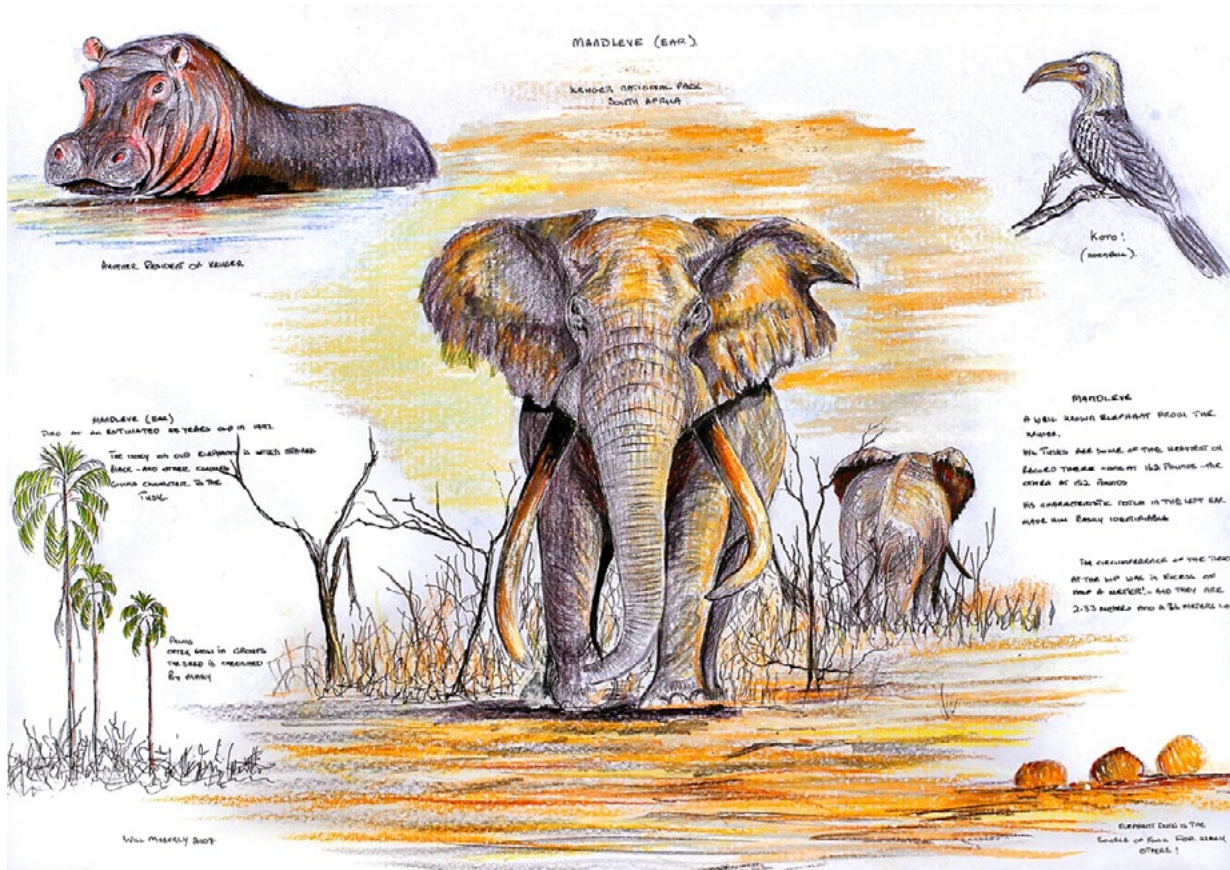
Based on an area in the great 'Chewore' River in the Zambezi Valley, this scene is not far from 'Mariatsoro' spring, a spring that flows through a gorge there. There is a feeling of being alone out here as it is evident by its remoteness that very few people have been here.

The river bed is a carpet of elephant dung and spoor from countless lion and buffalo. The place is truly spiritual.



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STUDY OF MANDLEVE (TUSKER OF THE KRUGER PARK)

Pastel on paper

Mandleve and friends, a study in pastel and Graphite. Mandleve was one of the magnificent seven in the Kruger area, he has since died and his ivory sits in the museum at Letaba rest camp in the park alongside Mafunyane, Dzombo, Shingwedzi and others.

The gene pool still exists in the Kruger and Gonarezhou areas so there are still a good number of heavy tuskers wandering these areas.



LEADWOOD (COMBRETUM IMBERBE)

Oil on linen
100 x 60 cm

The “Combretum Imberbe” or Leadwood exists in many parts of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia as well as other areas in Africa. A frequent dweller of the Zambezi Valley, it stands out amongst others as its leaves are a paler grey green colour. It is also conspicuous after it has died as it stands for sometimes over a 100 years, easy to see against the surrounding bush with its silvery white bark. The wood is one of the heaviest, densest woods in Africa per cubic meter.

The Herero people of Namibia regard this tree as ancestral to the animals and pay these trees great respect, and indeed the ancients used the heavy wood of the “Imberbe” as the head of their Hoes before they had metal ones. The wood burns slowly with intense heat. Myth says that lions love the campfires made from Leadwood as they keep burning all night and they come to the campfire to get warm, so be careful!



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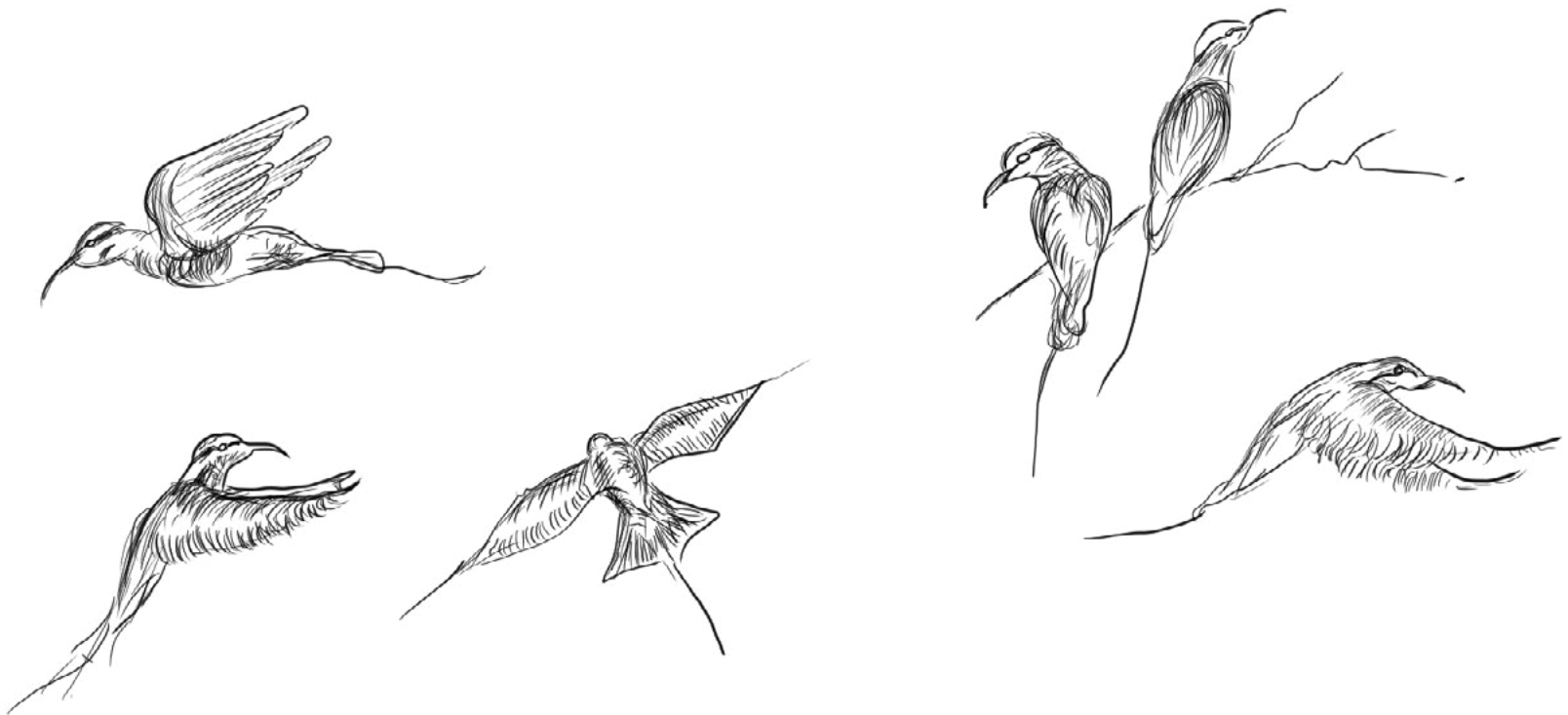


DENDERA

Oil on linen
80 x 120 cm

"No one will protect what they don't care about. And no one
will care about what they haven't experienced."

- David Attenborough



"Some people... find they need animals to look at and to learn from.
They have discovered that men, not animals are uncivilized"

- Cynthia Nolan



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SUNSET HERD
Oil on linen
120cm x 80cm

A painting based on a sighting I had in Hwange, an elephant herd moving off in the evening time as the pinks splash across the sky, holding us in that special moment.





PADARE CENTRE
OIL ON LINEN



Journey with us through these images and paintings into the wild. Walk with bare feet in these sands and take in the ambiance of Africa. Life is a series of paths that we choose, some good and some bad, but out here there is no right or wrong. There is only life. Perhaps it's the purity of nature that resonates so deeply within us all, or perhaps it's organising that purity within ourselves, as we see it reflected back to us by the mirror of the wild. There is an all-encompassing sense of belonging here that we connect to on a spiritual level.

I hope that these images will become an “energy” for you to see through so much of this material world we live in and one day we will walk together on the elephant paths and stop to contemplate and allow the shroud of Africa to fit snugly over us!



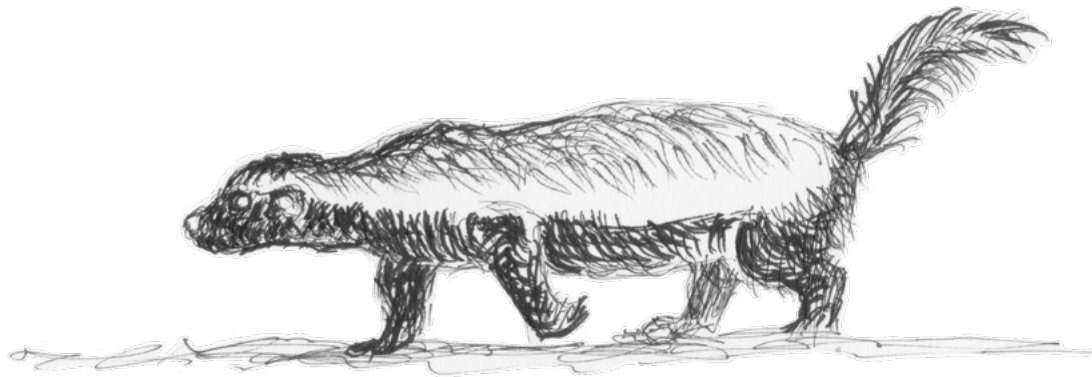
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THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

It is definitely our time to look at the role we have played and how we will play it going forward. My work is all about awareness, we have to know that we cannot play ignorant going forward. Soon there will be bigger problems for us as a species as we systematically run over the top of the wild in the name of wealth and progress.

There is no wealth that we can take with us when we cross to the spiritual world, there is only what we give back that means anything. There are few people alive that don't excel on giving back, it is the ultimate feel good experience!

My work is intended to make some stop and wonder, to make others remember the feeling of real life in this peaceful place and to ensure that they stop and contemplate the big picture.





THE MHARA RIVER BULLS

Oil on linen

120cm x 80cm

Here, these old elephant bulls are drinking out of the timeless springs that flow down the Chitake river, they have been frequenting this area all their lives as have their ancestors, walking the amazingly wide paths that meander from water to water and shade to shade. The concentration of baobabs in this area is far greater than I have seen elsewhere in the Valley, it seems the area is spiritual with these great giants silhouetted against the early morning sky.

Today will be another awesome day, not for any reason apart from the fact that this beautiful place still exists and we are aware of it, doing the best we can to make others aware of how special these places are for our future generations.



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TRUST
Oil on linen
80cm x 60cm

As the last light of day enhanced the clouds, there was a quiet expectancy as I watched these two elephants at a spring deep in the jesse of the Zambezi Valley. The ambiance of Africa, a sensation unchanged for centuries fitted comfortably as I watched these majestic animals, absorbing the obvious energy, quietly listening and understanding, caressing each other with their trunks, displaying trust and integrity with one another and with a higher purpose, life!

For them and other animals, the spring is life, it's the source! Perhaps their journey to this point has been long and dusty, but their trust in this place has been there for generations, passed on from those before them and they just believe in it as they believe in each other, for there is no place for doubt!



CAMEL THORNS

Oil on linen

100cm x 60cm

"If we do not do something to prevent it, Africa's animals and the places in which they live, will be lost to our world, and her children, forever."

- Nelson Mandela



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THE CAUSE

Please note that twenty five percent of the net sales of each painting sold will be contributed the Zambezi Elephant Fund, an umbrella fund supporting many conservation efforts in Zimbabwe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been a great pleasure to put this small book of my work together. My work aims to create awareness of the magnificence of these pristine areas of Zimbabwe and their inhabitants. It has been a truly wonderful journey.

Some time ago my brother in Law Ian Tyndale Biscoe, a great cartoonist, did some remarkable caricatures of some of the stories and characters of my life. I have included four here, one of me walking, one of my great friend and brother Will, one of the time I fell out of the Land Cruiser trying to pick up some foreign litter on the road in the Sapi, and the other of a wonderful companion, tracker and friend who has been a great source of knowledge to me, Tute.

I hope that this small booklet will be an insight for you as to what we have here in these beautiful places, and I hope that it will inspire you to come and be a part of this somehow.

I would like to thank my family, friends and the rest of my 'tribe' for the good times and mainly for sharing this incredible life we have had out here, you are my inspiration!

Thank You,
Will Maberly
2022

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Time is an enigma! We box and shorten our lives with our busy schedules. Most of us are never in the present to actually acknowledge the magnificent surroundings we live in, instead we have become fixated on a place in the future, which may never happen as we have no guarantee that we will get there!

Sometimes I believe the reason so many are horrified and yet fixated by the brutal side of nature is because at the very level of the soul we understand that we too are a part of that seemingly brutal system. Today as the sun falls from its place in the sky, take a moment to reflect on the present, we are only here because of this incredible symbiosis that is nature, so to destroy it is like destroying ourselves.

As the world of today crashes around us and the media controls everything, it's difficult to know who oneself is or the truth is anymore. I have lived through some very different and somewhat difficult times, but my anchor aside from my beautiful family has been these wild places. I have drawn incredible solace from the purity of it all and refuelled from its inexhaustible power to shore myself up when facing tough times. It is my way of giving back, to share with you the magnificence of it all.

I am in awe of these wild places and the people I have journeyed with along these paths. Time has a way of flying by and the tears fall easier now, but they fall because of the incredible beauty of this life, this family and these wild places.