



# OIL PAINTERS OF AMERICA

2021 NATIONAL SALON SHOW | JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 7

AT THE QUINLAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER



## LINDA BESSE OPA

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.

To gather reference for her paintings, Linda has traveled to every U.S. state, 35 countries, and all seven continents. Three extended visits to Africa included a 70 km canoe trip on the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe. Linda has traversed remote tundra in Labrador researching the caribou migration, been dropped off by float plane to salmon-filled streams to watch grizzly bears in Alaska, paddled 459 miles above the Arctic Circle on the Noatak River, and snorkeled with wild beluga whales in Hudson Bay.

### EXHIBITIONS and AWARDS:

#### **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Featured Artist 2017**

C.M. Russell Museum 2015, 2017, 2018

C.M. Russell Museum Select Quick Finish Artists 2017

#### **Safari Club International Artist of the Year 2018**

#### **Safari Club International Foundation 2014 Conservation Artist of the Year**

Safari Club International, Reno, and Las Vegas, 1999-2020

Honorable Mention - Miniature 2016

Birds in Art, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum 2001-2006, 2008, 2010, 2013-2014, 2016

Birds in Art 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2005-2007, 2010-2012 National Tour

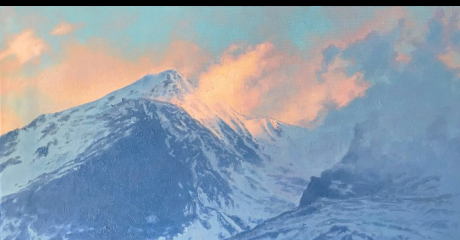
Oil Painters of America National Exhibit, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015



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Oil Painters of America Western Regional Exhibit, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2016 -2019

Animal Award of Excellence 2018

Oil Painters of America Salon Show 2019, Honorable Mention

American Academy of Equine Artists 2020 Jean Bowman Award Winner

The Artist Magazine Annual Competition, 3rd Place, Wildlife/Animal, 2016

The Artist Magazine Annual Competition, Honorable Mention, Wildlife/Animal 2017, 2018

Art Renewal Center Salon Finalist, 2016 - 2017

Richeson 75 Animals, Birds & Wildlife 2nd place 2019, Finalist 2016 - 2017

Paint the Parks, Coutts Museum, El Dorado, KS, Full size award winner 2015

Endangered Species - Flora and Fauna, Dept of the Interior, Washington, DC, 2008-2009

NatureWorks, Tulsa, OK, 2002-2020:

**Featured Artist 2019, Encore Artist 2020**

Best in Show - 2D, Natureworks 2014

Award of Excellence, Natureworks, 2009, 2019, 2020

Best In Show, Natureworks 2007

Best In Show - Miniature, Natureworks 2005

Mountain Oyster Club 2011 - 2017, 2019

Alberta (Canada) Conservation Stamp 2005

Society of Animal Artists 44th, 46th, 48th - 52nd Annual Exhibition + Annual Tour 2004-2006, 2009-2010, 2012-2013

Ethology Award 2010, 50th SAA Annual Exhibition

David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation shortlist for Wildlife Artist of the Year 2011

International Guild of Realism Annual Exhibition 2011 - 2015, 2018, 2020

Best Wildlife Award 2020

International Guild of Realism Masterworks Museum Tour 2015- 2016

International Guild of Realism Winter Salon 2017

International Guild of Realism Spring Salon 2021

Nancy McLaughlin Award, Spokane Valley Arts Council, 2014

**Signature Member of Oil Painters of America**

**Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists**