

Press Release

The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum
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Banovich to receive Simon Combes Conservation Award

Internationally recognized artist John Banovich has been chosen to receive the top honor of the Artists for Conservation Foundation—the Simon Combes Conservation Award.

The AFC bestows this tribute on one of its 500 member artists in recognition of outstanding artistic achievement and contribution to the conservation cause.

Banovich will receive the award at a special dinner and awards gala on September 26th, 2009 at one of the world's finest wildlife and nature art museums—the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum in New Jersey—near New York City.

Upon receiving word of the award, John reflected: "It is with humble appreciation that I received this honor from AFC. The Simon Combes Conservation Artist Award is aptly named after one of my artistic and conservation heroes, a man that I fortunately was proud to call friend."

Referring to two previous winners of the award—British artist David Shepherd and Canadian artist Robert Bateman—"and it is wonderful to receive an award that two more of my mentors have previously received."

The AFC created the award in 2005 in memory of Simon Combes, the world-renowned painter, author, instructor and dedicated conservationist, who lived in Kenya. Mr. Combes was Project Director of the Rhino Rescue Trust in Kenya, an organization founded in 1985 to protect endangered species from poaching and to help the communities surrounding Lake Nakura National Park affected by wildlife conflicts. He was killed by a charging Cape Buffalo while hiking near his home in Kenya on December 12th, 2004.

For more information, please contact Marijane Singer at the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum (201-261-0012).