

Living Color: Miss Zimbabwe

During a visit to beautiful Malalangwe, Zimbabwe in May of 2012, I had the pleasure of meeting award-winning documentary film-maker from South Africa Kim Wolhuter, who joined us for tea. He gave me a copy of his latest project, a film called, "Man, Cheetah, wild," which has been shown on American television.

While creating this film, Kim spent about a year following a female cheetah and her three cubs through the bush. These cubs became so comfortable with Kim, that when he sat on the ground, the cheetah cubs would climb all over him later that day later that day on our afternoon game-viewing drive, we encountered one of the cubs, a female who was fully grown and living independently. She was the only cheetah which we would find on this trip, but wow, what a beautiful cat!

She was completely at ease around our land rover. We were the only guests at the reserve, and thus, the only vehicle in the park that afternoon. We took hundreds of photos as she struck one beauty queen pose after another. She perched on a termite mound, climbed a tree, stretched out in the sun. All within feet of us, so I named her Miss Zimbabwe.

I chose to draw her regally seated with a lilac-breasted roller on a branch above her. This drawing is on the backside of handmade paper from the Philippines called lupa with banana bark.