

## And Those Who Came Before

In December of 2006, I had the opportunity to stay along the Ewaso Ng'iro River in Samburu National Park in Northern Kenya. The rains had been generous, and there was water everywhere, yet each day, at the same time of day, the elephant matriarchs lead their families down to the same bend in the river to drink while watching this classic scene, I was struck by the timelessness of it all. How many generations of elephants had played out this same behavior?

I began to feel elephant guardians hovering about the spot, so when I drew the modern elephants, I included the watchers-keepers of time and tradition- those who came before.