

FREE Exhibition Guide. Please replace after use.

# *Hunters*

## David Chancellor

7 October to 6 December 2014

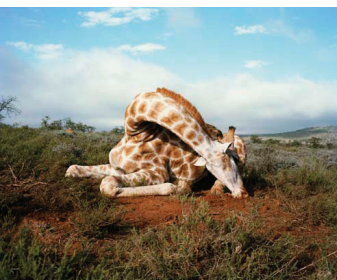
Hunting inevitably provokes strong responses and conflicts of opinion. Impressions Gallery does not endorse the trophy hunting industry, but recognises the complex issues raised by *Hunters*. The photographs form part of an ongoing project that documents what Chancellor calls the 'wildlife industry', investigating how people exploit nature for their own benefit.

**Please be aware that this exhibition includes photographs of hunting taking place and dead animals. Some visitors may find this distressing.**



*Father and son, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

Professional hunter and his son at their game farm in South Africa.



*Giraffe, Somerset East, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

It is illegal to hunt giraffe in much of Africa, however the animals can still be legally hunted in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Giraffes are prized by trophy hunters for their size and uniquely patterned skins.



*Wildebeest, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

A wildebeest is recovered from the bush by a professional hunter and skinner.



*Kalahari, Northern Cape, South Africa*

Currently, African lions are not listed as endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, meaning hunters can legally transport their taxidermy trophies home without hindrance. Many argue that if listed, lion hunting would decrease dramatically; however some African countries, such as Tanzania, rely upon wealthy hunters for the revenue they bring to an otherwise underdeveloped national tourist industry.



*Huntress with wildebeest, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

Chancellor says, “When they approach a kill, most guys are pumped with testosterone and will high-five or have a cigar, women will almost without exception sit by the animal, touch the animal, say a prayer, or cry.”



*Eastern Cape, South Africa*

A professional skinner holding zebra ‘cape’. Skinning and cleaning takes place soon after an animal is hunted. The skin is then transported to the taxidermist’s studio.



*Leopard and dogs, Namibia*

A hunting party at the end of their pursuit of a leopard.



*Huntress with buck, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

Josie Slaughter, 14, from Alabama on her first hunting trip to South Africa. Chancellor says, “Josie had hunted her buck earlier in the day and was returning to camp. As we arrived, the sun set below the cloud cover and I had almost unreal light for around a minute. The contrast between the peace and tranquillity of the location, plus Josie’s ethereal beauty and the dead buck, was what I wanted to explore. Here was a vulnerability and yet also a strength.”



*Novice hunter, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

A young hunter poses with his 'trophy'.



*Elephant, safari hunting school, West Texas USA*

An elephant shooting target at a safari hunting school in Texas. Safari hunting schools in America provide training in shooting and equipment maintenance in order to prepare hunters for their hunting trips in both the USA and Africa.



*Leopard, safari hunting school, West Texas USA*

Here two remote controlled leopards sit in a tree next to a rubber impala. Leopard usually carry their prey up onto a tree, and it's likely a hunter would find the animal in this location at night. The leopard targets have red reflective eyes that glow bright under torch light.



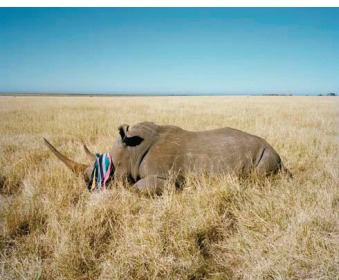
*Wildebeest, safari hunting school, West Texas, USA*

The school has a selection of African Big Game targets that are engineered to 'charge' out of bushes at novice hunters to prepare them for the real thing.



*Eastern Cape, South Africa*

A camouflaged bow hunter with kill. Here a hunter has chosen to hunt with a bow and arrow; a bow hunter will 'stalk' their prey over an extended period, often barefoot to minimise noise, and heavily camouflaged, the intention is to get as close as possible to the quarry to deliver a fatal arrow.



*Humansdorp, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

The white rhino can be legally hunted in South Africa and Namibia. Once on the brink of extinction, *Save the Rhino* states that the white rhino population has grown dramatically since the legalisation of hunting in South Africa, with numbers increasing from 1,800 to over 20,000 since 1968.



*Ladysmith, Western Cape, South Africa*

The skin of a giraffe lies in a clearing.



*Untitled #II from the series Elephant Story*

The following series depicts an elephant shot dead by a trophy hunter in Zimbabwe, being stripped for its meat by the local community.

These photographs document the CAMPFIRE programme (Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources). CAMPFIRE is designed to provide incentives to Zimbabweans to preserve wild animals and use them as a valuable natural resource.



*Untitled #VI from the series Elephant Story*

Selling trophy hunting licenses to foreign hunters is a key source of income for the CAMPFIRE programme. The hunter will take the tusks of the animal as his trophy, the meat will be distributed amongst the local community, and the profit generated will fund conservation efforts in the area.



*Untitled #IV from the series Elephant Story*

Animals hunted as part of the CAMPFIRE programme are often classed as 'problem animals'. These include animals causing excessive damage to agriculture, or animals beyond breeding age who are causing disruption within their herd.



*Untitled #XII from the series Elephant Story*

After witnessing the event Chancellor comments, "It took exactly an hour and 42 minutes to reduce a 65 years old bull elephant to bones, with nothing but bare hands and knives made from old tin cans. I will never forget the smell. I will never forget watching its eyes move from the gateway to its soul, to a reflection of the sky."



*Xhosa hunter and lynx caught by a pack of leopard hunting dogs, Tylden, Eastern Cape, South Africa*

Dogs are trained to hunt lynx in preparation for the leopard hunting season. The dogs will then accompany trophy-seeking tourists on their leopard hunt later in the year.



*Huntress with wildebeest, Namibia*

An American huntress sits by the body of wildebeest, shot just before dusk.



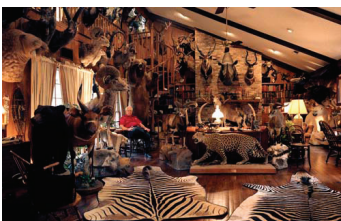
*Buffalo*

A taxidermist's studio in Graaff Reinet, South Africa, a complete buffalo is packed for shipment to the USA where it will be reassembled by a local taxidermist.



*Leopard lying in salt, Namibia*

Animal skins are cut, washed and covered in salt in the taxidermist's studio. Chancellor comments on the process, "The beasts have to be reconstructed by expert hands to look as if all is well, as though the period between life and death has not occurred at all"



*Trophy room, Texas, USA*

The seated figure in the image is surrounded by over 230 trophies, killed over a lifetime of hunting. He is a recipient of the Dallas Safari Club Africa Big Game Award for his 'harvesting' of African elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard, and the Outstanding Hunting Achievement Award for his 30-year quest and collection of all 30 North American big game animals.



*Gymnasium, Dallas, Texas*

A hunter who has made his fortune from a pet funeral parlour and cemetery business, has chosen to display his trophies throughout his home and workplace.



*Hunter with bear penises around his hat, Springtown, Texas*

Trophy hunters come from different backgrounds: some are doctors, some are mechanics, some are rich and some are poor. Chancellor observes that hunters all have different motivations, some are chasing size or have a gap in their trophy room for a particular animal.



*Springtown, Texas*

A hunter seated in his bedroom.



*Trophy room, West Texas, USA*

The Dallas Safari Club recognises hunters of exceptional achievement with various accolades and titles. The huntress pictured has been awarded the Outstanding Hunting Achievement Award. These awards are always presented at black tie dinners at the club's annuals conventions.



*Untitled hunter, trophy room # IX, Dallas, Texas*

A member of the Dallas Safari club in his home. This particular hunter is a recipient of the Outstanding Hunting Achievement Award and the Africa Big Game Award, for the successful collection under fair chase conditions of the African Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, and Leopard.



*Waiting for Elephant, hunting Lodge, Zimbabwe*

Hunters will spend up to 12 days in the bush stalking their prey; the hunting party will survive with basic provisions and demand little in terms of infrastructure. Here, a professional hunter waits in his lodge for notification of the sighting of an elephant, once found, he'll leave with his client, and enough supplies to hunt for an extended period.