

## Spencer Art Reference Library

### Library Guide

Survival of the Fittest: Picturing Wildlife and Wilderness



Elephants, ca. 1917, By Wilhelm Kuhnert (German, 1865–1926)

Resource List | 2025

The 20th century wildlife paintings of the group of painters today known as the Big Four: Wilhelm Kuhnert, Richard Friese, Bruno Liljefors and Carl Rungius broke with past tradition, presenting a new image of wildlife that emphasized the animal and its natural behavior and habitat. In this bibliography, we include titles about each of the artists of the Big Four, as well as titles that explore the impact of Charles Darwin's revolutionary theory of evolution on the visual arts, and titles about the additional artists included in the exhibition. Works about wildlife art in general, and the conservation of nature in art have been included as well.

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Selected by:  
Roberta Wagener | *Specialist, Access Services*

## Survival of the Fittest Exhibition

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Harris, Adam Duncan. *Survival of the Fittest: Envisioning Wildlife and Wilderness with the Big Four: Masterworks from the Rijksmuseum Twenthe and the National Museum of Wildlife Art*. Jackson: National Museum of Wildlife Art, 2023. Call No: Reading Room N582 .K31 2025 no. 1

Harris, Adam Duncan. "Survival of the Fittest: Envisioning Wildlife & Wilderness," *American Art Review*, 35, no. 2 (Summer 2023): 98-105.

## Artists in the Exhibition

### **Richard Friese**

Gautschi, Andreas, Werner Siemers and Hans Günter Vollmer-Verheyen. *Richard Friese: Sein Leben – Seine Kunst*. Melsungen: Nimrod, 2013. Call No: FRIESE RICHARD N6888 .F7636 A4 2013

Harris, Adam Duncan. *Wildlife in American Art: Masterworks from the National Museum of Wildlife Art*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, in cooperation with The National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States, Jackson, Wyoming, 2009. Call No: N7660 .H37 2009

### **Wilhelm Kuhnert**

Kuhnert, Wilhelm. *Im Lande meiner Modelle*. Leipzig: Klinkhardt & Biermann, 1918. Accessed November 18, 2024. <https://archive.org/details/imlandemeinermod00kuhnuoft/page/n7/mode/2up>

Demandt, Philipp and Ilka Voermann. *King of the Animals: Wilhelm Kuhnert and the Image of Africa*. Munich: Hirmer, 2018. Call No: KUHNERT WILHELM N6888 .K848 A4 2018

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Chilvers, Brooke. "On Safari with Wilhelm Kuhnert in Middleburg, Virginia," *Gray's Sporting Journal*, October 18, 2023. Accessed September 16, 2024. <https://www.grayssportingjournal.com/on-safari-with-wilhelm-kuhnert-in-middleburg-virginia/>

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### **Bruno Liljefors**

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"Bruno Liljefors and the Great Outdoors," in Hammond, Nicolas. *Modern Wildlife Painting*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1998, p. 31-66. Call No: ND1380 .H36 1998

"Bruno Liljefors Swedish, 1860–1939," in Lederer, Roger. *The Art of the Bird: The History of Ornithological Art Through Forty Artists*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019, 132-135. Call No: N7665 .L43 2019

"Scientist of the Day – Bruno Liljefors," Linda Hall Library, May 14, 2021. Accessed August 15, 2024. <https://www.lindahall.org/about/news/scientist-of-the-day/bruno-liljefors/>

### **Carl Rungius**

National Museum of Wildlife Art. "Carl Rungius Gallery," Accessed July 25, 2024. <https://www.wildlifeart.org/exhibits/rungius-gallery>

"Carl Rungius at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson WY," *Medium*, May 15, 2018. Accessed July 25, 2024. <https://artgeek.medium.com/carl-rungius-at-the-national-museum-of-wildlife-art-jackson-wy-a9c930e209a8>

Chilvers, Brook. "Carl Rungius, One of the "Big Four," at the NSLM, Middleburg, Virginia," *Gray's Sporting Journal*, October 4, 2023. Accessed July 25, 2024. <https://www.grayssportingjournal.com/carl-rungius-one-of-the-big-four-at-the-nslm-middleburg-virginia/>

DelHomme, PJ. "B&C Member Spotlight: Carl Rungius," *Boone and Crockett Club*, Accessed July 25, 2024. <https://www.boone-crockett.org/bc-member-spotlight-carl-rungius>

Glenbow Museum. *Carl Rungius: Artist & Sportsman*. Toronto, Chicago: Warwick Publishing, 2001. Call No: RUNGIUS CARL N6537 .R854 A4 2001

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\*"How Carl Rungius Combines Art with the Adventures of a Sportsman: Noted Animal Painter Tells of his Experiences as a Big Game Hunter in Alaska and the Canadian Rockies." *New York Times* (1857-1922), Feb 02, 1913. <https://ezproxy.nelson-atkins.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/how-carl-rungius-combines-art-with-adventures/docview/97447611/se-2>.

Whyte, Jon and E.J. Hart. *Carl Rungius: Painter of the Western Wilderness*. Calgary: Glenbow-Alberta Institute, 1985. Call No: N44 R8674 .W59 1985

### **Additional Artists in the Exhibition**

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"Horatio Walker," in Dearinger, David B, ed. *Paintings and Sculpture in the Collection of the National Academy of Design, Volume 1, 1826-1925*. New York and Manchester: Hudson Hills Press, 2004, pg. 562. Call No: N6510 .P35 2004 v. 1

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#### **John Dare Howland**

Mumey, Nolie. *The Art and Activities of John Dare (Jack) Howland: Painter, Soldier, Indian Trader and Pioneer*. Boulder: Johnson Publishing Company, 1973. Call No: N44 H755 .M85 1973

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### **Antoine-Louis Barye**

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<https://www.oxfordartonline.com/groveart/view/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.001.0001/oao-9781884446054-e-7000006669>.

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### **Thomas Moran**

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\*Braff, Phyllis. "Moran, Thomas." Grove Art Online. 2003; Accessed 17 Oct. 2024.  
<https://www.oxfordartonline.com/groveart/view/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.001.0001/oao-9781884446054-e-7000059484>.

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### **Maria Poveka Martinez**

\*Batkin, Jonathan. "Martinez." *Grove Art Online*. 2003; Accessed 28 Oct. 2024.  
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### **Preston Singletary**

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### **Charles Darwin**

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Wilhelm Kuhnert (German, 1865–1926).

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