

KENYA

Suzanne deMerci Anaya

Bio/Artist statement

My parents went to Kenya when I was just a small girl. They named their ranch Aberdare after Aberdare National Park in central Kenya where they stayed at the Treetops Hotel.

Finally, my life long dream appeared in my seventh decade. I was able to afford to go to Kenya. I spent the majority of my trip in East Kenya, in the Masai Mara, in a small tented camp called Bella Mara. Every day I was there on safari was beyond my wildest imagination. My last adventure was in Southern Kenya at the Lentorre Lodge.

Seeing for the first time African animals not in a zoo or in a circus brought tears to my eyes. I learned about our global responsibility to help keep these animals for generations to come. Loss of habitat, climate change, and humans are their worst enemy. Education is the only prayer they have not to become extinct.

I have been an artist all of my life in one form or another. In college, I majored in Art, painting large scale abstracts. I used African designs to paint tabletops. I have always been involved with animals, large and small.

Observing first hand, in East Kenya, wild animals in their environment and the people of the Masai Mara trying to live mutualistically with them was life changing. I witnessed survival of the fittest, trauma, and joy.

Seeing the world through my eyes and being able to portray it photographically is my heart and soul.