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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Spies Named Signature Member of Society of Animal Artists**

(Watertown, SD) - Joshua Spies, an international award-winning wildlife artist, has been named a signature member of the Society of Animal Artists, Inc.

The Society of Animal Artists is an association of animal and wildlife painters and sculptors. Founded in 1960, the Society is devoted to promoting excellence in the portrayal of the creatures sharing our planet, and to the education of the public through its informative art seminars, lectures and teaching demonstrations. Some of the finest animal artists from the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, Japan, and Australia are represented in the Society's membership.

"I am honored to be among the signature members of this group," Spies said.

Membership in the Society of Animal Artists is by jury, composed of artist members serving as volunteers on the Board of Directors. Applicants may be elected to either Signature or Associate membership.

Signature members are recognized as having attained the highest level of ability in the field of animal art and consistently uphold the Society's standards of excellence. They are entitled to vote in Society matters and use the initials "S.A.A." when signing artwork.

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#### **About Joshua Spies:**

Joshua Spies is an international award-winning artist from Watertown, South Dakota. He earned his fine arts degree at South Dakota State University and has traveled the world observing and photographing wildlife. Joshua has been a finalist in the Federal Duck Stamp competition five times and won the competition in 2008. The fall 2006 Wildlife Art Magazine named Joshua one of the top 16 wildlife artists, and Dallas Safari Club announced Joshua Spies as the winner of their prestigious 2007 Artist of the Year. Joshua's most recent award was being named the 2011 Safari Club International Artist of the Year. A dedicated conservationist, Joshua is a life member of the Foundation for Wild Sheep, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Safari Club International, Ducks Unlimited, Dallas Safari Club, and ISHA. He is also a member of Grand Slam Club, Whitetails Unlimited, Mule Deer Foundation, Delta Waterfowl, and the NRA.