

Gamini Ratnavira, Wildlife Artist Extraordinary

by Sheldon Dingle, Alhambra California

Wildlife art is a genre that has been mastered by Gamini Ratnavira. His earliest exposure to wildlife began in his native Sri Lanka when he would duck out of boarding school and find refuge in his country's lush rain forests. In the forest he would sit for hours closely observing and sketching the native animals. He would return to school and share the sketches with his classmates and, as his skill increased, even his teachers were impressed.

In addition to observing the birds and other animals of the Sri Lankan forests, Gamini kept an aviary at home and at one time kept and bred about 600 tropical birds – birds which he was able to observe in great detail.

Gamini's love of birds in particular, also led him to become a keen



Collared Aracari above, Jendaya Conures below.



Hyacinth Macaws

Photos courtesy of Gamini Ratnavira



Lisa Albright and Gamini Ratnavira

bird watcher with a life list of 3,634 (if he hasn't added some while this was being written).

In short, Gamini's whole life has been a work of practical training resulting in an extraordinarily talented and intuitive wildlife artist. And his art has been widely recognised and heartily embraced. Indeed, he has works in numerous museums, public buildings, and private residences. His work has been featured in many magazines and he has illustrated several books. The lists are too long to include here.

Gamini's work is in high demand and brings from \$400 to as much as \$40,000 per painting. One great blessing is that Gamini Ratnavira will have a display at the upcoming AFA Convention in Tampa, Florida. And as frosting on the cake, Gamini has generously donated a \$400 gift certificate for the great AFA Super Raffle to be held at the convention. The gift certificate is to be used toward an original or print of one of Gamini's exquisite works of wildlife art. This is a great opportunity for some lucky soul to take home a painting that will enhance any home. Buy a lot of raffle tickets. ❖

Commercial Member Veterinarians

Arizona

Ross E. Babcock, DVM • 602-944-9661
Palo Verde Animal Hospital, Phoenix

California

Eduardo Acosta, DVM
Christy Berg, DVM
Sunset Cliffs Animal Clinic, San Diego
Robert Stonebreaker, DVM • 619-755-9351
Animal & Bird Hospital, Del Mar

Max Weiss, DVM & T. Margolin, DVM
818-881-6344
Tarzana

Delaware

Morgan Dawkins, DVM • 302-998-2995
Windcrest Animal Hospital, Wilmington

Florida

Tina Merrit, DVM • 352-753-5333
Animal Clinic of Lady Lake
Lady Lake

Bern M. Levine, DVM • 305-595-1674
Last Chance Farm, Inc, Miami

Rhoda Stevenson, DVM • 909-268-0204
Exotic Bird Hospital, Jacksonville

Kitty Remington, DVM • 912-243-0380
Animalhouse Vet Services, Monticello

Illinois

Susan Horton, DVM • 847-329-8709
Chicago Exotics, Skokie
Samuel Ristich, DVM • 630-820-6999
Aurora

Peter Sakas, DVM • 847-647-9325
Niles

Massachusetts

Wendy Emerson, DVM • 978-887-3836
Mobile Veterinary Services, Topsfield
Connie Orcutt, DVM, 617-522-7282
Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, Boston

William C. Sager, DVM • 508-486-3101
Littleton Animal Hospital, Littleton

Maryland

William Boyd, DVM • 410-686-6310
Pulaski Veterinary Clinic, Baltimore
Bonnie J. Miller, DVM • 410-363-2040
Animal Avian & Exotics, Owings Mills

Minnesota

John Baillie, DVM • 612-721-7431
Minneapolis

Missouri

David Kersting, DVM • 314-469-6661
Bird Medicine & Surgery, Chesterfield

North Carolina

Lauren Powers, DVM • 919-918-4000
Timberlyne Animal Clinic, Chapel Hills

New Jersey

Dean J. Cerf, DVM • 201-447-6000
Ridgewood Vet. Hospital, Ridgewood
Woodbridge Vet Group • 908-636-5520
Woodbridge

New York

J.C. Adsit, DVM • 518-463-0600
Albany
Heidi Hoeffler, DVM • 631-271-2359
West Hills Animal Hospital, Huntington
Frank Scandaglia, DVM • 718-370-9472
Island Bird, Cat & Dog Vet Group
Staten Island

Laura L. Wade, DVM • 716-832-2800
Blue Cross Small Animal Clinic, Amherst

Nevada

Patrick W. Hauck, DVM • 702-734-9761
Flamingo Pet Clinic, Las Vegas

Ohio

Ram Mohan, DVM • 614-755-2273
Ram Avian Health Clinic, Reynoldsburg
Linda Wiley, DVM • 440-826-1520
Metropet Animal Hospital, Berea

Wallace E. Wendt, DVM • 216-521-0533
Drs. Wallace & Wendt Animal Hospital, Lakewood

Pennsylvania

Edward Bennett, DVM • 724-444-6600
All Pet Hospital, Gibsonia

Linda Stern, DVM • 717-730-3755
Avian & Feline Hospital, Camp Hill

Puerto Rico

Hector Perez, DVM • 787-816-3467
Arecibo

Tennessee

Shanon B. McGee, DVM • 901-853-8519
Collierville Animal Clinic, Collierville

Texas

Thomas M. Edling, DVM, MSpVM
972-438-7113 • 972-445-1520
Metroplex Veterinary Centre, Irving

S.A. Fronefield, DVM • 713-495-9445
ABC Animal & Bird Clinic, Houston

Sharmen Hoppes • 281-859-6648
Copperfield Animal Clinic, Houston

Karen Lass, DVM • 972-985-0081
Preston Park Animal Hospital, Dallas

Jan Raines, DVM • 214-221-4394
Dallas

Agnes E. Rupley, DVM • 409-696-4411
All Pets Medical Center, College Station

Virginia

Rose Fiskett, VMD, dipl. abvp,
703-425-PETS
specialty avian practice
Potomac Valley Veterinary Hospital
Fairfax