



**NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM**  
A RESEARCH CENTER FOR EQUESTRIAN AND FIELD SPORTS

**PRESS RELEASE**

DATE 9/04/2012

FROM:  
National Sporting  
Library and Museum  
102 The Plains Road  
Middleburg, Virginia 20117

CONTACT:  
Mickey Gustafson  
540-687-6542, ext. 11  
[mgustafson@nsl.org](mailto:mgustafson@nsl.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



*By Some Stretch*, 1994, JKM Collection®, National Museum of Wildlife



*Gesture, Tiger 7*, Kuhn Family Collection

***Bob Kuhn: Drawing on Instinct***  
**an exhibition of sketches and master works**  
**opens on October 12, 2012**  
**at the**

**National Sporting Library and Museum, Middleburg, Virginia**

MIDDLEBURG, VA - A life-long student of drawing, the late great **wildlife artist Bob Kuhn** left behind more than 5,000 studies in his studio after his death in 2007. Now a **new retrospective, *Bob Kuhn: Drawing on Instinct***, on view **October 12, 2012 through February 28, 2013** at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg, Virginia,

mines that amazing record dating back to Kuhn’s youthful sketching at the Buffalo Zoo to **explore the artistic process** behind his masterful work.



*Message on the Wind*, 1986, JKM Collection®  
National Museum of Wildlife Art.

The NSLM is the second venue of the traveling exhibition **organized by the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, Wyoming**. **NMWA Curator of Art Adam Harris** will be at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg, on **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** to present a **guided tour** through this extraordinary exhibit. **Free** to the public, the tour begins promptly at **11:00 a.m.** The campus will also be open Saturday, **October 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** for an **Evening at the NSLM**, a community **open house** event.



*Flat Out*, 1985, JKM Collection®  
National Museum of Wildlife Art

***Drawing on Instinct*** focuses on a **selection of masterpieces** from Kuhn’s oeuvre and, with equal prominence, the **preparatory sketches** created by the artist.



*Coyote Chasing Rabbit*, Gift of the Artist  
National Museum of Wildlife

Early on, **illustrator Paul Bransom** told a young Kuhn to “keep going to the zoo and keep drawing.” After Bransom advised Kuhn that, “when you look at an animal, look at it as though you may never see it again,” Kuhn became an inveterate sketcher, sketching at

breakfast, while watching television, or whenever else he got a chance. "He drew on artist's paper, check stubs, or on any available scrap," says Harris. The juxtaposition of these sketches against complete paintings offers a fascinating **glimpse into Kuhn's creative process.**

The exhibition is **accompanied by a book edited by Adam Harris**, also entitled *Bob Kuhn: Drawing on Instinct* and published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Available in soft and hardcover, it is both an exhibition catalogue and a stand-alone title offering a timely perspective on Kuhn's career. The book includes appreciations by Kuhn contemporaries **Howard Terpning, George Carlson, Ken Carlson, George McLean, Kent Ullberg, and Ken Bunn**, as well as an introduction and biography by Harris, scholarly essays, and more than 300 illustrations.

*Drawing on Instinct* will continue on to three other venues in 2013, the Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma, the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block, and the San Antonio Museum of Art. This exhibition is generously presented by Karen and Tim Hixon.

*The National Sporting Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian and field sports. Founded in 1954, the institution has over 24,000-books dating from the 16th-21st centuries. The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research of visiting scholars. The Museum, a newly renovated and expanded historic building on the Library campus, houses exhibits of American and European fine sporting art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public.*

**Admission:** free.

**Museum Hours:** Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

**Library Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Web site:** [www.nsl.org](http://www.nsl.org)

**Telephone:** 540-687-6542

**Address:** 102 The Plains Road, Middleburg, VA 20117