

CHARLIE
SMITH

FROM **LIFE**

NEW BRONZE SCULPTURE



CHARLIE SMITH

FROM **LIFE**

PRICE LIST



Gallery
DIFFERENT

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On receipt of this catalogue all works are available for sale



I am thrilled to present *From Life*, a collection of sculptures shaped by my encounters with wildlife in their natural habitats. These experiences, both fleeting and profound, have shaped my work and brought me great joy.

In my early career, I worked slowly and methodically, sculpting animals close to home that I could measure directly as they patiently “posed”. My first close study of a wild lioness, however, required a different approach - quick, impressionistic forms shaped with my hand and tools to capture her spirit in the moment. This shift became central to my art.

At Ol Jogi in Kenya, I built small sketches of rhino and giraffe, layering plasticine to build their forms as they moved nearby. These rapid studies, sketched in the wild, form the core of this exhibition.

Back in my London studio, memories of leopards on rocks, a yawning lion, wild dogs, and warthogs from Ol Jogi, alongside wild boar sculpted in Normandy and tigers and gorillas crafted from observation, shaped the other works. *From Life* reflects both the immediacy of sculpting in the wild and the enduring impressions that guide my studio practice.

I remain fascinated by the bronze-casting process, where the skilled team at the foundry captures every detail of my plasticine models and transforms them into enduring bronze. I’m very grateful to share these sculptures with you, hoping they convey the energy and connection I felt with these animals. Thank you for joining me in this exhibition.

Charlie



Charlie Smith (b. 1990) is a British sculptor specialising in bronze wildlife, celebrated for capturing the movement, character, and vitality of animals. Self-taught, with minimal formal training, Smith honed his skills through years of studying and observing animals in their natural habitats. Raised in Dorset, he first developed a sharp eye for equine form, quickly receiving commissions across the UK.

Since then, Smith has completed hundreds of unique commissions for private collectors worldwide, most notably a portrait of President Obama's dog, Bo, in 2021.

His limited-edition bronzes are recognised for their painterly, textured surfaces, where precise detail meets gestural freedom, creating a sense of life in each piece. Smith often uses bronze's tensile strength to achieve dynamic compositions, while exploring deep, striking patinas.

He is based in London, working from his studio in Queen's Park.



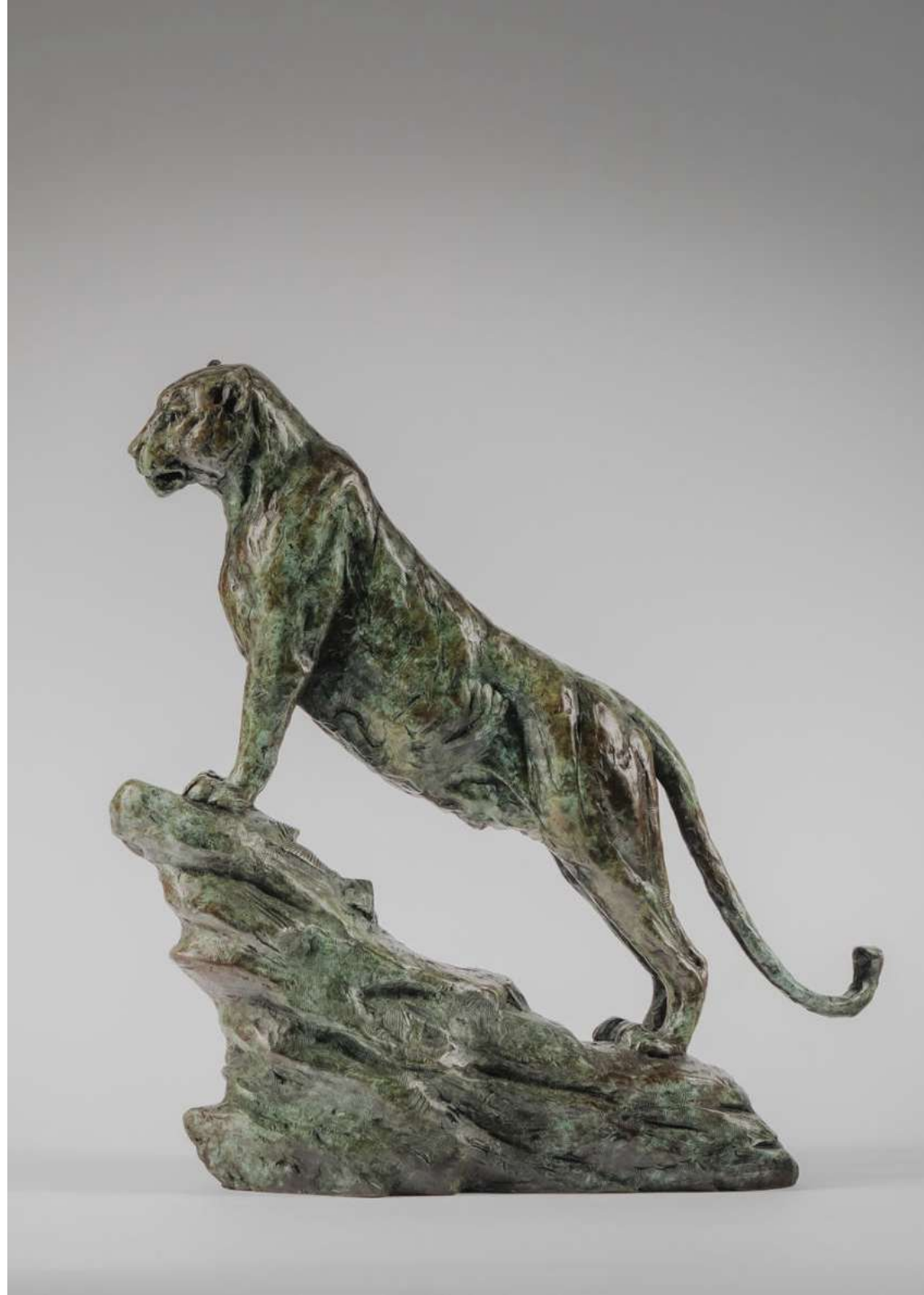
1 ***Yawning Lion***
Bronze, edition of 12, 55 x 27 x 21 cm







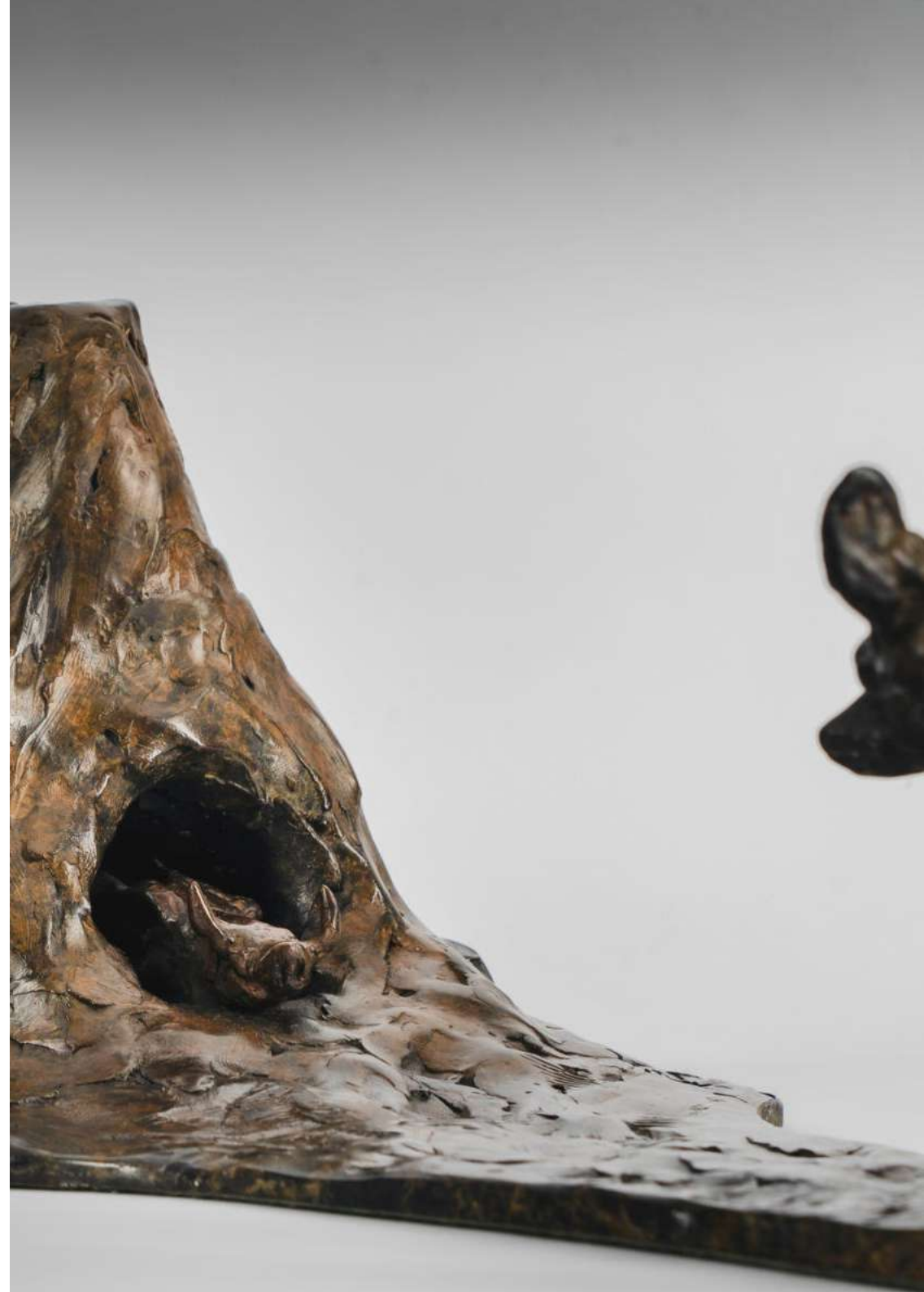
2 ***Leopard on Rock***
Bronze, edition of 12, 47 x 43 x 15 cm







3 *Wild Dog and Warthog Encounter*
Bronze, edition of 9, 82 x 30 x 23 cm







4 ***Giraffe Family***
Bronze, 120 x 42 x 15 cm







5 *African Oryx*
Bronze, edition of 12, 34 x 32 x 10 cm





6 *Honey Badger with Mole Snake*
Bronze, edition of 12, 43 x 18 x 16 cm







7 ***Lion Bust***
Bronze, edition of 24 x 38 x 12 cm





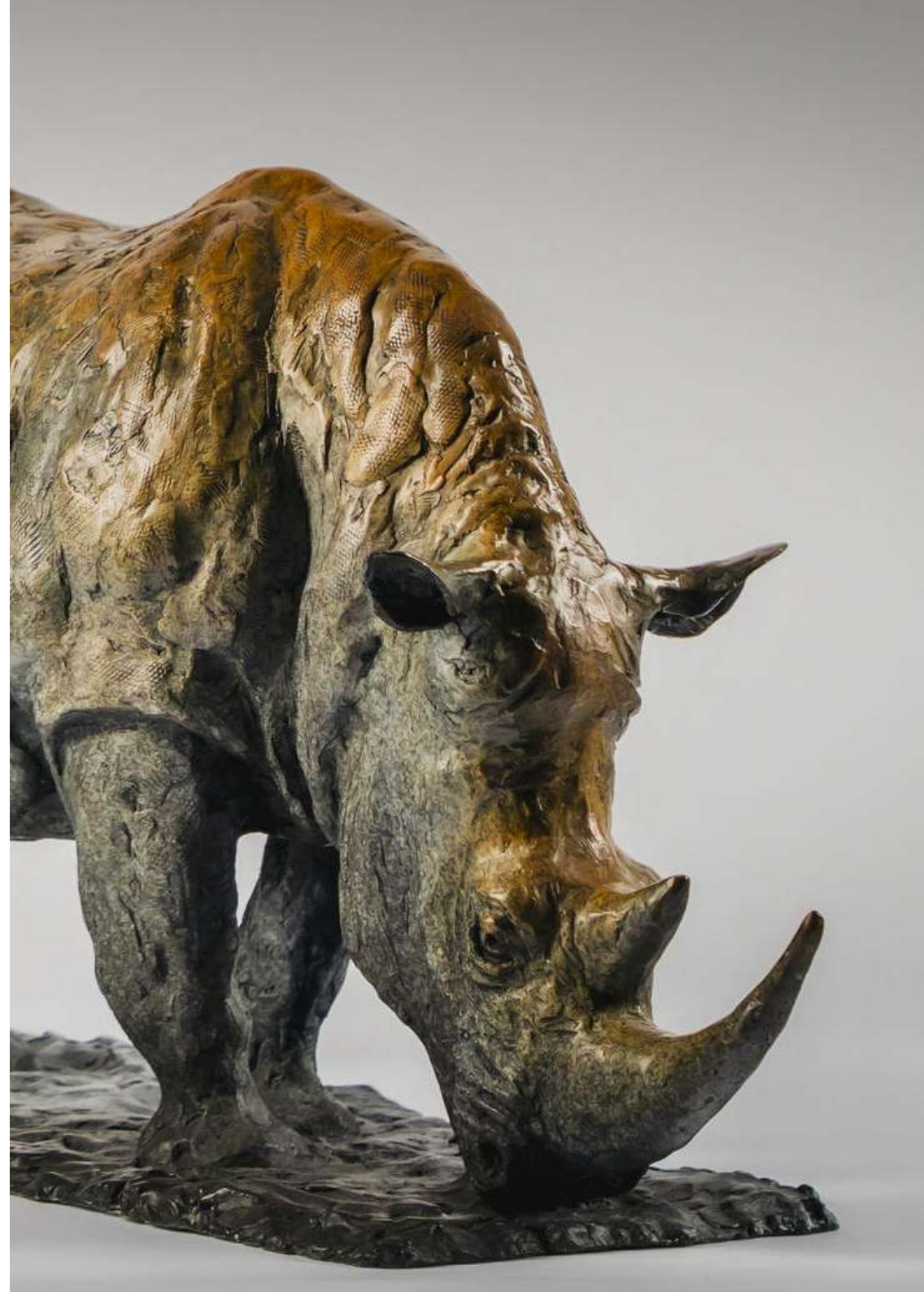
8 *Running Warthog*
Bronze, edition of 12, 42 x 25 x 15 cm







9 **White Rhino**
Bronze, edition of 12, 75 x 25 x 35 cm







10 *Tiger Roar*
Bronze, edition of 12, 30 x 35 x 25 cm







11 *Walking Tigress*
Bronze, edition of 12, 40 x 20 x 12 cm







12 ***Silverback***
Bronze, edition of 12, 35 x 26 x 22 cm







13 **Mountain Gorilla**
Bronze, edition of 12, 35 x 25 x 33 cm







14 ***Wild Boar***
Bronze, edition of 12, 38 x 20 x 15 cm







15 ***Running Boarlet Trio***
Bronze, edition of 12, 53 x 10 x 11 cm





16 *Landing Barn Owl*
Bronze, edition of 12, 83 x 56 x 30 cm







17 *Sprinting Cheetahs*
Bronze, edition of 12, 103 x 26 x 14 cm





18 *Wild Dog Pack*
Bronze, edition of 9, 83 x 12 x 10 cm





19 *Bellowing Stag*
Bronze, edition of 12, 41 x 44 x 26 cm







20 ***European Bison***
Bronze, edition of 12, 38 x 60 x 23 cm







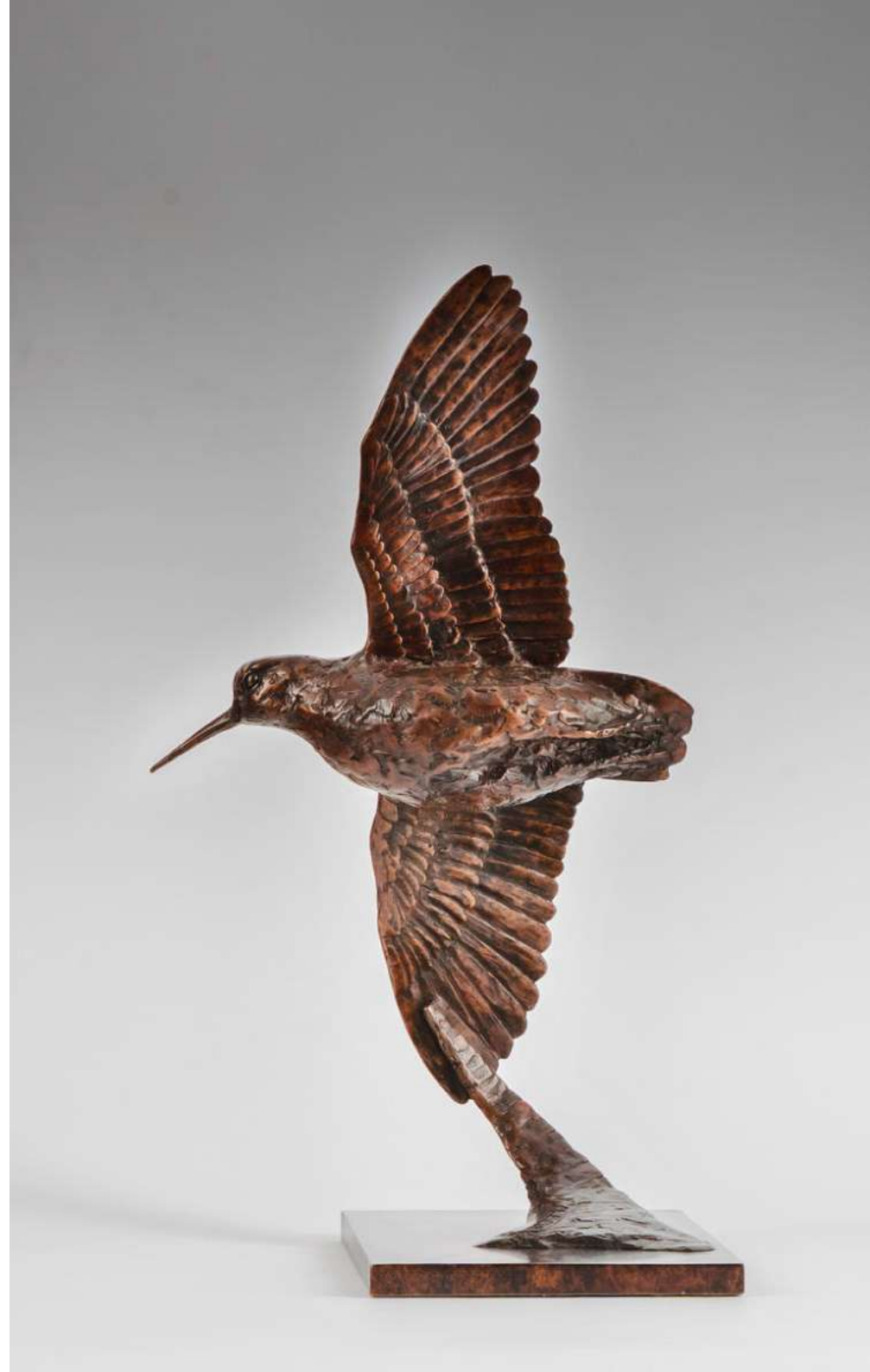
21 *African Elephant*
Bronze, edition of 12, 60 x 35 x 28 cm







22 **Woodcock**
Bronze, edition of 12, 59 x 33 x 40 cm







The Casting Process

I am fortunate to work with the highly skilled team at Morris Singer Foundry, who ensure that each of my sculptures is cast in bronze to the highest standard. The process is labour-intensive and steeped in tradition, remaining little changed over several thousand years, yet it allows every detail of the original sculpture to be preserved with precision.

The journey begins with the original clay model, from which a flexible rubber mould is taken to capture every nuance of the form. Molten wax is then poured into the mould in a thin, even layer, creating a hollow wax replica. Once cooled, the wax is removed from the mould, seams are refined, and I make any final adjustments and sign the sculpture.

Wax sprues are attached to guide the flow of molten bronze during casting. A ceramic shell is built around the wax, supported by a ceramic core that ensures the final cast is hollow. Once the shell is hardened, it is heated in an oven to melt out the wax, leaving a precise negative of the sculpture. Bronze ingots, heated to 1,200°C, are poured into this hollow space.

After cooling, the ceramic shell is carefully removed, revealing the raw bronze form. Each section is meticulously cleaned, sandblasted, and welded together. Any imperfections are chased and refined to match the original clay model, and the final surface is achieved through layers of heat and chemical patination, giving the sculpture its desired colour and texture.

This collaboration with the foundry ensures that every bronze carries the integrity, vitality, and detail of the original work, preserving its essence in enduring form.

List of Works

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About Ol Jogi

In June last year, I was lucky enough to spend time at Ol Jogi, a vast 58,000-acre wildlife conservancy and rhino sanctuary on Kenya's Laikipia Plateau, high above Mount Kenya. Home to over 130 black and white rhinos, the Big Five, and hundreds of bird species, it felt like stepping into a world where nature, conservation, and community all co-exist in balance.

Each day I set up beneath the shade of an acacia tree by the waterhole, sculpting animals from life. Giraffes, rhinos, warthogs - sometimes just appearing out of the heat haze - became my models. I worked quickly, building plasticine over wire armatures, trying to capture not just their shapes, but their movements; their presence; the way they held themselves.

When I wasn't at the waterhole, I explored the conservancy, observing lions, leopards, and baboons, noting the subtle gestures and behaviours that would later inform my work. There's a hidden tunnel leading to the waterhole that allowed me to watch the animals up close, unseen, letting me witness the quiet moments of their lives.

Ol Jogi is not just a conservancy - it's a place of care and commitment, protecting wildlife while supporting local communities through its rescue centre, veterinary clinic, school, and cultural programmes. I'm grateful that a portion of the proceeds from this exhibition will help sustain the conservancy and its work, keeping this extraordinary landscape and its incredible inhabitants safe for the future.

Photo Credits: Noah Russell for all sculpture catalogue photos, Henry Wood for pictures in Ol Jogi and Henry Davis for foundry pictures



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