



Footprints in the Cradle of Civilization

WATERCOLORS BY MICHAEL KILLELEA

*Earliest humans walked across the African savanna
where safaris now search for nature in the raw.
One artist worked to capture its sumptuous beauty in real time.*



An elephant cow and calf above the Chobe River in Botswana



Calvet Nkomo, (above) a tracker at the Matetsi Water Lodge lead a group of visitors for miles on a game walk through the Zimbabwe bush, pointing out animals, habitats and the interconnectedness of all life there.

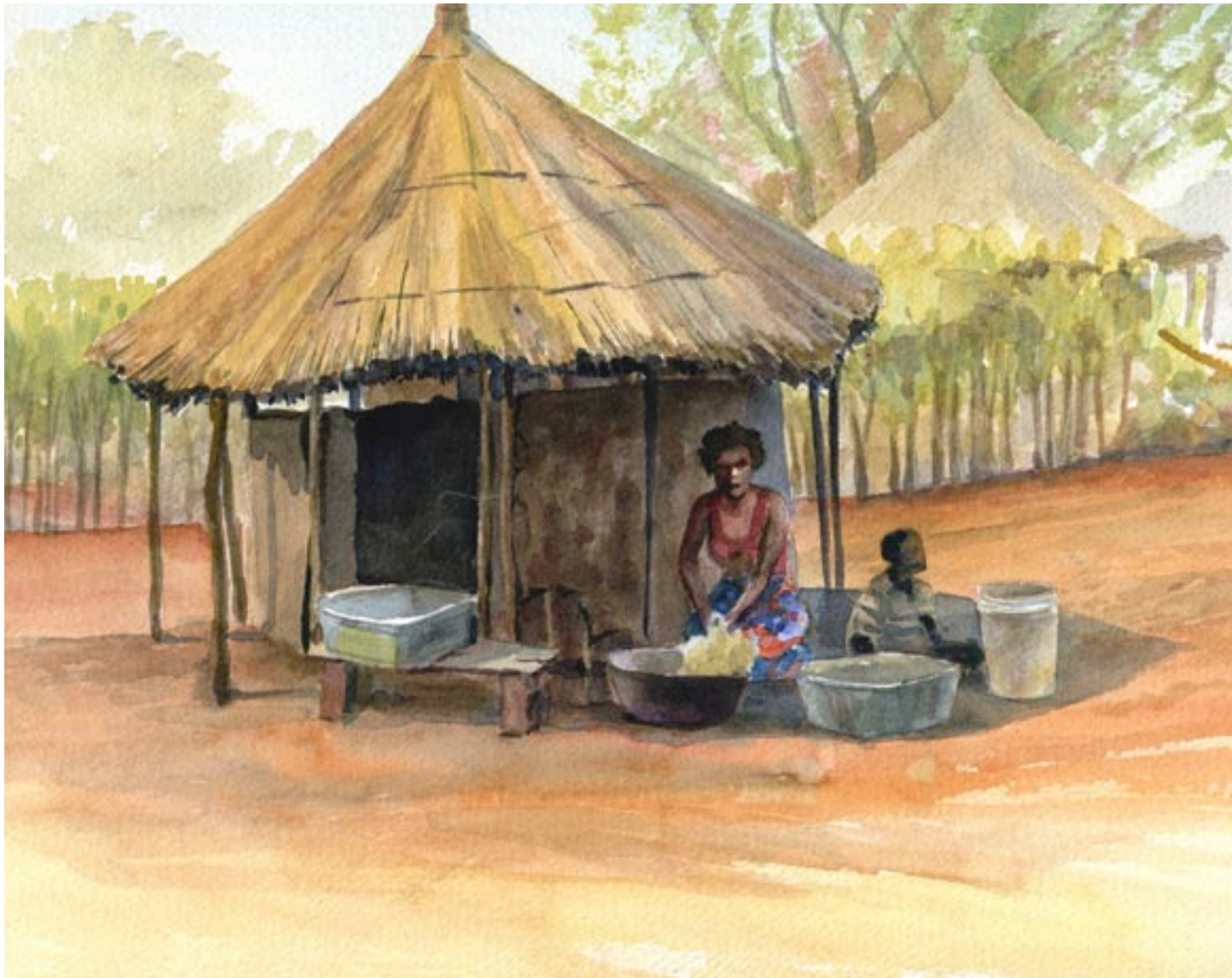
Baboons (upper left) race across the grounds of Chobe Safari Lodge in Botswana only steps ahead of an irate groundskeeper with a slingshot.

The Cheeta and Wildlife Center (bottom left) in DeWildt, South Africa, north of Johannesburg, has developed a program to breed and release these speedy predators into the wild. Like most of the animal kingdom, cheetas use midday shade to rest when the temperature easily exceeds 100 degrees.

Vervet monkeys (right) may look charming but they're some of the quickest thieves anywhere, grabbing cereal or muffins from your plate should you foolishly allow a distraction to miss their stealthy approach. They're ubiquitous through most of southern Africa.



Mykuni is a Zambian village of about 7,000 people, roughly 45 minutes by truck over unpaved roads from the tourist centerpiece of Victoria Falls. A local guide is eager to show off her community to visitors, and one woman smiled her way through her laundry chores while chickens, ducks and neighborhood children came and went. The sense of community there is palpable and impressive.



The Chobe River winds through much of the Chobe National Park in Botswana. As the dry season nears its end, the river becomes one of the few stable sources of water for animals and humans alike. Hippos are fine with that, as are the crocodiles that lie in wait on its banks. But occasional scattered and bleached bones in the area testify to the law of nature that assures the balance of life.



Johannesburg, South Africa. The Apartheid Museum is a striking and optimistic testament to the valiant efforts of those who brought change to the country and then worked together to create a completely new model of government.



Michael Killelea is an artist, author, teacher and traveler who paints on location almost every place he visits. His work is online at www.killeleart.com and on Facebook at Killeleart. You can contact him at art@killeleart.com He invites you to visit his Facebook page for more artwork, and to “Like” it.

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